



# VIEWS ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN SCIENCE: EFFECTS OF REGULATION

Elisabeth H. Ormandy\*, Catherine A. Schuppli, Gilly Griffin & Daniel M. Weary

## Research Question

Is public acceptance of animal-based research affected by having regulatory oversight in place?

## Methods

- Two different web-based surveys asked participants: "Do you support the use of 100 animals in scientific research?"



### SURVEY 1: Research to reduce phosphorous pollution (n=681)

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 (GM) to produce less phosphorous in their manure

### SURVEY 2: Animals as cancer models (n=384)

Four scenarios:

- Zebrafish exposed to chemicals that cause tumours
- Mice exposed to chemicals that cause tumours
- GM zebrafish predisposed to developing tumours
- GM mice predisposed to developing tumours

- In each survey participants that supported scenario 1 in were randomised to either scenario 2 or 3, and then asked if they continued to support the research
- Participants in Survey 2 that supported scenario 3 were then asked if they supported scenario 4
- For the results presented below, participants were initially told that the experiments were *unregulated*. Those who did not support the research in a given scenario were directed to the same scenario, but with the research now *regulated*.

## Survey 1: Results

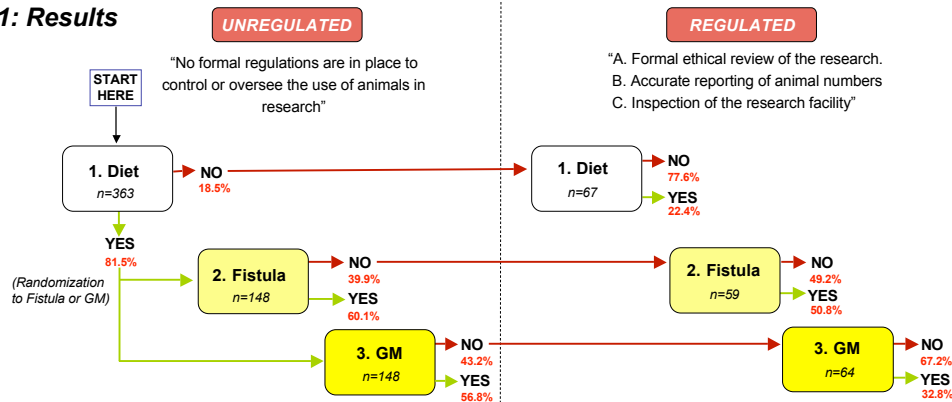


Figure 1: Paths through Survey 1 for participants randomly assigned to Scenario 1 in the unregulated treatment group

## Survey 2: Results

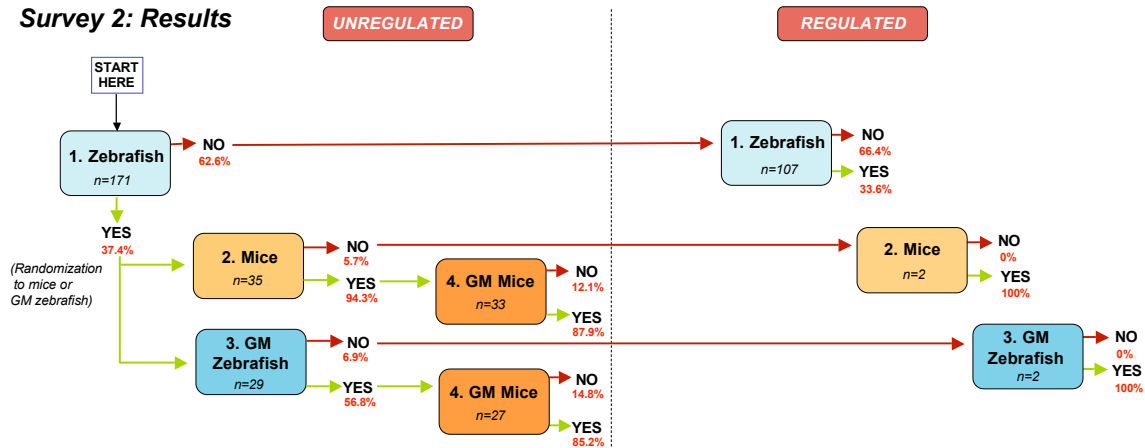


Figure 2: Paths through Survey 2 for participants randomly assigned to Scenario 1 in the unregulated treatment group

## Conclusions

- Invasiveness and GM decrease public acceptance of research on animals
- Willingness to accept animal research increases when regulation is in place
- Changing species from zebrafish to mice has little effect on public acceptance