

Summary of statistics of animal use in research and teaching, Victoria

1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

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1. Introduction

The following figures and tables present summary data on animal use in research and teaching in Victoria. The 2012 data are set in the context of previous years' data to demonstrate use trends over time. Detailed data are available in earlier publications of *Statistics of animal use in research and teaching, Victoria*.

The Bureau of Animal Welfare collects data from all institutions licensed under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* to use animals in research and teaching in Victoria. Each project conducting animal use must be run by a chief investigator and approved by an Animal Ethics Committee. For each year of the project, an 'Animal Use Return' form describing the animal use must be submitted (Regulation 100 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008).

The Act defines a 'specified animal' as a mouse, rat or rabbit that is not bred in its native habitat, or a guinea pig, or non-human primate (that is, laboratory animals).

2. Number of animals used

Figure 1. Total animal use, 2003–12

The total number of animals used in research and training in 2012 was 1 288 810. Of these, 421 291 were fish (which were first counted in 2004). The high total in 2011 is explained by a single poultry project that used one million birds.

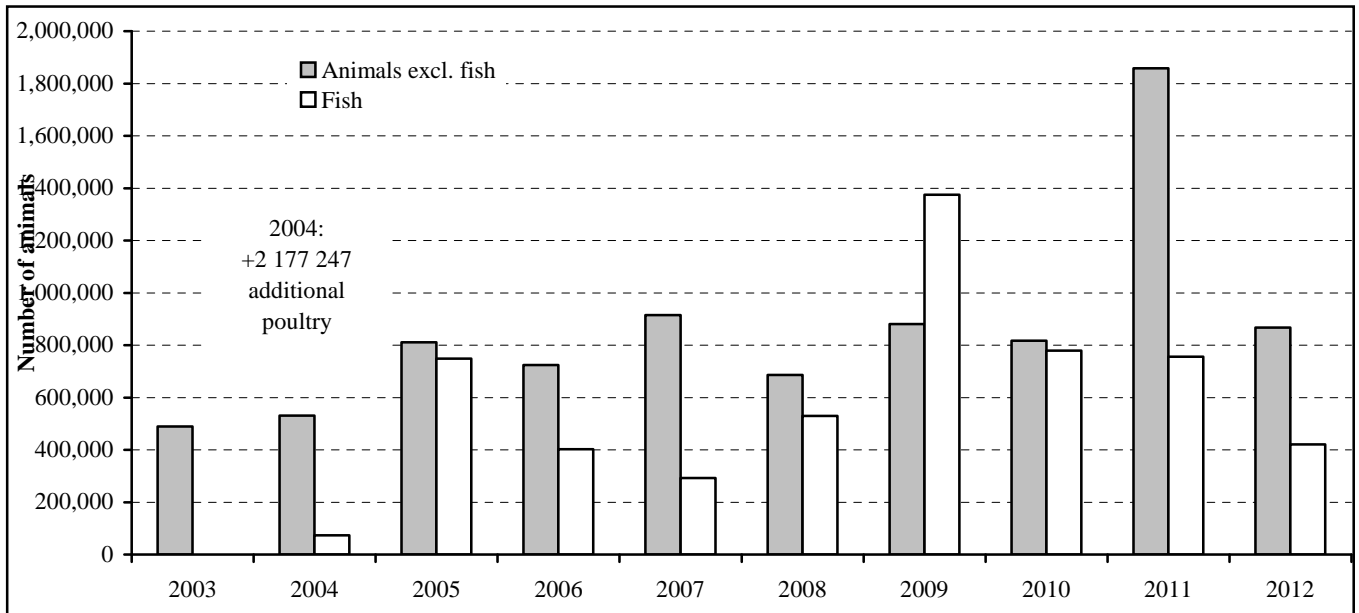


Figure 2. Specified mouse use, 2002–12

A total of 586 564 specified mice were used in 2012, compared with the long term average of 399 136.

