Animals in Research Policy

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to define the principles that will apply to animal studies funded and supported by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

Scope

This policy applies to all CEPI funding recipients, including awardees and any sub-awardees or contractors involved in CEPI-funded projects.

CEPI also requires that all its Employees and Associates abide by the principles outlined in this policy.

Definitions

Associate: any individual who is not a direct employee of CEPI, who is engaged to perform work for CEPI or chosen or appointed to speak on behalf of CEPI, including, for example: consultants, external reviewers or other experts engaged by CEPI, interns and fellows, and members of CEPI's Board of Directors and advisory bodies.

Awardee: an entity that receives funding from CEPI to carry out specific projects or activities. Awardees are responsible for managing the funds provided by CEPI and ensuring that the projects are completed according to the agreed terms.

Employee: an individual with an employment contract directly with one of CEPI's three legal entities in Norway, United Kingdom, or the United States of America.

Third Party: an individual or entity which engages with CEPI, regardless of establishment under private or public law, which includes but is not limited to awardee, both principal awardee and any sub-awardees, including subsequent levels of sub-awardees, applicant, partner, goods suppliers and service providers.

Policy statement

CEPI is committed to ethical and responsible animal research aligned with the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) and international best practice standards.

CEPI may support animal studies, including for product development research and modelling, if the potential human health benefits are compelling and if the experimental animal system in which the medical countermeasure is tested is likely to demonstrate data supportive of this benefit.

CEPI may also support testing if there is a good likelihood that there will not be overt toxicological concerns in animal studies, depending on the maturity of the product under development. Given this, animal experiments will be supported where:

- appropriate welfare standards are met;

- product development regulatory requirements are indicative of animal data collection; and
- there are no feasible alternatives.

Additionally, data quality and integrity must align with the intended use of the data and be adequate to fulfil its regulatory, scientific, and ethical objectives.

CEPI will support biomedical and veterinary research using animals regardless of where it is conducted, provided that it is done so to a standard aligned with UK legislation (e.g., Scientific Procedures Act 1986[1]), where feasible and in compliance with all local legislation and ethical review procedures.

Funding recipients must ensure the appropriate care and use of all animal species in research and will submit applications proposing experimentation specifically involving non-human primates, cats, dogs, horses, or any other application CEPI deems appropriate for additional animal welfare review to the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research[2] for guidance, where required.

Studies involving non-human primates and other species subject to enhanced ethical consideration should be performed under high-quality, protocol-driven research standards, such as GLP or equivalent frameworks, to ensure the robustness, reproducibility, and ethical integrity of datasets. CEPI may approve exceptions (in advance and in writing) to these approaches, when scientifically and programmatically justified.

Further, CEPI's Preclinical Model Network (PMN) exists as a partnership of laboratories selected based on the capacity to perform high quality, ethically sound experiments in biocontainment. Applicants to CEPI's Calls for Proposals and CEPI awardees are strongly encouraged to work with CEPI to plan preferential utilisation of the PMN laboratories where possible, to assist in collection of preclinical data through CEPI's investment.

Aligned with World Health Organization's statement on data sharing in the context of public health Emergencies, CEPI requests that awardees and sub-awardees on CEPI-funded projects contribute to publicly shared data about which studies are being carried out and to specify when results will be available to help the greater good during emergency response times, recognising that there will be no requirement to share proprietary or preliminary, non-final study data.

CEPI encourages publication of all CEPI-funded animal research results in peer-reviewed literature as a source of advisement and education to others in research fields, aiming to reduce future duplicative animal work or potentiate design of successful future studies.

Policy Monitoring and reporting

The CEPI Internal Audit function will review the implementation of this policy in accordance with the Annual Internal Audit Plan, as agreed with the CEPI Audit and Risk Committee.
Ongoing monitoring is also carried out during the lifetime of the project by the relevant CEPI project teams.

Should there be any concerns regarding activities governed by this Policy, CEPI teams should inform the Policy Owner or, if appropriate, raise your concerns in accordance with the Whistleblowing Policy.

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/14/section/1
[2] https://nc3rs.org.uk/

Policy Violations and exceptions

Violations of the CEPI Animals in Research policy may be subject to disciplinary action for internal stakeholders and suspension/terminating the relationship, declining to enter future arrangements, and/or seeking to recover funds for Third Parties. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the Policy Owner.

Any exception must be clearly justified, judged on a risk basis, and documented formally. The Animals in Research policy aims to be as clear and direct as possible but cannot address every risk or situation that may arise.

Individuals are encouraged to bring questions, suggestions and concerns to the attention of the Policy Owner and CEPI Ethics and Compliance function.

Policy Ownership, Implementation and training

The Director, Laboratory Research and Innovations is the owner of this Policy and is responsible for its implementation in CEPI's operations and activities.

It is the responsibility of the Policy Owner to ensure that appropriate level of information, awareness and training is provided to relevant Employees and Associates to ensure compliance with this Policy.

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Approved by CEPI Board	June 2026
Owner	Director Laboratory Research and Innovations
Linked documents	Clinical Trials Policy Scientific Integrity Policy Third Party Code of Conduct GXP Quality and Compliance Requirements Expectations Document
Date of last review	June 2026