**Debating the Ethics of Animal Use in Research  
Exploring Model Organisms Fact Sheet**

# Ipsos-Mori poll - attitudes to animal research in 2016

The report presents the findings of a 2016 survey on current public awareness of, and attitudes towards, the use of animals in research. The survey also examines attitudes towards, and trust in, the regulatory system and the people who work with animals in research.

This is the second wave of a tracker survey, [first carried out in 2014](https://ems.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1695/Attitudes-to-animal-research-in-2014.aspx) by Ipsos MORI. The survey is based on a long-term survey that ran between 1999 and 2014, but as the questions have changed, direct comparisons between pre-2014 data and this year’s results are not possible

By many measures, public opinion on this topic is unchanged between 2016 and 2014.

Key research findings include:

* A majority of the public do not feel well informed about the use of animals in research in the UK – only one-third (34%) say they feel either very or fairly well informed, a similar finding to 2014 when 30% felt well informed.
* Two-thirds (65%) say they can accept the use of animals in research as long as it is for medical purposes, and there is no alternative. Public acceptance has remained at the same level since 2014, when 68% said the same thing.
* Many people continue to believe that cosmetics testing on animals is allowed in the UK (35% - up from 31% in 2014) although testing cosmetic products and their ingredients on animals was banned in the UK in 1998 and across the EU in 2013.

<https://ems.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1858/Attitudes-to-animal-research-in-2016.aspx>

**Medical advances using animals - human health timeline**

The Understanding Animal Research timeline displays the animal research behind the world's major medical advances. Click on each decade for more information.

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/why/health-timeline/>

**Model Organisms**

Understanding Animal Research lists 20 examples of vertebrate and invertebrate animals used in research. In each case there are links to further information about the medical research and discovery the animal has helped with.

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/animals/a-z-animals/>

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/teacherszone/teaching-ideas-and-resources/>

**The 3Rs**

The [principles of the 3Rs](http://altweb.jhsph.edu/pubs/books/humane_exp/het-toc) (**R**eplacement, **R**eduction and **R**efinement) were developed over 50 years ago providing a framework for performing more humane animal research. Since then they have been embedded in national and international legislation and regulations on the use of animals in scientific procedures, as well as in the policies of organisations that fund or conduct animal research.  [Opinion polls](https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/attitudes-animal-research-2016?language_content_entity=en-uk) of public attitudes consistently show that support for animal research is conditional on the 3Rs being put into practice.

[The NC3Rs](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/about-us) is the UK’s national organisation for the 3Rs. Their [strategy](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Corporate_publications/The%20NC3Rs%20strategy%202017%20to%202019.pdf) is to advance the 3Rs by focusing on their scientific impacts and benefits. They have re-defined the standard 3Rs definitions so that they are more reflective of contemporary scientific practice and developments.

<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>