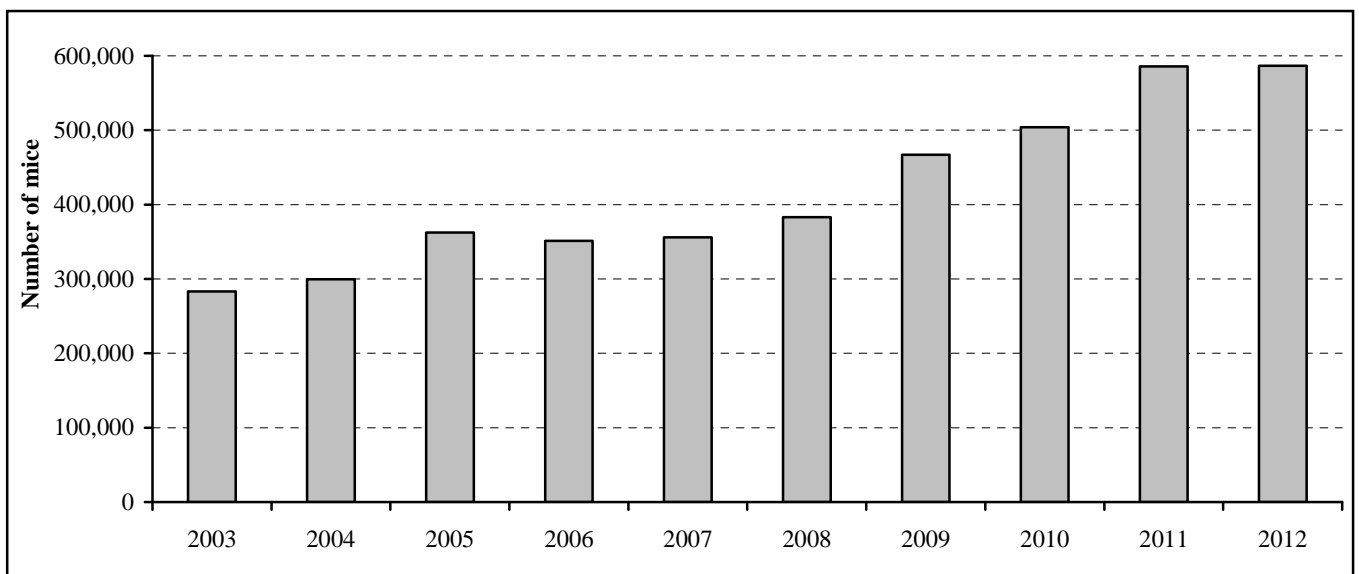


Figure 3. Specified animal use excluding mice and non-human primates, 2003–12

A total of 31 223 specified rats, guinea pigs and rabbits were used in 2012, compared with the long term average of 45 045. It comprised 25 612 rats (long term average of 35 545), 4 082 guinea pigs (long term average of 7 144) and 1 529 rabbits (long term average of 2 356).

