

Statement on the Use of Animals in Research

In the UK, research on laboratory animals is regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. This Act applies to *protected* animals which the Act defines as 'all living vertebrates other than man'. A 1993 amendment to the Act added in a single invertebrate species, *Octopus vulgaris*, as a protected animal 'from the stage of its development when it becomes capable of independent feeding'.

Middlesex University does not currently conduct research on any animals protected by the Act. Nor does it house or handle such animals.

The Act permits the Secretary of State by order 'to extend the definition of protected animal so as to include vertebrates of any description' and 'to alter the stage of development' of an animal at which statutory protection applies.

On the basis that, over time, invertebrates in addition to *Octopus vulgaris* may become covered by the Act, researchers who are working with, or intending to work with, any invertebrates shall check with their School Ethics Committee and/or their professional body the statutory status of the animal species at issue.

Research on protected animals requires a licence if 'regulated procedures' are used. 'Regulated procedures' are defined as 'any experimental or other scientific procedure applied to a protected animal which may have the effect of causing that animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm'.

University Ethics Committee
5/12/07