

Regulation Increases People's Willingness To Support The Use Of Animals In Research

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Background

- The use of animals in research is contentious, especially if the studies require invasive procedures or the use of genetically modified animals

Aim

- Determine if the presence of a regulatory structure improves acceptance of this research

Methods

- Using an interactive web-based survey we asked people: "Do you support the use of 100 pigs for research to reduce phosphorous pollution?" Participants were provided with three scenarios:
 - Pigs fed two different natural grain diets
 - Pigs surgically implanted with a fistula to determine the effects of two diets
 - Pigs genetically modified to produce less phosphorous in their manure
- People that supported scenario 1 were then asked if they supported 2 or 3
- People were initially told that the experiments were *unregulated*. People who did not support the research were asked the same question, but with the research now *regulated*



Results

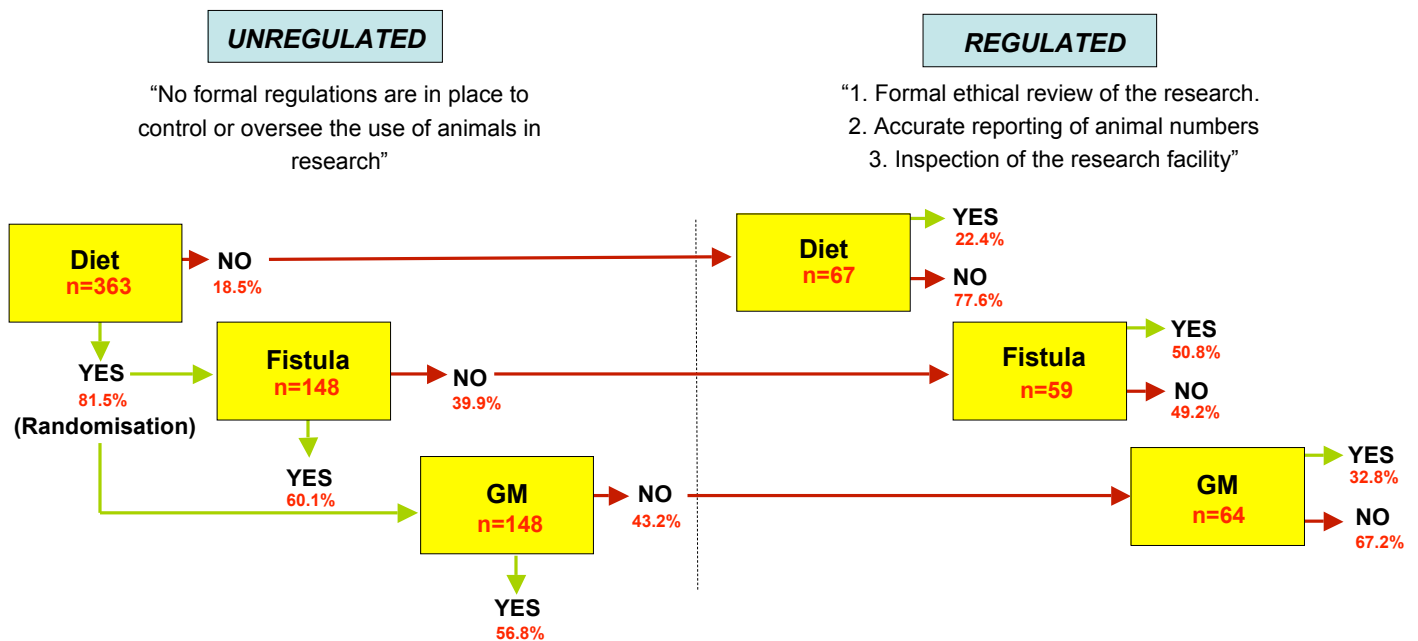


Figure 1: Paths through survey for participants randomly assigned to unregulated treatment group

Conclusions

- Invasiveness and GM decrease support for research on animals
- Support increases when regulation is in place, particularly for invasive research