University Policy Statement on the Use of Animals in Research

1. The University of Essex does not proscribe animal* research.
2. As a matter of current practice, invasive animal research and research requiring a Home Office Licence is not conducted on University premises. Members of staff who conduct animal testing which is deemed invasive or requires a Home Office Licence will do so in collaboration with another institution / organisation.
3. The University acknowledges that members of staff observe animals on the premises of the University, but that this research is non-invasive and does not require a Home Office Licence.
4. When members of the University undertake invasive animal research in collaboration with another institution / organisation, such experiments will be subject to ethical procedures of that institution / organisation. In the case of research undertaken by staff in collaboration with another institution, a judgement must be taken as to the appropriateness of that institution's ethical procedures. Documents relating to the ethical approval of the research must be submitted to the University Ethics Committee for ratification prior to commencement of the research.
5. Non-invasive research involving animals and carried out on the University's premises should be subject to the University's usual ethical approval procedures.
6. Staff and students are given the opportunity to opt out of research conducted on animals.

*We follow the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in defining 'animal' as any living vertebrate other than man and any invertebrate of the species Octopus vulgaris from the stage of its development when it becomes capable of independent feeding.

Approved by the Ethics Committee on 21 June 2011