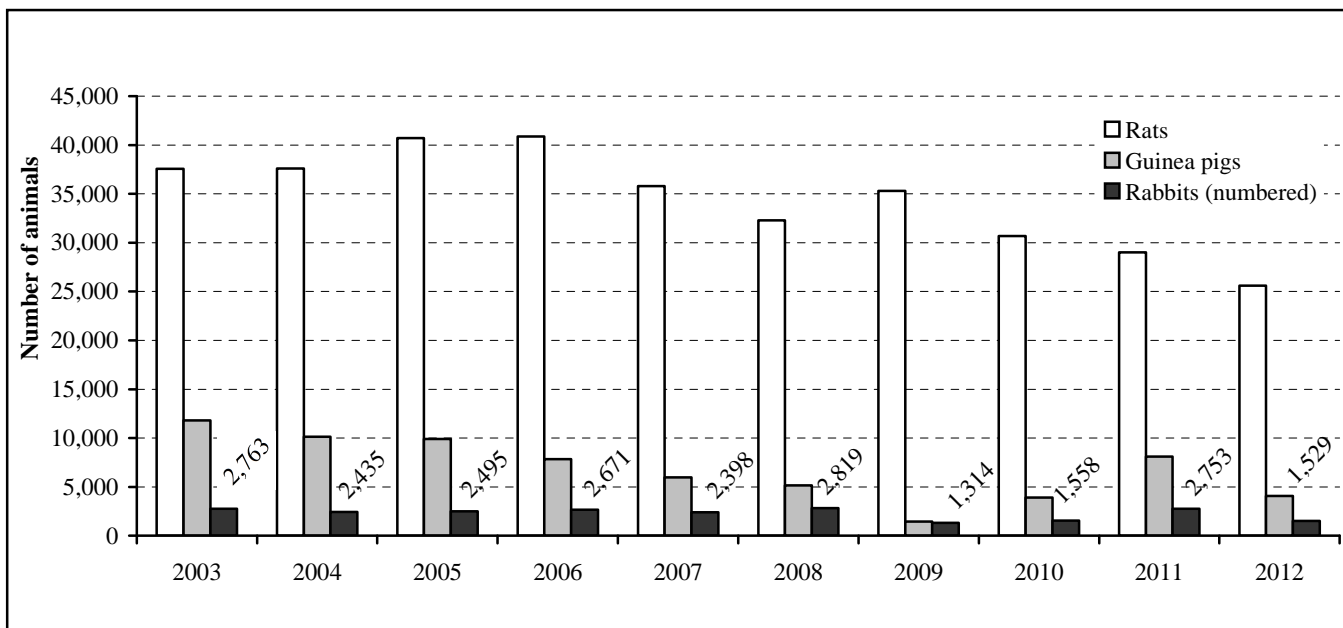
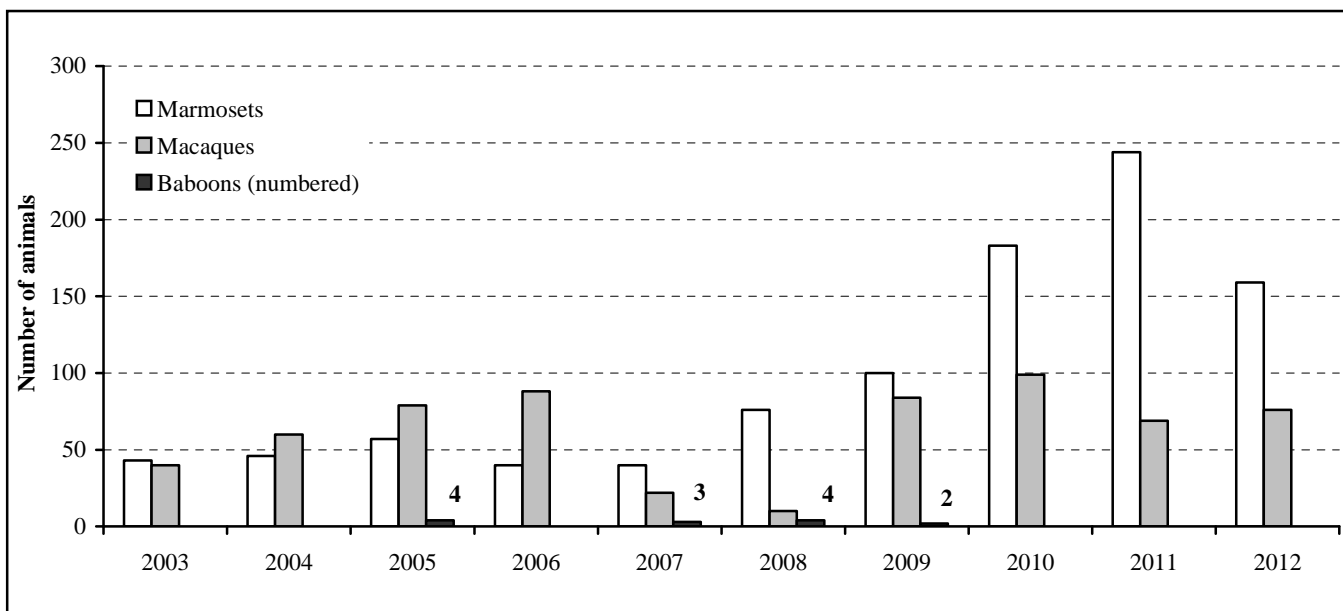


Figure 4. Specified primate use, 2003–12

A total of 235 non-human primates were used in 2012, compared with the long term average of 155. It comprised 159 marmosets (long term average of 92) and 76 macaques (long term average of 61). In 2011, the above average number of marmosets was due to two projects using 145 animals in studies of social behaviour.



