



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

MARCH 2021

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance and key principles regarding the set-up and conduct of scientific studies involving live animals, and aims to promote and safeguard the welfare of animals used in research by us on our behalf.

2. RATIONALE

Given the present state of scientific knowledge, it is in many cases not possible to examine the complex interactions in a living organism solely by the use of modelling or performing experiments in cell cultures and tissues samples. Consequently, research using living animals remains essential in the discovery, development and production of new medicines, and regulatory authorities worldwide commonly require that new products have been evaluated in both animals and humans in order to ensure the quality, efficacy and safety of these products before granting approval.

3. POLICY

3.1. COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE STANDARDS

We are committed to comply with currently applicable scientific, legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements, guidelines and policies to promote animal welfare. Also where locally applicable requirements are less strict than this policy, this policy will apply.

3.2. REPLACE, REDUCE, REFINE

We expect that given the present state of science and the regulatory frameworks in which we operate, that we cannot in the foreseeable future avoid or replace all animal experiments, but we strive to continuously refine the welfare and use of animals and to develop procedures that reduce and/or replace animal experiments where reasonably possible.

At argenx, we fully embrace the 3R principles:

Replace – use alternative (non-animal) experiments in place of live animals whenever reasonably possible. This may include (but is not limited to) the use of

mathematical models, computer simulations, tissue cultures and cell based systems

Reduce – use the minimum number of animals possible to obtain valid results and achieve research objectives

Refine – modify procedures to limit any discomfort and distress to animals

Our commitment to the 3R principles includes:

- having a strategy to minimize any animal surplus;
- having a strategy for the sharing of tissues;
- implementation and ongoing refinement of humane end-points for specific projects;
- introduction of replacement experiments where possible;
- appropriate engagement with the animal welfare science community; and
- the involvement of biostatisticians to limit the number of animals used.

3.3. CORE PRINCIPLES

In addition to the 3R principles, if we engage in experiments involving animals we commit to:

- Show respect. Animals are treated and cared for respectfully and that personnel involved in animal studies demonstrates respect for all research animals.
- Administrate due care. Special attention will be given to housing of animals according to the needs of different species. Animals are given the opportunity to socialize where possible. An ethical review is performed of any new types of animal studies prior to their initiation.
- Minimize discomfort. Appropriate measures, in accordance with current veterinary practices, will be taken to ensure that animals experience the minimum amount of discomfort, distress and/or pain. Appropriate methods for sedation, analgesia or anaesthesia are utilized whenever possible. Any signs of discomfort, stress or pain are carefully monitored.



- Train special skills and knowledge. Appropriate training is provided to personnel involved in research involving live animals. Personnel must be appropriately qualified to ensure that they are competent and aware of humane and ethical issues and that they are trained on the applicable protocols.
- Use only specifically bred animals. Use only animals that are specifically bred for research purposes by certified breeders and that are fit for the purpose for which they are used.
- Take care in transport. Take special care when transporting animals to be used for research purposes to minimize any discomfort or safety hazard for the animal.
- Keep records. Keep animal records showing the source, use, fate and other relevant characteristics of animals used in research.

3.4. THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

3.4.1. Applicability

We expect our contract research organizations, collaborators and vendors (hereinafter "Service Providers") to maintain ethical and welfare standards similar to those applied by us. Service Providers conducting animal-based research for or in collaboration with argenx at their facilities are required to adhere to this policy and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Service Providers must accept applicability of this animal welfare policy in writing prior to engaging in any research activities involving live animals for or on behalf of argenx, whether through inclusion of a specific contractual clause to this effect or through any other written appropriate written confirmation.

3.4.2. Speak-up policies

As is the case at argenx, Service Providers should also have in place appropriate speak-up policies to enable and encourage the reporting of any misconduct involving live animals.

3.4.3. Accreditation

In order to (continue to) perform or participate in the conduct of research involving the handling of live animals, whether as part of a collaboration or on a fee-for-service basis, we require that Service Providers have appropriate accreditation (such as by AAALAC). Service Providers who do not (yet) have such accreditation are subjected to argenx' specifically designed third party diligence process, a positive outcome of which is a prerequisite to any (further) involvement in the handling of live animals for research purposes for argenx or on argenx' behalf.

3.5. ENFORCEMENT AND BREACH OF THIS POLICY

We commit to an active stance on enforcing the principles set out in this policy. Employees and third parties alike are encouraged to report any potential misconduct involving the treatment of animals in experiments conducted by, for or on behalf of argenx via the argenx COMPASS helpline. Any serious allegations will be investigated and if found to be true, the person or persons involved will be subject to disciplinary actions including but not limited to termination of employment or in case of third parties, termination of contractual relationship with argenx. argenx furthermore retains the right to report violations of laws and/or regulations to the competent authorities. Reporting and anti-retaliation principles set out in the argenx Code of Conduct (available on the argenx website) apply to this policy.