

Checklist for Applicants Submitting Research Proposals Involving Animal Experiments

The SNSF is committed to supporting excellent, original, and innovative research that complies with Swiss legislation^{1,2}. Regarding research using animals, the SNSF expects that applicants have conducted a rigorous, state-of-the-art harm-benefit analysis in accordance with the guidance of the Ethics Committee for Animal Experimentation³ (ECAE). However, it does not intervene in the application or assessment processes for animal experimentation licences, which fall under the exclusive authority of the cantonal and other federal authorities.

To enable a robust scientific evaluation of proposals involving animal experiments – particularly regarding the appropriateness of the proposed animal use – before submitting a proposal the SNSF expects applicants to have addressed the following points in their detailed research plan as outlined in the *Principles and Practices of the Swiss National Science Foundation concerning Research Using Animals*:

- Ensure that there is justified necessity for the use of animals in the context of the specific research question.
- Ensure that the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (3Rs) have been applied.
- Ensure that no valid alternative method exists that could achieve the research objectives to the same extent, with equivalent quality and completeness.
- Ensure that comprehensive information on animal species, models and numbers, supported by scientific justification is provided to allow for a thorough assessment of statistical validity and methodological appropriateness.
- Ensure that the scientific rationale is clearly distinguished from the legal considerations, since the latter are assessed separately by cantonal authorities.
- Ensure that the terminology and framing is appropriate for scientific peer review.

¹ Animal Welfare Act (AniWA): <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2008/414/en>

² Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO): [SR 455.1 - Tierschutzverordnung vom 23. April 20... | Fedlex](#) / [RS 455.1 - Ordonnance du 23 avril 2008 sur la pr... | Fedlex](#)

³ Ethical guidelines for animal experiments: https://www.samw.ch/dam/jcr:b504f0d9-7026-4961-b5a4-35060fd5122d/sams_ethical_guidelines_for_animal_experiments_2025.pdf