

The response reproduced below was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the ethics of research involving animals during October-December 2003. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Anonymous #5

Question 4

- We do not feel that animals of any sort have a moral status but we (humans) have a moral obligation to treat all living creatures with respect. This requires us to only use animals for our benefit to our highest moral standards.

Humans use animals for food as well as research but "humane" treatment is essential.

Insects such as mosquitoes are vectors of disease and are therefore regularly irradiated - no obvious alternative method of treatment available.

- Different animals "suffer" differently and in various degrees. Susceptibility to pain / suffering / distress are experienced by animals. More research is needed in this area.
- Unnecessary suffering by animals is rarely justified and where it is it should be a minimum and for a short a time as possible.
- Research involving animals more easily justified in medical research but not for food, clothing or sport.

Question 6

- Before research commences a clear line must be produced of the necessity for the research and a demonstration that the effects on the animals are known and elucidated.
- All research to be available on the "web".
- Trust is more difficult where the "profit" element of results of the research are evident. People are more suspicious. That apart "trust" is in the "eye of the beholder". It will depend on ones life experiences as well as knowledge of research in general. Trust is often a "gut" feeling.
- Medicines or anything else developed from research on living animals should always be labelled