

Position Statement on Animal Research

IHMT-NOVA is a signatory of the [Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Portugal](#). This is an initiative supported by the scientific community in collaboration with the [European Animal Research Association](#) (EARA) to promote openness and transparency about the use of animals in biomedical research across the country.

Scientific research using animals plays an essential role in the knowledge of the biological mechanisms that are involved in diseases and in the development of diagnosis tools, and new therapeutic approaches. Without the use of animals in the biomedical research most of the medicines, antibiotics, vaccines, and surgical techniques that are applied in human and veterinary medicine would not exist.

Part of the scientific work developed at the animal facility of IHMT/NOVA that contributes to the improvement of biomedical sciences is based upon to the use of animals in research. In our scientific research projects, we use mainly rodents to evaluate drug efficacy, to maintain parasites for experimental assays and vectors life cycles for transmission studies.

The animal welfare in research is a fundamental issue and all research carried at IHMT/NOVA animal facility strictly respects the Portuguese (Decree-Law no. 113/2013 of the 7th of August) and European regulations (Directive 2010/63/EU) that rule the use of animals in research.

The use of animals in all research performed at our institution complies with legal standards and is reviewed by the institutional ethics committee and animal welfare body that promotes the 3Rs principles (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). No research project requiring the use of animals begins without the necessary animal welfare and ethical evaluation and final authorization by the competent authority. It is also ensured that both the animal care personnel and the researchers involved in animal experimentation have the necessary training and knowledge to perform research with animals.