

What we think about:

Using animals in research

Stroke
Association

Stroke is the fourth biggest cause of death in the UK and single largest cause of disability. Research into new treatments is vital if we are to save lives and reduce disability.

The Stroke Association funds research worth around £3 million every year and most of this involves people. A small part of our funding, however, goes on research where there is no alternative but to involve animals. For example, we fund research into vascular dementia – a form of dementia closely linked to stroke. Our understanding of this disease is limited and the research is at an early stage. We need to build up a basic understanding of the disease in animals before we do clinical research involving humans.

Huge progress has been made in preventing and treating stroke in recent years. This would not have been possible without research involving animals. Life-saving and disability-reducing treatments such as clot-busting thrombolysis drugs are only available to stroke patients because they were first studied in animals.

There are strict rules around research involving animals and the law is clear that drugs must be tested on animals before they are given to humans. The Stroke Association is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and we support its Statement on the use of animals in research. We will only fund medical research involving animals where it is absolutely necessary to improve stroke prevention and treatment and where there is no alternative.

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