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

1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Report number 33

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# 1. Introduction

The Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources receives annual summary data from all licence holders using animals in research and teaching in Victoria under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (the Act). An ‘Animal Use Return’ form must be submitted annually for each project using animals, in accordance with Regulation 100 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008. Each project involving animal use must be approved by an Animal Ethics Committee.

This summary report presents a summary of animal use in research and teaching in Victoria. The 2015 data are set in the context of previous years’ data to demonstrate trends over time.

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).

Further information and the full report, *Statistics of animal use in research and teaching, Victoria (report number 33)*, are available at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/ART](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/ART).

# 2. Number of animals used

### Figure 1. Total animal use, 2006–15

The total number of animals used in research and teaching in 2015 was 1 068 034. The high total for 2011 is explained by a single poultry project that used 1 000 000 birds.

**Year**

### Figure 2. Specified mouse use, 2006–15

A total of 409 211 specified mice were used in 2015, compared with the long term average of 456 131.

### Figure 3. Specified animal use excluding mice and non-human primates, 2006–15

A total of 29 418 specified rats, guinea pigs and rabbits were used in 2015, compared with the long term average of 37 564. It comprised 23 583 rats (long term average of 30 612), 4727 guinea pigs (long term average of 5026) and 1108 rabbits (long term average of 1927).

### Figure 4. Specified primate use, 2006-15

A total of 182 non-human primates were used in 2015, compared with the long term average of 180. It comprised 84 marmosets (long term average of 106) and 98 macaques (long term average of 73). 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, 2006–15

A total of 298 projects used 97 223 animals in genetic modification in 2015.

**Year**

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

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

The high proportion of commercially provided animals in 2011 is explained by single poultry project that used 1 000 000 birds.

# 4. Specified animals in breeding colonies

### Table 1. Specified non-genetically modified animals in breeding colonies for scientific procedures, 2006–15 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2, 3 and 4)

| Type of animal | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Guinea pigs | 2604 | 3638 | 1142 | 1087 | 1153 | 388 | 320 | 244 | 345 | 294 |
| Macaques | 159 | 203 | 341 | 225 | 243 | 250 | 244 | 226 | 263 | 282 |
| Marmosets | 173 | 159 | 135 | 166 | 177 | 156 | 146 | 273 | 305 | 440 |
| Mice | 261 697 | 237 246 | 281 875 | 344 823 | 360 185 | 365 009 | 396 710 | 389 049 | 420 126 | 384 762 |
| Rabbits | 638 | 527 | 504 | 515 | 445 | 489 | 214 | 197 | 133 | 179 |
| Rats | 31 391 | 33 407 | 42 558 | 56 993 | 52 786 | 48 543 | 31 886 | 33 308 | 25 546 | 23 744 |
| Total | 296 662 | 275 180 | 326 555 | 403 809 | 414 989 | 414 835 | 429 520 | 423 297 | 446 718 | 409 701 |

### Table 2. Specified genetically modified animals in breeding colonies for scientific procedures, 2006–15 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2, 3 and 6)

| Type of animal | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Mice | 333 266 | 389 632 | 461 745 | 490 962 | 531 098 | 558 293 | 578 240 | 584 660 | 568 495 | 582 925 |
| Rats | 1031 | 13 120 | 9304 | 1923 | 1146 | 1744 | 1381 | 1992 | 4271 | 2714 |
| Total | 334 297 | 394 201 | 471 049 | 492 885 | 532 244 | 560 037 | 579 621 | 586 652 | 572 766 | 585 639 |

### Figure 9. Breeding of specified mice, 2006–15 (including numbers not in figures 1, 2 and 6)

# 5. Scientific procedure licences and projects

### Table 3. Number of projects and number of procedure licences, 2006–15 (including only licences and projects that used animals).

|  | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Number of projects | 2386 | 2358 | 2455 | 2673 | 2931 | 3010 | 3048 | 2940 | 2950 | 3121 |
| Number of licences for procedures using animals | 104 | 110 | 107 | 111 | 115 | 123 | 127 | 130 | 133 | 137 |
| Number of projects per licence | 23 | 21 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 23 |

### Table 4. Number of animals used and number of licences, 2006–15 (including only licences for projects that used animals).

Figures in parentheses exclude the anomalous poultry project in 2011.

|  | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Number of animals used | 1 125 487 | 1 207 360 | 1 216 393 | 2 255 076 | 1 595 375 | 2 614 472  (1 614 472) | 1 288 810 | 1 084 507 | 910 052 | 1 068 034 |
| Number of licences  for procedures using animals | 104 | 110 | 107 | 111 | 115 | 123 | 127 | 130 | 133 | 137 |
| Number of animals used per licence | 12 066 | 10 976 | 11 368 | 20 316 | 13 873 | 21 256 (13 126) | 10 148 | 8342 | 6842 | 7796 |

### Table 5. Number of animals used and number of projects, 2006–15 (including only projects that used animals)

Figures in parentheses exclude the anomalous poultry project in 2011.

|  | Year | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Number of animals used | 1 125 487 | 1 207 360 | 1 216 393 | 2 255 076 | 1 595 375 | 2 614 472 (1 614 472) | 1 288 810 | 1 084 507 | 910 052 | 1 068 034 |
| Number of projects | 2386 | 2358 | 2455 | 2673 | 2931 | 3010 (3009) | 3048 | 2940 | 2950 | 3121 |
| Number of animals used per project | 472 | 512 | 495 | 844 | 544 | 869 (537) | 423 | 369 | 308 | 342 |