

Animal Welfare Policy

July 1, 2026

Developing better medicines for patients involves the mandatory use of animals in preclinical research. Candidate drugs are examined for their safety and effectiveness in animals before they are assessed in human clinical trials. All medical regulatory bodies around the world require this work, designed to maximise safety and protect patients.

At Compass, we fund research to understand whether a new potential treatment could work, how it might work and to establish its safety. This work helps us to progress our mission of accelerating patient access to evidence-based innovation in mental health. The research undertaken, and the knowledge gained, help us to develop improvements to patient care and to invest in new treatments that show real promise.



As part of our commitment to animal welfare, we have joined the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research](#) in the UK, which involves reporting annually how, why, and when animals have been involved in preclinical research for Compass. As members of [Understanding Animal Research](#), we support education and refinement of the use of animals in research.

Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement



3Rs in Action: An Example of Reduction

In 2022, our preclinical research team led a pilot project aimed at improving the preparation technique for neuroimaging projects. We were working with a clinical research organisation but realised their default method had a 50% attrition rate. We took the decision to fund a pilot project and brought in a consultant that trialled and successfully applied an alternative method, with a 100% success rate. This resulted in a 50% reduction in the number of animals needed in our study.