

Transparency - Yearly report 2020

UHasselt has chosen a transparent approach with regards to her policy on animal research. This was confirmed by signing the statement concerning openness. In the context of transparency, numerous initiatives have already been taken in the past, such as a lecture on animal testing at the senior university, presentations for secondary schools, participation in the Re-Place platform and an interview with TV Limburg. We are also committed to communicating clearly via our webpage [policy on animal research](#) where all kinds of frequently asked questions are answered and some videos can be found.

By means of the statement we made 4 commitments:

- 1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research.**
 - On the webpage [policy on animal research](#) our vision can be found as well as the numbers of animals used in animal experiments.
 - On the webpage [Ethical Committee for Animal Experimentation](#) (ECAE) general information on the functioning of the ECAE can be found.
 - The course Laboratory animal sciences consist of, amongst other, up-to-date lectures on alternatives and legislation and a debate between our students and a representative of GAIA.
 - Yearly, the Non-technical summaries (NTS) are provided to the ministry. These are documents in which each animal experiment is briefly described in laymen terms. These NTSses are made available to the public by the ministry.
- 2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals.**
 - Internal (via UHasselt magazine) as well as in external press releases, we openly communicate on animal research.
 - Through our webpage [policy on animal research](#) we also try to inform the broad public about our research. At the beginning of the pandemic, we wrote a short message on this webpage about the impact of COVID-19 on our animal research.
- 3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals and the regulations that govern it.**
 - Via the webpages [policy on animal research](#) and [Ethical Committee for Animal Experimentation](#) we make information and videos available for the general public.
- 4. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences.**
 - Yearly, we share our progress with other signatories of the statement.
 - In addition, from now on we plan to share our progress by means of a yearly report on the webpage [policy on animal research](#).