



# Call for Nominations

## Animal Protection Research Prize 2025 of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

**The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) is committed to improving animal welfare both nationally and internationally. The well-being of laboratory animals is also an important concern for the BMEL. The BMEL therefore supports the measures of the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) to limit animal testing to the indispensable minimum and to ensure the best possible protection for laboratory animals. In order to promote social commitment to improving the protection of laboratory animals and to promote research and development of alternative methods, the BMEL is awarding the Animal Protection Research Prize 2025 with new prize categories. Under the auspices of the BMEL, the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R), which is affiliated to the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), is responsible for organising the award.**

**Three prizes will be awarded for improved protection of laboratory animals:**

## Prize Categories

### **Prize category 1: Animal Protection Research Prize for outstanding research in the replacement and reduction of animal testing**

is awarded to both national and international scientists who have had a very significant impact on the replacement or reduction of animal testing through their innovations. The prize is endowed with €100,000. Applications are made by nomination.

### **Prize category 2: The Animal Protection Research Prize for young national scientists**

is awarded up to five years after the doctorate. The academic thesis or follow-up work should have a demonstrably or foreseeably significant influence on the research field of alternative methods to animal testing. The prize is endowed with €100,000. Applications are made by nomination.

### **Prize category 3: The Animal Protection Prize for social and civic engagement in the field of laboratory animals**

is awarded to both national and international individuals and organizations. Civic engagement corresponds to the definition in the report of the Enquete Commission "Future of Civic Engagement" of the German Bundestag from 2002 (<https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf>). The award recognizes the entirety of civic engagement and the resulting special influence on the protection of laboratory animals. The prize is endowed with €20,000. Applications are made by nomination.

An independent prize committee evaluates the submitted nominations and applications.

The nomination and application period runs until December 31, 2024.

All information on the nomination and application process and its requirements can be found here:

# Call for Nominations

## **Call for nominations for the Animal Protection Research Prize of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture 2025 of 30 September 2024**

Protecting the well-being and lives of animals is a central issue for society, which is undergoing dynamic change. Animal protection has been enshrined as a national goal in the German Basic Law since 2002 and is regulated in principle in the German Animal Welfare Act. In recent years, valuable progress has already been made towards greater animal welfare.

Animal testing may only be carried out if methods to replace or reduce animal testing are not available. Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes also requires Member States to contribute to the development and validation of such approaches.

The welfare of laboratory animals is an important concern for the BMEL. Animal testing must be limited to the indispensable extent and laboratory animals must be afforded the best possible protection. The German Federal Ministry therefore supports social engagement for improving animal protection as well as research and development of alternative methods.

The German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) is committed to improving animal welfare on behalf of the German government, not only nationally but also in Europe and at the international level. Among other things, the Bf3R funds research projects for the development of alternative methods to animal testing.

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) is offering prizes for more protection of laboratory animals in three categories for the year 2025:

### **Prize category 1 The Animal Protection Research Prize for outstanding research achievements in the replacement and reduction of animal testing**

The prize is endowed with €100,000. It is awarded to national and international scientists whose innovations have achieved a very significant impact on the replacement or reduction of animal testing. The essential for awarding is that the methods or procedures are scientifically and/or technically more innovative than established methods or represent a significant improvement on existing methods.

### **Prize category 2: The Animal Protection Research Prize for young national scientists**

The prize is endowed with up to 100,000 euros. It is awarded to young national scientists up to five years after completing their doctorate. The award is given for innovative, forward-looking scientific theses or follow-up work that contributes to the development of methods and procedures to replace or reduce animal testing. This includes a convincing concept for the continued use of the method or procedure. In accordance with the 3R principle, awards may also be given to methods that improve the conditions under which laboratory animals are kept or that reduce pain, suffering or harm during the experiment (refinement).

### **Prize category 3: The Animal Protection Prize for social and civic engagement in the field of laboratory animals**

The prize is endowed with up to €20,000 and is awarded to individuals and organisations, both national and international. The award recognises the entirety of the social and civic engagement (Definition of

civic engagement (<https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf>) and the resulting special influence on the protection of laboratory animals.

### **General information on the nomination process**

Applications for the three award categories are made exclusively through nominations. As a general rule, self-nominations are not possible. Furthermore, spouses or life partners and close relatives may not nominate their relatives. National 3R Centres and the directors of national research institutions in the field of life and natural sciences are entitled to nominate candidates for all award categories.

The nomination form, signed by the nominators, together with the nomination cover sheet must be sent by post to arrive by 23:59 on 31 December 2024.

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)  
German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R)  
Max-Dohrn-Str. 8-10  
10589 Berlin  
Germany

or

by E-Mail to [bf3r@bfr.bund.de](mailto:bf3r@bfr.bund.de)

Nominations received after this date will not be considered. The nomination form must be completed in German or English. The documents submitted will not be returned.

Publications listed on the nomination form that are not freely available (open access) must be submitted in printed form with the nomination forms. The award of the prize is based on the recommendation of an independent prize committee. There is no automatic right to receive the award. Documents that have already been submitted for an animal welfare prize or that have already been awarded a prize must be marked as such.

Further help in completing the nomination form can be found on the nomination forms.