

Alternatives to using animals

The Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (The Australian Code), requires that techniques which totally or partly replace the use of animals in research and teaching, must be used wherever possible. The following list presents a range of options to help reduce or replace animal use. These sources should be carefully reviewed when planning work that involves animals.

Medical Advances Without Animals (MAWA Trust)

The [MAWA Trust](#) is an Australian initiative which works closely with the research community in a positive environment to promote alternatives to the use of animals. A range of substantial grants are offered.

Animals Ethics Infolink

[Animal Ethics Infolink](#) is a NSW Department of Primary Industries and Animal Research Review Panel initiative. It provides a comprehensive list of alternatives to animal use.

Altweb

[Altweb](#) is a comprehensive database of alternatives to animal use. Highly recommended when preparing ACEC applications.

Serum-free culture media

The use of foetal calf serum for in vitro cell culture has raised concerns because of the possible welfare impact. Possible alternatives to foetal calf serum can be found at [Serum-free culture media](#) and Focus on alternatives

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research(NC3Rs)

[NC3Rs](#) is a major, multi-disciplinary effort to advance the 3Rs through improved education, research and public information.

Alternatives in education

[InterNICHE](#) is a comprehensive, online network for bringing together information on alternatives to the use of animals in education.

European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)

[ECVAM](#) is a major initiative by the European Commission with a particular emphasis on reducing animal use in the regulatory testing of new products. A similar organization, [NICEATM-ICCVAM](#), has been established in the USA.

AltTox

[Alttox](#) is highly informative site on the use of animals in toxicological testing. Overseen by an independent board to maintain objectivity, AltTox is a good example of the pharmaceutical industry and animal protection community working towards common goals.

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