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Nestlé Policy for Animal Testing



Nestlé



Policy
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Issuing department

Nestlé Research, Legal

Target audience

R&D, Communications, Public Affairs, Regulatory, Legal

Approver

Executive Board Nestlé S.A.

Repository

All Nestlé Principles and Policies, Standards and Guidelines can be found in [NestleDocs](#), on the Nest

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Design

Nestec Ltd., Corporate Identity & Design,
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1. Background

Nestlé is ethically and legally obliged to rigorously evaluate potential new foods, nutritional solutions, innovative and safe medical solutions. Whenever possible, we do these evaluations without using animals. However, sometimes, for ethical, regulatory or scientific reasons, testing on animals is required to ensure efficacy, safety and compliance.

2. Purpose

The Nestlé Policy for Animal Testing sets out our absolute commitment to high quality animal care and welfare throughout our businesses and to the replacement, reduction and refinement of the use of animals in research wherever possible.

3. Scope

The policy is applicable to all Animal Testing performed by Nestlé and its external suppliers.

“Animal Testing” refers to the use of non-human vertebrate animals for any scientific purpose.

4. Policy

Animal Testing should only take place where absolutely necessary:

- as part of the regulatory authorisation process to commercialise a product,
- as part of the research and development of novel ingredients, nutritional solutions, medical devices or therapeutic approaches to enhance consumer and patient health,
- as part of the mechanistic understanding of diseases and health conditions,
- to demonstrate safety of novel ingredients or foodstuffs including beverages.

In addition to applicable laws or regulations, Animal Testing must not be used for:

- developing conventional human foods and drinks, such as coffee, tea, cereal and chocolate,
- developing cosmetic products,
- comparing such types of competitor products or ingredients with Nestlé products or ingredients.

Any Animal Testing must apply the 3Rs (Replace, Reduce, Refine) principles:

- replace (use an alternative to Animal Testing wherever possible),
- reduce (minimise and optimise number of tested animals),
- refine (evolve the experimental procedures to suppress or reduce suffering and discomfort of animals).

Employees involved in the care, welfare and use of animals must be trained to ensure that:

- they are competent in the care of the animals and in the standard operating procedures required to complete the work,
- they are fully aware of the ethical issues involved in the use of animals,
- they demonstrate respect towards the animals in their care.

Any Animal Testing that is performed by or for the benefit of Nestlé must first be approved by an authorised internal Nestlé committee for the ethical treatment of animals.

Any Animal Testing that is performed by or for the benefit of Nestlé must be approved by the appropriate local legal authority (e.g. veterinary authorities, etc).

Animal care and welfare levels must meet or exceed those required by applicable international, national or local laws and regulations.

Where Animal Testing is necessary, it is vital that we are fully aware of, and our actions are guided by, our ethical responsibility for the welfare of animals including proper housing, nutrition, care and humane handling.

Parties conducting Animal Testing for Nestlé are required to adhere to this Policy and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

5. Documentation

Animal Testing, from project submission to study conduct that is performed for the benefit of Nestlé, including internal Nestlé ethical committee deliberation and approval, as well as approval by the appropriate local legal authority, must be documented and archived.

Qualification and training of Nestlé employees involved in the care, welfare and use of animals must be documented and archived.

Evidence must be kept that contract research organisations, external collaborators or animal suppliers follow this Policy.

6. Communication

Any communications, scientific publications or general communication regarding Animal Testing performed for the benefit of Nestlé, must be reviewed beforehand by the relevant committee(s) for compliance with Nestlé communication guidelines and policies.

