

## Supporting the 3Rs worldwide: The 3Rs Database program

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### Abstract

Our 3Rs databases and informative websites facilitate the implementation of 3Rs methods.

### Introduction

The availability of databases with specific 3R information may save time within the process of compliance to the 3Rs implementation, as required according to Directive 2010/63/EU. To be successful, these databases should be easily found, accessed, managed and updated. Designing, building and filling a database is a time and money consuming activity. Often, financial support can only be obtained in the development stage, whereas continuous updating and maintenance is essential for the sustainability of the databases. Continuous financial support is therefore crucial.

The 3Rs-Centre of the Utrecht University has initiated the 3Rs Database Programme, which aims to provide up-to-date 3Rs information free of charge, thereby facilitating the implementation of the 3Rs in research. The programme currently offers

the FCS-free Database, the Interspecies Database and the Humane Endpoints website.

The **FCS-free Database** (*FCS-free.org*) was launched in 2017 to raise awareness about the scientific and ethical problems related to the use of Foetal Calf Serum (FCS), and to provide an overview of available FCS-free/chemically-defined media for specific cell types. Furthermore, the comment function in the database allows researchers to exchange information about the applicability of FCS-free media. Using the information from this database will increase the reproducibility and acceptability of *in vitro* methods and therefore contributes to the replacement of animals used for research.

The **Interspecies Database** (*www.interspeciesinfo.com*) provides insight into physiological, anatomical and biochemical parameters of different animal species and humans. With the database, researchers can design their experiments smarter with respect to the choice of an animal model. This could lead to a reduction in the number of experimental animals.

The **Humane Endpoints website** (*www.humane-endpoints.info*) provides information, e-learning and training modules on how to recognize humane endpoints in laboratory animals and to apply the correct treatment. This helps to prevent unnecessary pain and distress in the animals. Therefore, the website contributes to refinement.

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To guarantee a sustainable future for these websites and increase their usage, the 3Rs Database Programme is inviting partners who are willing to collaborate and support its activities.

For more information, visit [www.uu.nl/en/3Rsdatabases](http://www.uu.nl/en/3Rsdatabases) or contact [3RsCentreULS@uu.nl](mailto:3RsCentreULS@uu.nl).