

## STATISTICS OF SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES ON LIVING ANIMALS, GREAT BRITAIN, 2009.

### Summary

The National Statistics publication "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2009" was released by the Home Office on 27th July 2010, providing information about the use of protected animals in experimental or other scientific procedures for the calendar year 2009.

The key points from the latest publication are:

1. Just over 3.6 million scientific procedures were started in Great Britain in 2009, falling 1% (-37,000).
2. Breeding to produce genetically modified (GM) animals and harmful mutants (HM) increased by 10% (+143,000) to 1.5 million procedures, accounted for by an increase for mice (+161,000).
3. Excluding such breeding, the numbers of procedures fell from 2.3 million to 2.1 million (-8% or -180,000).
4. For the first time, procedures using genetically 'normal' animals were less than half the total (48%).
5. There was an increase of 9% in numbers of procedures involving mice, a fall of 7% for non human primates, and falls for most other species.
6. The total number of procedures was a third higher (+33% or +905,000) in 2009 than in 2000, mostly accounted for by an increase in breeding to produce GM and HM animals (+834,000 higher, of which mice +734,000). Excluding such breeding, the total was slightly higher in 2009 than in 2000 (+3% or +70,000)

(Source: Tables 1, 3)

**Definition** – for the compilation of these statistics the number of procedures reported generally corresponds to the number of animals. Where an animal which has recovered fully from a completed procedure is used again for a further procedure it is counted as a separate procedure. The circumstances in which this re-use of an animal is permitted are limited (see the Introductory Notes and Appendix B of the publication for further details).



Home Office



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<u>Contacts</u> <b>Press enquiries</b> , please contact the Home Office Press Office (Newsdesk - <b>020 7035 3535</b> ) <b>Members of the public</b> please call <b>020 7035 4848</b> (HO Public Enquiry Unit). Feedback and comments on the annual statistics are welcome in writing to Assistant to the Chief Statistician, Home Office Statistics, Science and Research Group, Home Office, 5th floor Peel, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF, or email:- <a href="mailto:public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk">public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</a> marked 'FAO Assistant to the Chief Statistician, Home Office Statistics.'	

## Notes to editors

1. The purpose of the annual statistical report is to satisfy the requirement in section 21(7) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that the Secretary of State should publish and lay before Parliament each year, information about the use of protected animals in experimental or other scientific procedures during the previous calendar year.
2. The statistics are compiled from returns, submitted by project licence holders at the end of each year, or on the termination of the licence when this occurs during the year. Further details of the collection procedures, coverage, and quality assurance processes are given in the Introductory Notes of the publication.
3. There have been no changes to definitions nor revisions to previous data. Following a consultation carried out in 2009 regarding the format and content of the statistics, there have been some additions as follows:-
  - Appendix E provides a report on the consultation in 2009 regarding the format and content of the statistics
  - Supplementary tables now provided in Excel as well as in pdf format
  - trends information provided on numbers of personal and project license holders and numbers of designated establishments
  - international comparisons provided for EU Member States
4. These statistics are produced as part of the National Statistics work programme in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), and are managed by the Home Office Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics, David Blunt.