

The 3Rs – for increased research quality

This is a statement regarding the importance of implementing the 3Rs in Swedish research, from the research funding bodies below.

Working according to the 3Rs principles – to replace, reduce and refine animal experimentation – is a legal requirement for those performing animal experiments¹. The 3Rs imply to carefully investigate and consider whether animal-free methods could be applied, how the number of animals used can be minimized without negatively affecting the scientific relevance, and how animals are handled so that animal welfare is improved and any suffering reduced.

Working with the 3Rs also imply to continuously develop and evaluate new and improved methods and working routines. When the best method is used in each individual study, the quality of Swedish research is ensured through more relevant research results and better use of resources.

We, as research funding bodies, want to contribute to development of the 3Rs in Sweden.

For the 3Rs principles to be fully implemented, all stakeholders involved in a research project need to take their responsibilities. We urge all researchers to, where relevant, continuously implement the 3Rs principles in their studies in order to contribute to increased quality and animal welfare in Swedish research.

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¹ 7 Ch. 1 § Swedish Animal Welfare Act (2018:1192).