



**Initiative  
Transparente  
Tierversuche**

## **INITIATIVE TRANSPARENTE TIERVERSUCHE**

**Transparency Agreement for Transparent Information and  
Open Communication about Animal Research in Germany**



**Tierversuche verstehen**  
Eine Informationsinitiative der Wissenschaft

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

**DAAD**

**HRK** Hochschulrektorenkonferenz  
Die Stimme der Hochschulen

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SPITZENFORSCHUNG FÜR  
GROSSE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN

  
**Alexander von Humboldt**  
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# INITIATIVE TRANSPARENTE TIERVERSUCHE

## Transparency Agreement for Transparent Information and Open Communication about Animal Research in Germany

### Preamble

Trust in science is an invaluable asset that can contribute greatly to social cohesion and rational, democratic decision-making. Such trust is not a given, but a joint effort based on openness, honesty and dialogue. It gives rise to a responsibility that permeates science as a whole.

There is a growing interest of many social groups in gaining a deeper understanding and to engage with the research process, particularly when publicly funded. For controversial research fields, such as animal research, transparency about the scientific process and an open, dialogue-based exchange about the choice of research methods as well as the ethical responsibilities are particularly important. These aspects are vital to a public understanding and to enable evidence-based opinions. Today, research institutions engage in internal and external communication and aim to contribute to societal processes. In the context of this social dialogue, the scientific community is called upon to continuously fulfil its central role and special responsibility.

In the modern life sciences animal experiments are an important component of the spectrum of experimental methods. Research with animals is essential to gain fundamental knowledge and to allow for medical progress. While recent methodological advances allow for some animal-based approaches to be replaced or reduced by alternative methods, a complete replacement is not foreseeable. To gain knowledge and to develop new therapeutic approaches and methods animal-based approaches will continue to be needed in the future.

Working with animals in research places special ethical demands on the scientists and all individuals involved in handling the animals. In addition to this, animal protection is enshrined in the constitution alongside scientific freedom. Accordingly, the question of the justifiability of animal experiments in research deserves a high degree of attention in society.

The DFG Permanent Senate Commission on Animal Protection and Experimentation and the information initiative "Tierversuche Verstehen" of the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany jointly call on universities, research institutes, as well as research-based companies to fulfil their responsibility to provide transparent information about research involving animal experiments, and to intensify efforts for proactive and open communication about this topic.

**We, the undersigned, hereby commit to support and implement the four core objectives of this initiative.**

# Declaration on Transparent Information and Open Communication about our Animal Research

## Objective 1

### To inform transparently

**We provide the public with broad, target group specific, comprehensible and easily accessible information on animal research.**

The undersigned institution/organisation provides information about when, how and why animals are used in research it supports. The objectives, general conditions and results of the research as well as the harm of the experiments on the laboratory animals, are explained in layman's language.

## Objective 2

### To help shape the public dialogue

**We proactively engage in a dialogue with society and in public reporting on animal research.**

The institution/organisation acknowledges its responsibility for open and proactive, internal and external communication. It reports on the use of animals in its media and public relations work on research topics and promotes exchange with the public through suitable information and discussion formats via appropriate channels and platforms.

## Objective 3

### To share experiences

**We consider communication as a joint task and support each other in this endeavor.**

Active communication is a joint task of all stakeholders. It is based on cooperation, mutual support and regular exchange of experiences.

## Objective 4

### To publicise activities

**We make our activities to promote transparent information and open communication about animal experiments in research easily available and publish up-to-date information via the communication channels of the institution/organisation.**

The institution/organisation publicly presents its activities and efforts to promote transparent and open communication across its communication channels (e.g. websites, social media, public publications). This information is up-to-date and easy to find.



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**DFG** Deutsche  
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