



National Centre  
for the Replacement  
Refinement & Reduction  
of Animals in Research

## Grimace Scale Posters: Terms of use

The NC3Rs has produced A3-sized posters of the mouse, rabbit and rat grimace scales for display in laboratory animal facility rooms and corridors to help raise awareness about the scales and familiarise staff with the specific facial action units.

For a full list of available posters and information on and how to implement grimace scales in your facility please see our resource page: <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/grimace-scales/>.

### Print specifications

The proper use of this poster requires each of the facial action units to be clear and easily discernible, therefore it must be printed by a professional print service at the full A3 size.

This poster in this pdf has been setup to professional print standards and has crops and bleed added. Please use the print specification outlined below and the printer will trim the poster to the finished size.

- Finished Size: 420mm x 297mm (A3 portrait)
- Print specification: Full colour
- Paper specification (ideally): 170gsm silk

If you have any issues, or need the file in another format, please contact [enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk).

### Circulation and reproduction

The poster in this PDF should not be circulated without this covering page attached to it.

Any requests to reproduce this poster, or to include it in any publications or training materials, should be directed to [enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk). You should include how, why and where the poster will be used so that we can consider your case for approval. It is helpful to include any associated text, so we can see the context in which the poster will be put.

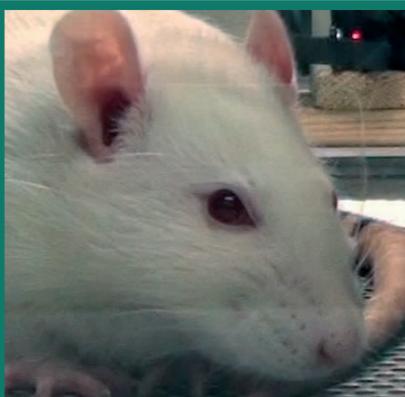
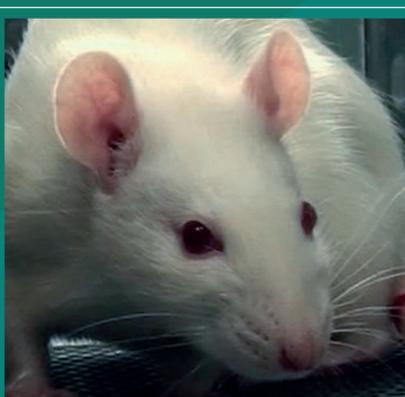
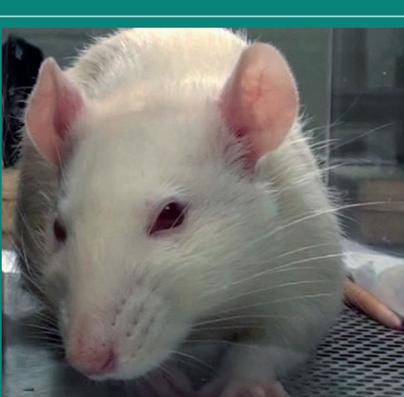
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# The Rat Grimace Scale

Research has demonstrated that changes in facial expression provide a means of assessing pain in rats.

The specific facial action units shown below have been used to generate the Rat Grimace Scale. These action units increase in intensity in response to post-procedural pain and can be used as part of a clinical assessment.

The action units should only be used in awake animals. Each animal should be observed for a short period of time to avoid scoring brief changes in facial expression that are unrelated to the animal's welfare.

	Not present "0"	Moderately present "1"	Obviously present "2"
<p><b>Orbital tightening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing of the eyelid (narrowing of orbital area)</li> <li>A wrinkle may be visible around the eye</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Nose/cheek flattening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flattening and elongation of the bridge of the nose</li> <li>Flattening of the cheeks (potentially sunken look)</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Ear changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ears curl inwards and are angled forward to form a 'pointed' shape</li> <li>Space between the ears increases</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Whisker change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whiskers stiffen and angle along the face</li> <li>Whiskers may 'clump' together</li> <li>Whiskers lose their natural 'downward' curve</li> </ul>			

Read the original paper:  
Sotocinal SG, Sorge RE, Zaloum A, Tuttle AH, Martin LJ, Wieskopf JS, Mapplebeck JCS, Wei P, Zhan S, Zhang S, McDougall JJ, King OD, Mogil JS. 2011. The Rat Grimace Scale: a partially automated method for quantifying pain in the laboratory rat via facial expressions. *Molecular Pain* 7: 55. doi:10.1186/1744-8069-7-55

For guidance on using the Rat Grimace Scale, research papers that underpin this technique, and for grimace scales in other species, visit: [www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales)  
To request copies of this poster, please email: [enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk)  
The NC3Rs provides a range of 3Rs resources at: [www.nc3rs.org.uk/resources](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/resources)

Images kindly provided by Dr Jeffrey Mogil, McGill University