



Fundação Champalimaud

Champalimaud Foundation Statement on the Use of Animals in Research

At the Champalimaud Foundation, we are dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving lives through responsible scientific research, guided by a commitment to high ethical standards and respect for animal welfare. Over the course of history, research involving animals has been essential to major medical breakthroughs—from vaccines to life-saving treatments for various diseases. We honor these contributions and recognize the unique role that responsible animal studies play in advancing knowledge when other methods fall short.

Animal research is conducted at the Foundation only when necessary and in cases where no alternative methods can provide the depth of insight required. All of our practices align with national and international ethical standards, including compliance with Portuguese law (Decreto-Lei 113/2013) and European Directive 2010/63. Our facilities and operations meet or exceed these guidelines, with oversight by the Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary Medicine (DGAV) and adherence to recommendations by the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA).

In accordance with the **3Rs Principle—Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement**—we strive to:

- **Replace** animal models wherever suitable alternatives exist,
- **Reduce** the number of animals used to the minimum necessary, and
- **Refine** our methods to minimize any discomfort and ensure that humane practices are central to all procedures.

Furthermore, the welfare of all animals in our care is supervised by our internal Animal Welfare Body (ORBEA) and attended to by experienced veterinarians and technicians dedicated to humane and respectful handling. The ORBEA ensures that all research practices reflect our commitment to compassion and scientific rigor.

Transparency is central to our mission, and we engage in open dialogue with the public about the role of animal research in scientific progress. Through these interactions, we aim to raise awareness of the careful ethical considerations that inform our work and to foster trust in the research that contributes to better health outcomes for all.