



**Multiple System Atrophy Trust Policy:  
The Use of Animal Tissue and/or Live Animals in MSA Research**

The Multiple System Atrophy Trust will endeavour to ensure at all times that the design and conduct of research projects funded by the Trust is of an appropriately high standard.

Its policy is to act responsibly, sensitively and in compliance with both the letter and the spirit of the law in funding any such project which may involve the use of animal tissue and/or live animals.

The Trustees believe that experiments on living animals are sometimes an essential part of research to improve understanding of MSA, and to discover viable treatments and/or a cure.

However, any Trust-sponsored scientist involved in such research must use animals only when absolutely necessary, and when there are no realistic alternatives. Any grant awarded by the Trust will be on condition that the necessary licences are obtained. In making any decision to grant research funding, the Trustees will look to its Scientific Advisory Panel for advice and guidance.

The Trust will only fund research operating within bona fide research institutions and will require that any application for funding for a project which involves the use of animals must include review by an animal care and use committee within the host institution.

Any such research is to be carried out with due concern for the welfare of the animals involved, using the minimum number necessary to provide clear data in well-designed experiments.

The following conditions for any such project are to apply at all times:

1. The use of animals must be absolutely necessary.
2. The potential benefits to MSA patients must outweigh the cost to animals.
3. There must be full justification for the animal species and methods used.
4. There must be a clear indication of what the outcome of the research will be.

It is recognised that there are non-animal methods, such as studies of post-mortem human tissue, computer modelling, studies of patients and populations, which may be of benefit (sometimes in conjunction with animals) and should be considered in the planning of any research project submitted to the Trust for funding.

Adopted by Trustee Board, June 2014.

### **Background information on research and testing using animals**

In 2010 the coalition government made a commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research and the delivery plan ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-to-reduce-the-use-of-animals-in-research-delivery-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-to-reduce-the-use-of-animals-in-research-delivery-plan)). It has three strategic priorities, putting the 3Rs (see below) at the heart of a science-led programme:

- A domestic programme which focuses on advancing the use of the 3Rs within the UK;
- An international programme aimed at influencing the update and adoption of 3Rs approaches globally, and
- A programme aimed at promoting an understanding and awareness about the use of animals where no alternatives exist.

The UK's guiding principles in animal research, the 3Rs, are:

- **Replacing** animal experiments with non-animal techniques wherever possible;
- **Reducing** the number of animals used to a minimum to achieve the results sought; and that, for those animals which must be used, procedures are
- **Refined** as much as possible to minimise their suffering.

Standards for the welfare and care of animals are given high priority and, together with consideration of minimising of stress and suffering, are set out in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs). ASPA has recently been revised to transpose European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The revised legislation came into force on 1 January 2013.

ASPAs is implemented by the Home Office in England, Scotland and Wales and by the Department for Health, Social Security and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.