



5. September 2024

Statement about non-animal core facilities

A fundamental principle in research and development is to start with a scientific question to be answered, and then design an experiment from scratch to answer that question.

Since *Russell and Burch* introduced the 3Rs in *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique* (1959), one of the reasons for the success of the principles has been that most institutions and companies have entrusted laboratory animal housing and animal experiments to central units with the proper competences to safeguard appropriate conditions for the animals and the professional conduct of experiments.

However, the easy access to animal facilities and the associated competences might result in animal testing automatically becoming the researcher's go-to for answering a given research question.

Rather, the choice of method should be based on what is the most scientifically robust route to a valid answer. Institutions and companies should consequently take inspiration from their laboratory animal centralisation and also unify the approach to their non-animal methods under a single entry point (core facility). This allows researchers to receive the same professional assistance in answering a given research question with non-animal methods as they receive with laboratory animals, provided that non-animal methods are a viable solution.

The Danish National Committee for the Protection of Animals used for Scientific Purposes believes that easier access to non-animal methods will also increase their use. It is also expected that increased use of non-animal methods will result in increased resources for the area, further strengthening the development towards a future where laboratory animals are not necessary.