

## Animal Research Policy

SMA Europe is dedicated to improving the lives of people living with SMA and improve outcomes through high-quality research to better understand and treat this condition. To achieve this, many types of research methods are used. These include clinical trials, use of tissues samples, computer models and when appropriate, animals. All approaches, including research using animals, play a vital role in the medical research process.

We support the principle of using animals in research, when necessary, to advance understanding and treatment of SMA, when there is no alternative.

We do not take the decision to fund animal research lightly. We are committed to undertaking high-quality animal research that is well-designed, uses rigorous and expert peer review, is well-reported and ethically justified.

High standards of animal welfare, including housing conditions and well-trained animal technologists, are vital to us. These minimise discomfort for animals and enable researchers to get reliable results.

We are committed to the 3Rs of reduction, replacement and refinement, as basic principles of humane animal research. We are also committed to openness and transparency around the use of animals in research and recognise that not everybody is comfortable with the use of animals in research.

For more information about the 3Rs: <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/>