

Mouse handling workshop: support for trainers, NTCOs and other named persons

Wednesday 27 September 2017, Central London

Research has demonstrated that picking up mice by the tail induces aversion and high anxiety, whereas tunnel and cup handling avoid or reduce these negative responses¹⁻³. Non-aversive tunnel handling also leads to more robust and reliable responses in behavioural tests, benefiting the science the animals are used for.

The NC3Rs and University of Liverpool are supporting the scientific community to implement the refined handling methods via a video tutorial, posters, FAQs and other resources (www.nc3rs.org.uk/mouse-handling-tutorial). Some establishments no longer use routine tail handling, and momentum for change is growing at many others. Concerns from staff most often stem from misunderstandings about how and when to implement the refined techniques.

We are hosting a free mouse handling workshop on 27 September to further support establishments to move to the refined techniques. The event is open to all⁴ but trainers, NTCOs and other named persons are particularly encouraged to attend. Come to the workshop to:

- **Refresh your knowledge about the evidence base for improved animal welfare and science.**
- **Gain practical advice and tips on using the refined handling techniques**
- **Have your questions answered by experienced users**
- **Explore potential barriers and solutions to uptake at your establishment**
- **Link with labs already implementing the refined methods for exchange visits.**

Take this opportunity to get the support you need to align with best practice in mouse handling. To register, visit: www.nc3rs.org.uk/events/mouse-handling-workshop-support-trainers-ntcos-and-other-named-persons. **Full attendance at this workshop carries 5 IAT CPD points.** Registration closes on **11 September**.

¹ Hurst JL & West RS (2010) Nature Methods 7:825-6.

² Gouveia K & Hurst JL (2013) PLOS ONE 8:e66401.

³ Gouveia K & Hurst JL (2017) Scientific Reports 7:44999.

⁴ The policy for attendance at NC3Rs events applies.