

# Animal studies/Introduction

## Need for female laboratory animals

Research on animals has always been indispensable for medical practice. Until the 1960s, the sex of laboratory animals was almost completely ignored (the exception being studies on reproduction). Even today, the sex of the animals is 22 to 42 per cent of physiological, neuroscientific and biological studies is not apparent. The inclusion of female laboratory animals is a prerequisite for adequate investigation of women-specific phenomena: studies on model organisms, for example, are particularly important with regard to pregnancy in order to ensure the safe treatment of pregnant women in tests and in practice.

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