3. Aspects of animal use

Figure 5. Animal use by project mission for the past five years (rounded)

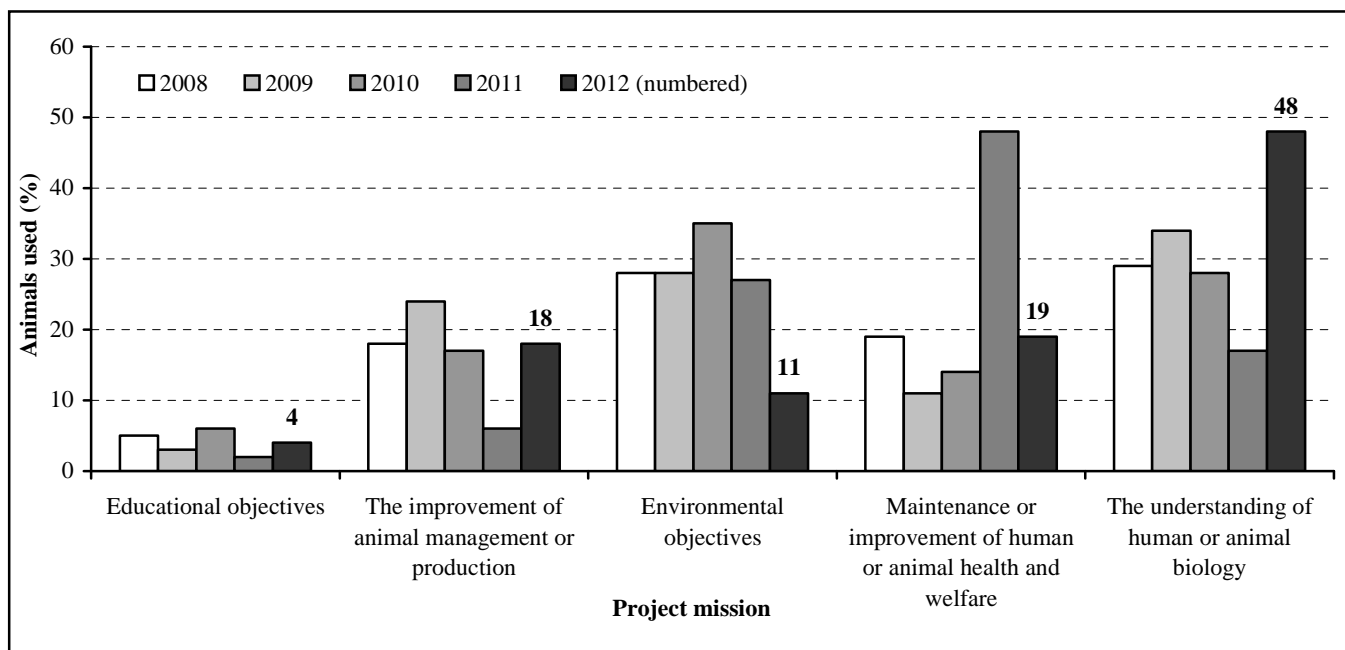


Figure 6. Animals used in genetic modification procedures, 2004–12

A total of 328 projects used 149 873 animals in genetic modification in 2012. Meaningful data are available only from 2004, given a change in how data were collected.

