

Navigating Trust, Transparency and Tensions: Shared Values for Responsible Engagement around Animal Research



1. Supporting public engagement and involvement with preclinical animal research

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) around animal research presents distinctive *ethical, emotional, and political* challenges.

Researchers and institutions are increasingly encouraged to be open about their animal use. Yet, legacies of mistrust and polarisation can limit meaningful dialogue.

2. What is preclinical animal research?

Preclinical research seeks to develop understandings of fundamental biology or disease, aiming to generate further scientific knowledge rather than develop treatments.

4. We have been conducting:



Focus Groups
&
Surveys (ongoing)



3. Our project seeks to:

- Conduct **surveys and focus groups** to better understand the motivations and barriers faced by publics, researchers, and animal research staff with respect to PPIE in research.
- Develop **case studies, guidelines, and toolkits** to help researchers working in preclinical animal research engage and involve publics in their work.

5. Early insights from focus groups

From 4 focus groups across Dec2025 - Jan2026 with researchers and professional staff in the University of Oxford's Neurosciences;

Exploring experiences with and perspectives on PPIE around animal research;

Early insights highlight:

- difficulties communicating preclinical research
- tensions between secrecy and openness around animal use
- concerns around public misunderstanding
- connection of PPIE with gaining public support
- preferences for engagement over involvement

Ways to share your thoughts!

Suggestion Box

Write any thoughts on one of our cards and post these into the suggestion box below.

You may consider:

1. Have you supported PPIE around sensitive or controversial topics? If so, what **barriers** did you face and how did you try to overcome these?
2. What qualities are important for **responsible** PPIE in sensitive areas of research?
3. How do you define **success** for PPIE in these areas?

Public Survey

Take part in our survey and have your say about what engagement and involvement could look like around animal research.

Scan the QR code to fill in our survey:

