

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.

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I have examined your consultation paper "The Ethics of Research Involving Animals." It looks like a pretty thorough treatment of the topic and a promising project. I have just a few suggestions for improvement:

1. The report only addresses U.K. regulations. Perhaps you could consider also addressing U.S. or E.U. regulations.
2. The report does not address ethical and legal dilemmas and issues that researchers and institutions face in dealing with the threat of animal protests or terrorism. This is a serious issue at our institution. We have taken security measures to protect our laboratories. We are also considering whether (and how) we respond to requests for information about our animal research and how we publicize it. We do not want to be the target of protestors or terrorists. We have also considered how we would respond if people wanted to protest animal research here. Where would they be allowed to march, sit, or picket? How would we deal with the media? More generally, what are the rights of protestors? What is an acceptable way of voicing one's disagreement with animal research? Is violence or intimidation acceptable? Why or why not? These issues are somewhat similar to the ones that abortion clinics face relating to abortion protests and violence against clinics.