

Roche's Global Position on Animal Research

Background

Animal research is a very sensitive issue and involves ethical issues which should be openly discussed. Roche is well aware of the public concerns about animal research and takes them very seriously. We are committed to dialogue and believe that it is important to explain the need for animal research, our efforts to develop alternative methods to animal research and the scientific limits to those efforts (for further information see [“FAQs on Animal Research and Testing”](#)).

Roche Position

ROCHE'S MISSION. As an innovation-driven global healthcare leader, Roche aims to improve the quality of human life by providing products and services for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Roche's goal is to help alleviate human suffering caused by diseases. Like all leading healthcare companies, Roche has to undertake animal research, which is an integral and inevitable aspect of biomedical research and pharmaceutical product safety testing.

RESPONSIBILITY AND STANDARDS. At this time, the use of animals in basic research and in the development of drugs and technologies is required for both scientific and legal reasons. Therefore, Roche is committed to using animals appropriately and responsibly, and complies with international, regional and national laws and regulations, as well as meeting or exceeding industry standards (for further information see [“Roche Principles of Care and Use”](#)). All employees within Roche, and all external contractors who perform animal testing for Roche, are required to obey these laws at all times and to conduct their research by applying high standards of welfare and respect for the animals in their care.

Roche's Efforts for Animal Welfare

CONTROL OF STANDARDS. Roche has established processes to ensure high standards of animal care, and monitors these processes via internal review committees and/or animal welfare officers. In regards to contractors, Roche reviews and recommends animal welfare provisions in their contractual agreements. In 2006, Roche instituted a formal auditing process for commercial contractors and animal vendors based on global auditing guidelines.

SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES. The company uses the fewest possible number of animals without putting at risk the reliability and validity of research and test results. In addition, we are actively engaged in research to develop and validate methods that may some day provide better alternatives to animal research. We encourage our own researchers to look for such methods, in particular with an award launched in 2008. Moreover, we also support external institutions, in our pursuit of methodologies that reduce the need for animals.

OUTLOOK. Over the years, Roche has maintained a strong commitment to animal welfare and intends to remain a driving force at the forefront of developing alternatives to the use of animals in biomedical research.

This position paper was adopted by the Corporate Sustainability Committee and entered into force on October 15, 2008.

For further reading, please see:

- [FAQs on Animal Research and Testing](#)
- [Roche Principles of Care and Use](#)