Materiality In Action

Our Commitment To Animal Welfare

Animal research remains a vital component of the processes which lead to the development of products that save or improve animal lives throughout the world. It is also frequently required by regulatory authorities to ensure the quality, efficacy and safety of the products we develop. When we are required to conduct clinical studies to obtain product registrations, we take measures to ensure animals will be treated humanely with the greatest consideration given to their health and welfare whilst looking to meet the necessary scientific objectives.

To the extent it remains necessary to use animals in the development and evaluation of new animal health products, we embrace the principles known as the 3R's of animal research:

- **Replacement** of animal experiments with information that can be derived from in vitro systems, computer models or existing publications in an effort to limit the number of studies needed. We also look to leverage existing research from human health when exploring the possibility of applications in animal health, something particularly relevant for our traditional small molecule product pipeline.
- **Reduction** of the numbers of animals used in each study when animals must be used, and of the number of studies involving animals, to the absolute minimum necessary to obtain valid results and achieve our research objectives.
- **Refinement** of procedures involving animals to minimise the potential for pain and distress.

Governance

To maintain compliance with our code and country specific regulations, all studies conducted by or on behalf of Dechra must be reviewed by a panel of independent experts. This review can be carried by the animal facility's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs), an external Ethical Review Board or Dechra's Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). The goal of Dechra's AWC is to provide ethical review of the small subset of studies not covered by external organisations.

Animal Welfare Committee

The primary responsibility of our Animal Welfare Committee is to review the protocols followed when we run clinical trials, to ensure that all aspects of the study that affect the animal have been robustly evaluated for proper ethical treatment and that, if applicable, owner interests have been addressed in the owner consent form. To achieve this, the Committee:

- protects animal welfare by providing ethical review of studies for best practices and appropriate ethical treatment;
- promotes awareness of animal welfare and subscribes to the guiding principles of 3R's (reduction, replacement, and refinement) whenever possible;
- assesses that animal risks are minimised and outweighed by the potential benefits of the study;
- reviews informed consent documents relating to clinical trials involving client owned animals, ensuring that the information provided fully outlines the nature, purpose and risks to the animal and is comprehensive and understandable to the owner;
- provides critical feedback by asking questions and freely communicating with the researchers; and
- is comprised of veterinary professionals, members educated in science and regulations, and member(s) that represent the public at large who ensure the research follows our position on animal welfare.

The Committee holds twice yearly meetings in which the Committee Members are required to attend at least one meeting in a 12 month period. Protocols are reviewed on a continuous basis throughout the year and a Committee Member is required to participate in those reviews on a rotational basis. All members of the Committee are required to attend an orientation session with additional sessions offered as needed and as different circumstances arise, to participate in training on Dechra's Animal Welfare Statements and to review any other guidance/resources that are provided and to participate in training on protocol review procedures.