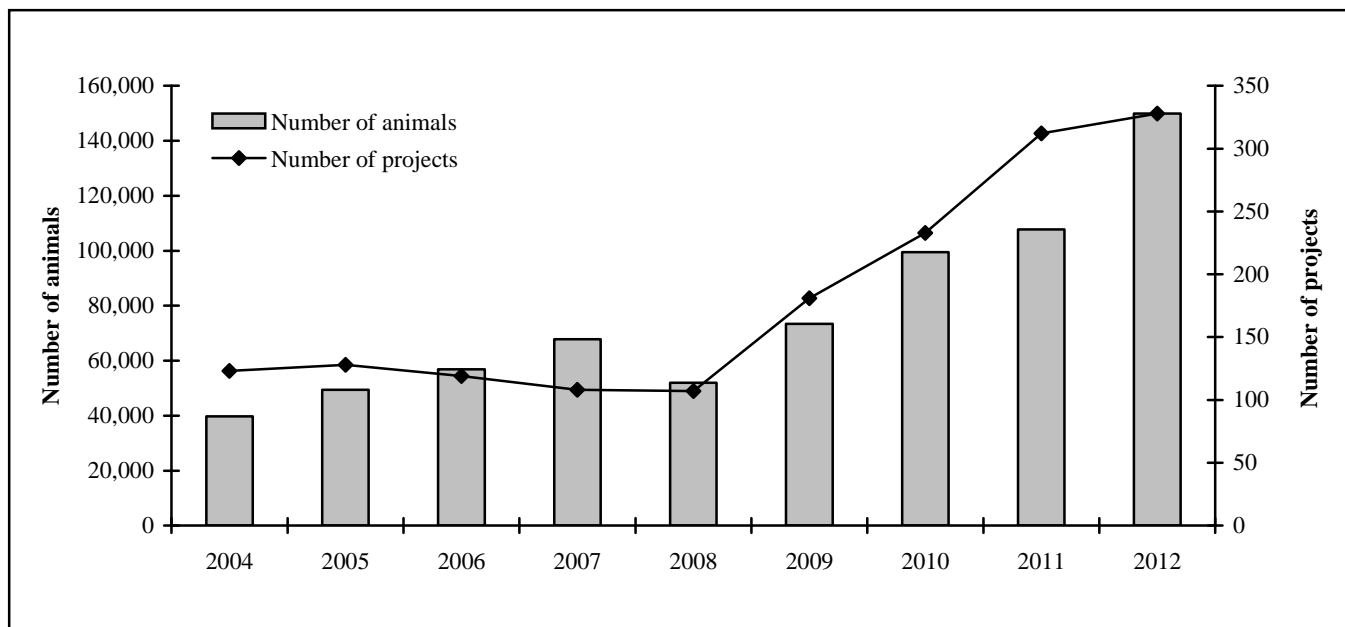


Figure 7. Animal use for the past five years, by procedure category (rounded)

In 2008 and 2009, the large proportion of animals in physiological challenge procedures reflected relatively high impact analyses of large numbers of fish in commercial fisheries.

