



RESOURCE SHEET NUMBER 4 – STATISTICS

In 2025, there were 2.53 million (2.63 million in 2024, 2.67 million in 2023) scientific procedures on living animals carried out in GB. Number of animals used for the first time was 2.45 million in 2025 (2.55 million in 2024, 2.59 million in 2023). As some animals are ‘re-used’ the number of animals is less than procedures.

Northern Ireland statistics are published separately. In 2024 there were 21,113 procedures in with 20,746 animals used for the first time. For 2023 there were 25,345 procedures with 24,810 animals used for the first time. Note as of 11th July 2026 the figures for 2025 have not been published.

Additional statistics, last published in 2017, revealed 1.81 million non-GA animals were bred for scientific procedures but were killed or died without being used in regulated procedures. These additional statistics should be published annually. Data is materially misleading without the inclusion of up to £2 million more animal deaths, many of which are surplus ‘stock.’ On 6th July 2026, Sarah Jones MP, the Minister of State, Home Department in reply to a written question by Laura Kyrke-Smith MP stated “The Home Office will resume the collection and annual publication of additional statistics relating to animals used in science. The first publication is planned for 2028 and will report on data collected during 2027.”

Annual Statistics for GB can be found for 2001 – 2024 and also the additional statistics for 2017 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-of-scientific-procedures-on-living-animals>

Annual Statistics for NI can be found for 2005 – 2025

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/statistics-scientific-procedures-living-animals-northern-ireland>

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Procedures Table 1.1						
Experimental	1317531	1430728	1457789	1510968	1643767	1443318
Breeding GA Animals	1219976	1207392	1212078	1250072	1329766	1439993
	2537507	2638120	2669867	2761040	2973533	2883311
From 2024 tables		2637578	2669867	2760960	2973533	2883311
Difference		542	0	80	0	0



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Rather than correct previously published statistics the Home Office choose instead to adjust t previous years figures in the latest publication. In 2024 the 2023 statistics had been reduced by 11,819 procedures which was primarily for mice from one licence holder where an error was made in the original submission. When the 2023 statistics were published the figure for 2021 had been changed by a staggering 77,864 procedures, by FOI request, we established that of these 78,534 related to Domestic Fowl for which the project licence holder had identified an error in their original submission which led to some birds being counted twice. We asked what remedial action had been taken against the project licence holder, the answer was none.

Experimental Procedures Table 3.1

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Specially protected						
Cats	91	82	63	102	155	146
Dog	2889	2646	3749	4122	4227	4340
Horse and other equid	12101	11483	11409	8212	10776	10790
Primate	2236	1936	2169	2197	2795	2393
	17317	16147	17390	14633	17953	17669

Dogs - Number of Procedures Table 3.1

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Basic Research	137	453	697	704	922	721
Applied Research	651	321	459	534	474	722
Regulatory	2101	1872	2593	2884	2831	2897
Protection of natural environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2889	2646	3749	4122	4227	4340

Dog Breed - Number of Procedures Table 3.1

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Beagles	2765	2488	3544	4014	4016	4270
Other	124	158	205	108	211	70
	2889	2646	3749	4122	4227	4340



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Dogs Severity

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Below Threshold	0	20	0	0	0	0
Non Recovery	46	55	11	59	54	65
Mild	2445	1990	3004	3124	3230	3253
Moderate	391	579	729	919	943	1013
Severe	7	2	5	20	0	9
	2889	2646	3749	4122	4227	4340

Note that gavage, otherwise known as force feeding, is a flexible tube forced down the throat to the stomach, 1-3 times daily without anesthesia and is classified as mild severity. The description of mild classification is: Mild: Any pain or suffering experienced by an animal was, at worst, only slight or transitory and minor so that the animal returns to its normal state within a short period of time.

In 2022 the breeds of other dogs included Labrador Retrievers, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Norfolk Terriers and beagle crosses. 2021 included the same breeds plus Border Collies.

