Animal Research

The Migraine Trust funds and promotes research towards a greater understanding of migraine and its underlying mechanisms. The goals of research include improved management and treatment, but the ultimate aim is to find a cure for this debilitating condition. The Migraine Trust does not undertake research itself but funds scientist and researchers to carry out this work. More information is available here.

The Migraine Trust is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and as such supports its ‘Policy statement on the use of animals in research’. The statement is available on the AMRC’s website.

Developments in the understanding of migraine and advances in treatment have been possible due to the use of animals in medical research. The Migraine Trust would like to see future advances made in migraine research without involving animals. As migraine is a complex neurological condition the nature of the research can make it unethical to test on humans. This renders the use of a whole animal model unavoidable at present. The Migraine Trust therefore supports the use of animals in migraine research where no alternative exists and where it is carried out according to best practice as laid down in legislation.

All research involving the use of animals is closely regulated by the Home Office, which demands high standards of animal welfare. Research proposals undergo expert and ethical review, and are only funded where there is no alternative. The Migraine Trust does not fund research carried out on primates.

The Migraine Trust respects that the use of animals in research is a sensitive moral issue. We recognise that, despite supporting the need for research into migraine, some of our supporters may not share our views. We respect the wishes of any supporter who does not agree to their donation being used to support medical research involving animals and will address this accordingly.

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www.migrainetrust.org