



## Research using animals

### Policy

1. Epilepsy Society does not conduct research on animals
2. Epilepsy Society recognises that research on live animals is abhorrent to many people.
3. Epilepsy Society supports the investigation into the 3 R's in animal research – replacement, reduction and refinement
  - **Replacement** - the use of animals with alternative techniques, or the avoidance of the use of animals altogether
  - **Reduction** - the number of animals used to be reduced to a minimum, to obtain information from fewer animals or to gain more information from the same number of animals.
  - **Refinement** – amending the way experiments are carried out to make sure animals suffer as little as possible. This includes better housing and improvements to procedures which minimise pain and suffering and/or improve animal welfare.
4. However it should be noted that when dealing with a condition like epilepsy that requires investigation of the whole organism, at present and in some situations, there is no viable alternative to animal research
5. Epilepsy Society's policy is that such research should only be carried out humanely, according to Home Office guidelines and best practice in special, well regulated facilities.
6. Epilepsy Society does not possess these facilities and has no plans to acquire them.