

The 3Rs: on animal scientists' perceptions, awareness and practices

Jesper Lassen, Rikke Nøhr & Thomas B. Lund

Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen

Although the 3Rs were introduced more than 50 years ago, there is only limited knowledge about their implementation and use in the everyday practice in the research lab. This presentation will report preliminary results from a study financed by the Danish 3R Center about Danish animal scientists and their knowledge and perceptions as well as their experiences with three Rs.

Method: Interviews were carried out with present and former animal scientists to get an overview of salient issues in relation to the implementation of the 3Rs in the research practice. Based on these qualitative data, a questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire included sections on knowledge, awareness and experience regarding the 3Rs as well as a section on the knowledge of and expectations to the Danish 3R Center. The questionnaire was distributed to animal scientists practicing in Denmark.

Results: Most respondents in the survey find that there is no conflict between the quality of their research and implementing the 3Rs. It is noteworthy, that many don't experience any obstacles for implementing 3r's in their work, and those that observe obstacles primarily point to lack of scientific innovation and the comparability of data. The preliminary analysis of the data also suggests that a main obstacle for reducing the number of animals used in research is lacking collaboration between researchers, research groups and companies.