

NIO Report for 3Rs Committee 7th January 2026

Articles/News/Information:

A study has found that male rats prefer rougher play: [Refinement of tickling protocols to improve positive animal welfare in laboratory rats](#)

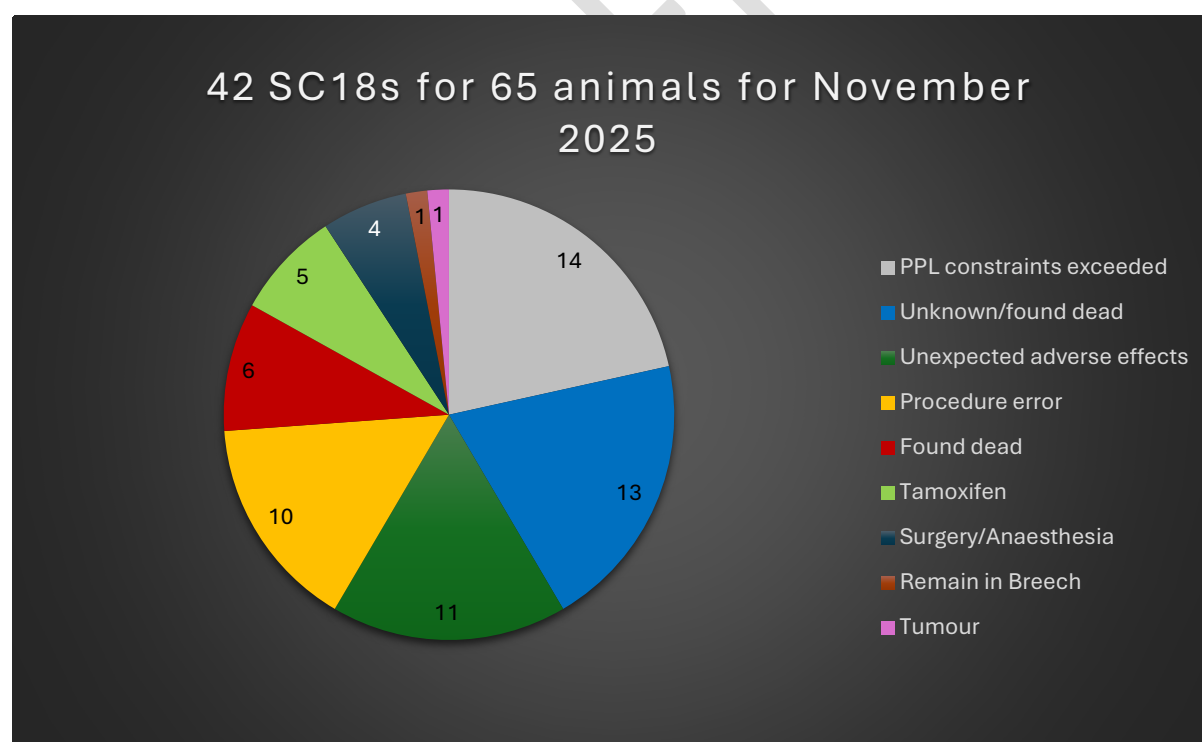
Home-cage monitoring to refine and reduce animal use in drug safety testing. [Non-invasive, continuous monitoring of rodent behaviour improves both animal welfare and scientific accuracy in safety pharmacology.](#)

BBSRC and MRC/UKRI are conducting a stakeholder questionnaire to gather insights from individuals and organizations involved in UK animal research. Please visit for more information: <https://engagementhub.ukri.org/mrc-bbsrc/landscape-review/> Survey closes on 19th January 2026

The French 3R centre FC3R cites [Xemo](#), a Xenopus model produced by a consortium of aquatic model experts to replace animal use in education and training.

The UBS Winter Newsletter was circulated in December. [UBS Newsletter](#)

PPL Standard Condition (SC) 18 Report



-  PPL constraints exceeded: An error that has occurred that exceeds the PPL/protocol constraints e.g. unauthorised breeding, animals exceeding an age limit, humane endpoints not met.
-  Unknown/found dead: Any animal reported as found dead where the cause of death cannot be determined from clinical observations or postmortem.
-  Unexpected Adverse Effects: Any unexpected adverse effects that are not described in the PPL.

- Procedure error: An error that has occurred due to an issue with a procedure carried, or not, carried out by an individual e.g. a mis-dose, incorrect counting, forgetting to feed, water or weigh animals
- Found dead: Any animal reported as found dead where the cause of death can be determined from clinical observations or post mortem.
- Tamoxifen: Any event where the cause of the reported adverse effects, up to and including killing or death, is solely due to tamoxifen quality, preparation or administration.
- Surgery/Anaesthesia: Any event reported that is directly related to a surgical procedure or anaesthesia.
- Remain in Breech: A SC18 report sent to request animals be kept alive to meet a scientific endpoint rather than killing them, in breach of specific PPL constraints i.e. a humane endpoint.
- Tumour: Any event where the cause of the reported adverse effects, up to and including killing or death, is solely due to a tumour.

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