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## WellChild Research

### Policy Statement – Use of Animals in Research

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WellChild understands that there can be objections to the use of animals or animal tissue in medical research. We are also aware that animal research has led to advances in the treatment of many childhood conditions and diseases and has contributed to many of the medical advances we now take for granted.

The UK is regarded as having the strictest regulations and highest welfare conditions for animal research in the world - this ensures that animals are only used in research when absolutely necessary.

WellChild itself does not carry out research. We fund a wide variety of research projects that are carried out in universities, hospitals and research institutions across the UK.

Most of the projects that we fund do not involve animals or animal tissue. WellChild does however acknowledge that under some circumstances research cannot be carried out without involving animals. Researchers have to be able to justify why alternative methods can not be used as part of our rigorous review process as by law, animals cannot be used in research if there is an equally good non-animal alternative. Each research project application is reviewed by WellChild Grant Review Panel and is also peer reviewed by other national and international experts.

All WellChild funded research that involves the use of animals requires Home Office licenses for both the researchers and for the project itself. WellChild supports the Home Office's commitment to refine experimental techniques and procedures, reduce the number of animals involved in research and replace animals in research wherever possible.

WellChild is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). The AMRC represents the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we endorse the AMRC Statement on the Use of Animals in Medical Research. A copy of the statement can be downloaded from [http://www.amrc.org.uk/news-policy--debate\\_animals-in-medical-research](http://www.amrc.org.uk/news-policy--debate_animals-in-medical-research)