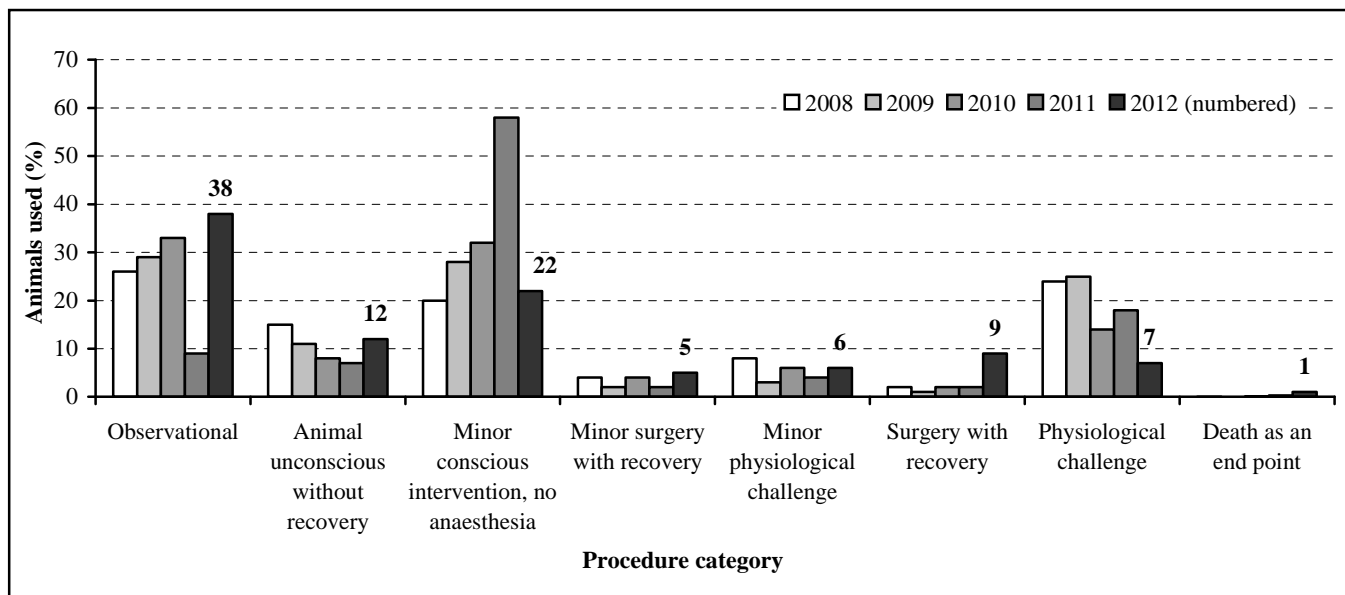
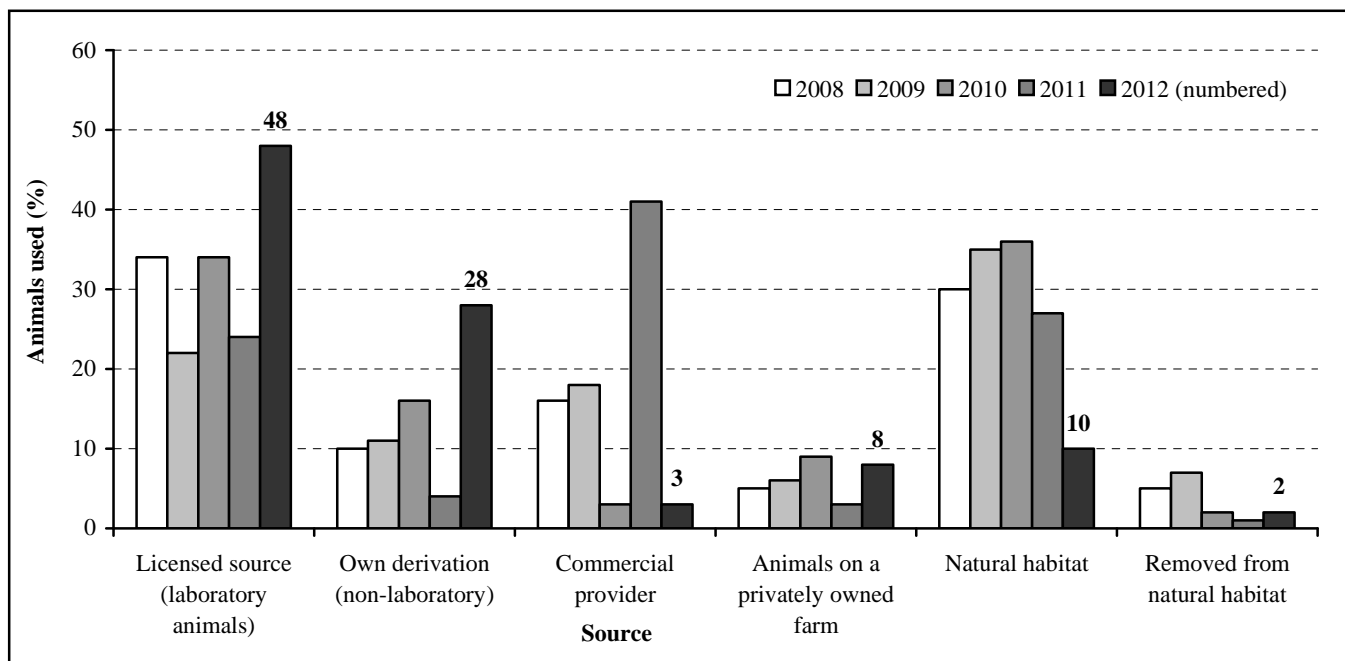


Figure 8. Animal use for the past five years, by source (excluding sources representing less than 1 per cent of animal use)



