

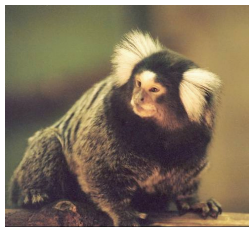


EUPRIM-NET :

Ensuring best practice and the 3Rs in Primate Research in Europe

Research for the European Knowledge Society

The ability of the European Union to ensure the health as well as the cultural and economic progress of its citizens depends on the advancement of scientific knowledge. A central role in this endeavor is played by biological and biomedical research, as it is



necessary for our understanding of human and animal physiology and consequently for medical progress. This research employs a multitude of

methods, including basic and applied research using animals. It necessitates research on a small number of primates (less than 0.1 % of all animals used in research), where no alternative exists.

The EU and its national states have instituted a large number of measures to ensure the best welfare of these animals. Besides legislative and regulatory efforts the EU has provided funding to EUPRIM-NET, a network of the main European Primate Centers established in 2006 to advance the application of the two core principles in conducting research on animals that meets the highest ethical standards: Best Practice and the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement).



Best Practice and the 3Rs

EUPRIM-NET has created a virtual 'European Primate Centre' that provides the basis for internationally competitive state-of-the-art research by providing European scientists with access to an infrastructure and services matching and in some aspects exceeding those available in North America and elsewhere. EUPRIM-NET embodies the European commitment to advance Best Practice and the 3Rs in primate research by combining top-level research with

the development of methods and approaches that advance the welfare of primates in research. This includes major efforts to develop Best Practice methods in:

- breeding and housing of primates,
- education and training programs for scientists, veterinarians and caretakers working with primates,
- the establishment of repositories of biological material from primates ('biobanks', to ensure

access to these materials for scientists across Europe, reducing the number of primates needed),

- the development of alternatives as well as of diagnostic tests, training methods and technical approaches to ensure the health and welfare of the animals.

Public and legislative outreach

Since its establishment EUPRIM-NET has become the leading voice for the best science that meets the highest ethical standards in basic research on primates. Legislative, regulatory and financial efforts in the EU to improve animal welfare while ensuring scientific progress need to be based on solid information. If you are interested to learn more about primate research please contact us at the address provided below.



EUPRIM-NET

c/o German Primate Center
Prof. Dr. Stefan Treue (Coordinator)
euprim@dpz.eu, www.euprim-net.eu