

NOVO NORDISK WAY OF ENSURING HIGH ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARD IN NON-HUMAN PRIMATE STUDIES

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At Novo Nordisk, non-human primates are still used as a necessary animal model to evaluate certain drugs for efficacy and safety prior to the testing in humans and to model certain human disease states. The use of non-human primates as experimental animals is questioned by many people on ethical, welfare and conservation grounds. Animal welfare organisations advocate an immediate reduction and eventually a global ban on the use of non-human primates as experimental animals due to their high level of development and sentience and their behavioural and social complexity. Novo Nordisk supports the principle that the use of non-human primates must be clearly justified and that the number used should be kept to an absolute minimum, and has established a Focus Group on Non-Human Primates which is ethically reviewing all experiments on non-human primates and ensures that non-human primates only are used if no acceptable alternative methods exist. Novo Nordisk acknowledges non-human primates' high level of development and social nature and supports the principle that special attention should be paid to the housing, training and socialisation which is ensured by animal welfare monitoring of all facilities performing Novo Nordisk non-human primate studies. Further, a Best Practice Non-Human Primate Network Group has been established between Novo Nordisk, University of Copenhagen, and Zoos to ensure that knowledge concerning best practice housing and care of non-human primates are mutually available and shared with user of non-human primates. These initiatives, all ensure a high animal welfare standard for all Novo Nordisk non-human primate studies.

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