

Strict review process

How an animal experiment is authorised



Illustration according to: © Smoo/shutterstock.com

1

A **researcher** is looking to answer a scientific question and is weighing up whether an animal experiment is necessary for this purpose.

There is an obligation to thoroughly check whether the animal experiment is absolutely essential.

2

The **researcher** comes to the conclusion that alternative methods are not sufficient for the envisaged purpose.

The **researcher** submits an application for an animal experiment to the competent authority.

3

The **authority** examines if the application is complete and comprehensible and consults the local Animal Experiments Committee and other experts.

Reducing animal experiments to the essential minimum, protecting laboratory animals:
the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the BfR advises the competent authorities on alternatives to animal experiments.

4a

The **authority** rejects the application – because, for example, the experiment can be conducted using alternative methods, it has previously been performed, or the statistical basis is incorrect.

4b

The **authority** approves the animal experiment without any additional requirements or on the condition that fewer laboratory animals should be used (reduction) and pain, suffering or harm to the laboratory animals should be minimised (refinement).

5

Once the experiment is completed, the **researcher** makes the acquired knowledge available to the public.

www.AnimalTestinfo.de

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) publishes non-technical project summaries of authorised animal experiments in Germany.