4. Specified animals in breeding colonies

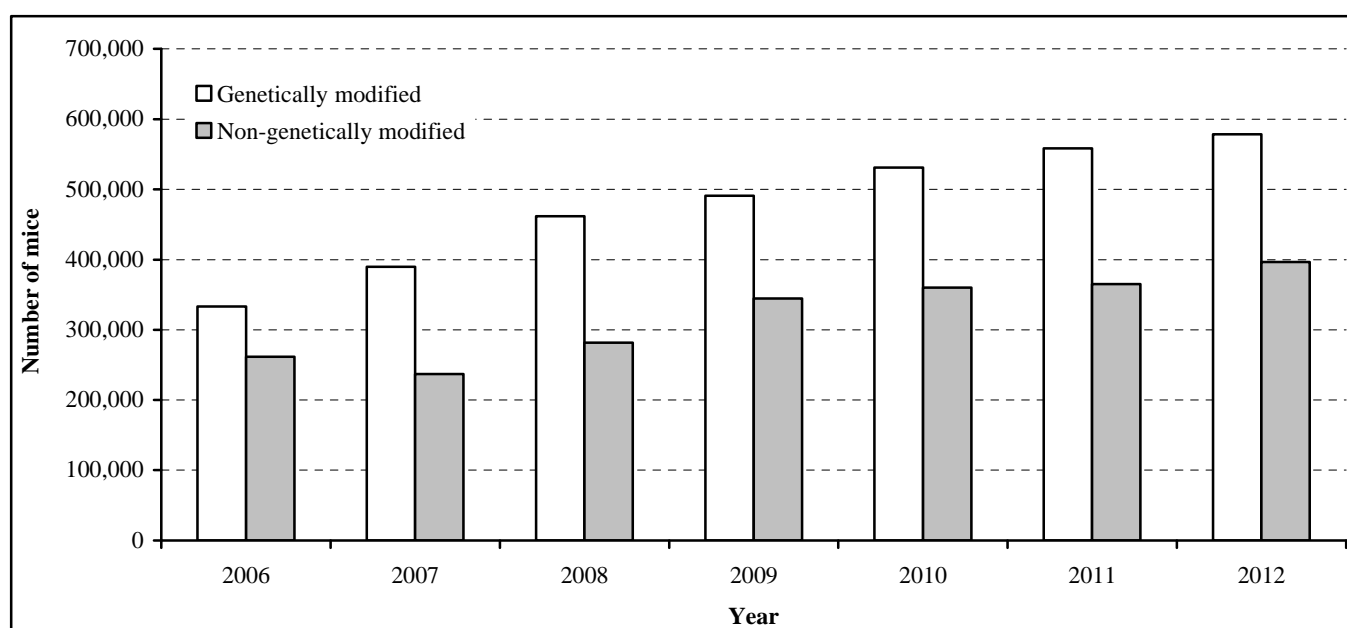
Table 2: Specified non-genetically modified animals in breeding colonies for scientific procedures, 2006–12 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Type of animal (non-genetically modified)	Year						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Guinea pigs	2 604	3 638	1 142	1 087	1 153	388	320
Macaques	159	203	341	225	243	250	244
Marmosets	173	159	135	166	177	156	146
Mice	261 697	237 246	281 875	344 823	360 185	365 009	396 710
Rabbits	638	527	504	515	445	489	214
Rats	31 391	33 407	42 558	56 993	52 786	48 543	31 886
Total	296 662	275 180	326 555	403 809	414 989	414 835	429 520

Table 3: Specified genetically modified animals in breeding colonies for scientific procedures, 2006–12 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2, 3 and 6)

Type of animal (genetically modified)	Year						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mice	333 266	389 632	461 745	490 962	531 098	558 293	578 240
Rats	1 031	13 120	9 304	1 923	1 146	1 744	1 381
Total	334 297	394 201	471 049	492 885	532 244	560 037	579 621

Figure 9. Breeding of specified mice, 2006–12 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2 and 6)



5. Scientific procedure licences and projects

Table 4. Number of projects and number of procedure licences, 2003–12 (including only licences and projects that used animals).

	Year									
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of projects	2 030	2 176	2 458	2 386	2 358	2 455	2 673	2 931	3 010	3 048
Number of licences for procedures using animals	107	97	99	104	110	107	111	115	123	127
Number of projects per licence	19	22	25	23	21	23	24	25	24	24

Table 5. Number of animals used and number of licences, 2004–12 (including only licences for projects that used animals).

Figures in parentheses exclude the anomalous poultry projects in 2004 and 2011.

	Year									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Number of animals used	2 780 290 (603 043)	1 560 340	1 125 487	1 207 360	1 216 393	2 255 076	1 595 375	2 614 472 (1 614 472)	1 288 810	
Number of licences for procedures using animals	97	99	104	110	107	111	115	123	127	
Number of animals used per licence	28 663 (6 217)	15 761	12 066	10 976	11 368	20 316	13 873	21 256 (13 126)	10 148	

Table 6. Number of animals used and number of projects, 2004–12 (including only projects that used animals)

Figures in parentheses exclude the anomalous poultry projects in 2004 and 2011.

	Year									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Number of animals used	2 780 290 (603 043)	1 560 340	1 125 487	1 207 360	1 216 393	2 255 076	1 595 375	2 614 472 (1 614 472)	1 288 810	
Number of projects	2 176 (2 175)	2 458	2 386	2 358	2 455	2 673	2 931	3 010 (3 009)	3 048	
Number of animals used per project	1 278 (277)	635	472	512	495	844	544	869 (537)	423	

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