Table 2.1 Place of birth of dogs used for the first time in experimental procedures

Year	Species of animal	Animals born in the UK at a licensed establishment	Animals born in the UK but not at a licensed establishment	Animals born elsewhere in the EU at a registered breeder	Animals born in rest of world	Total
2023	Beagle	2,176	3	36	156	2,371
2023	Other dog	74	11	0	0	85
		2,250	14	36	156	2,456
2024	Beagle	1,549	4	8	32	1,593
2024	Other dog	5	53	0	0	58
		1,554	57	8	32	1,651
2025	Beagle	1,632	8	0	0	1,640
2025	Other dog	25	41	0	0	66
		1,657	49	0	0	1,706



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In 2025 around 1600 beagles will have been born in MBR Acres, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire UK. This has reduced from over 2000 born there in 2023. As for imports from the USA up until the end of April 22 these were from Envigo, Virginia and from Marshall BioResources, North Rose facility. In May 22 Envigo was closed for gross welfare violations and so the beagles since have primarily been born in Marshalls North Rose. After our expose on 8th August 23 there was only one shipment of beagles from Marshalls to the UK (via Belgium) on 8th September 23. Since that date until 31st March 26 we have confirmed there have been zero imports of research dogs to the UK from the USA. In 2024 we believe that dogs used first time from EU (8) and rest of world (32) would have been in 'stock' prior to the last shipment on 8th September 23.

Procedures on beagles by legislative requirement and purpose, Great Britain, 2019 to 2025						
Legislative requirement or purpose	2025	% 2025	2024	% 2024	2023	% 2023
Total beagles	2765	100%	2488	100%	3544	100%
Industrial chemicals legislation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Plant protection product legislation	80	2.9%	188	7.6%	205	5.8%
Legislation on medicinal products for human use	1828	66.1%	1546	62.1%	2275	64.2%
Legislation on medicinal products for veterinary use and their residues	193	7.0%	138	5.5%	111	3.1%
Basic research	65	2.4%	349	14.0%	563	15.9%
Applied/Translational research without animal welfare and non-regulatory toxicology and ecotoxicology	18	0.7%	53	2.1%	18	0.5%
Total medical research	2,104	76.1%	2,086	83.8%	2,967	83.7%
Other procedures for beagles	581	21.0%	214	8.6%	370	10.4%
	2,765	100%	2,488	100%	3,544	100%
Other procedures are Non-regulatory toxicology and ecotoxicology						



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Having repeatedly queried the use of the word legislation on 23rd July 25 the Home office direct communication team wrote ‘In response to your email of 15 June, regarding the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain, thank you for your feedback on the use of the word legislative. The upcoming ‘Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain: 2024’ scheduled to be released between September and October 2025 will include further clarifications on many of the definitions, including the use of the word legislative.’ We have complained to the statistics team that there are no clarifications in either the 2024 or 2025 publications.

Beagles (Table 3.2)	2025	2024	2023
Basic research: Table 5			
Immune System	43	50	46
Multisystemic	9	8	5
Ethology / Animal Behaviour /Animal Biology	3	0	9
Developmental	0	0	2
Other	10	291	501
Applied Research			
Human Musculoskeletal Disorders	0	47	0
Other Human Disorders	0	0	18
Human endocrine/metabolism	3	0	0
Animal welfare	0	6	0
Animal diseases and disorders	15	0	0
Applied Research			
Non-regulatory toxicology and ecotoxicology	581	214	370
Regulatory Use			
Blood based products	193	128	86
Other efficacy and tolerance testing	40	106	176
Acute and sub-toxicity testing methods: Non-lethal methods	51	14	50
Repeated dose toxicity: up to 28 days	724	465	859
Repeated dose toxicity: 29 - 90 days	259	436	489
Repeated dose toxicity: greater than 90 days	445	416	601
Kinetics	267	183	141
Pharmaco-dynamics	78	63	128
Other type of toxicity or safety testing	44	61	63
	2765	2488	3544



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Other Dogs

	2025	2024	2023
Basic research:			
Immune System	6	48	55
Multisystemic	46	42	32
Ethology / Animal Behaviour /Animal Biology	12	0	47
Other	8	14	0
Applied Research			
Human Musculoskeletal Disorders	7	0	0
Applied Research			
Animal Diseases and Disorders	45	54	71
	124	158	205