



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Dear Animal Ethics Committee member

Welcome to your new role in an important aspect of the regulatory framework that protects the welfare of animals used in research, testing and teaching in New Zealand. In order for you to carry out your work effectively, it is essential that you have an understanding of the statutory context of your committee and some of the guiding principles in animal welfare. We hope that this letter and associated documents assist you in gaining this understanding.

Your committee is established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which aims to protect the welfare of animals within New Zealand. Part 6 of this Act is specific to animals used in research, testing and teaching. This Part of the Act specifies that an organisation involved in research, testing or teaching must have an approved code of ethical conduct (CEC) and under that code, it must set up an animal ethics committee (AEC), to consider applications from individuals or groups wishing to use animals for any of these purposes.

An organisation's CEC sets out the administration framework (such as the AEC's operation) and general policies and procedures covering animal facilities and care within the organisation. CECs must be approved by the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), after taking advice from the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC), the body that provides expert advice to the Minister of Agriculture on matters relating to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching. Each code holder and its animal ethics committee(s) is independently reviewed on a regular basis.

If the code holder has not provided you with a copy of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, it can be accessed on the Government legislation website: <http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/actlists.html> Sections 98 to 104 of the Act relate specifically to AECs. You should read these sections carefully, taking special note of Section 100, so that you have a clear idea of the statutory environment within which you, as a member of an AEC, are acting. Amongst other things, these sections of the Act specify that an AEC must consider applications for projects using animals in research, testing or teaching, and in doing so, it must take into account a range of matters which are set out in section 100 of the Act. The AEC may set, vary and revoke conditions of project approvals. Furthermore, the AEC is required to monitor compliance with conditions of the project approvals.

Accompanying this letter are the following documents:

- The Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching – Users Guide to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (MAF Policy Information Paper 33)
- A Culture of Care – A guide for people working with animals in research, testing and teaching (NAEAC)
- Good Practice Guide for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching (NAEAC)
- NAEAC Occasional Paper No 1, Underreporting of the three Rs deployment that occurs during the planning of protocols the precedes their submission to animal ethics committees
- NAEAC Occasional Paper No 2, Regulation of animal use in research, testing and teaching in New Zealand – the black, the white and the grey
- NAEAC Occasional Paper No 3, Regulation of animal use in research, testing and teaching: Comparison of New Zealand and European legislation
- NAEAC Occasional Paper No 4, Compliance monitoring: The University of Auckland approach
- NAEAC guidelines for animal ethics committees on adequate monitoring
- Monitoring of Compliance (N Harding)

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- Animal Use Statistics (MAF)
- Animal research has benefits for us all – and for animals too (Understanding Animal Research)
- The Three Rs: past, present and future (UFAW)
- The role and evolution of independent Government advisory committees: the New Zealand experience from 1985 to 2005 (MAF)
- A Guide for Lay Members of Animal Ethics Committees
- Latest issue of 'Welfare Pulse'

In addition, the code holder must supply you with a copy of the approved code of ethical conduct.

There is also a wide range of other sources of very useful information. Some of these are listed below.

- Analgesic best practice for the use of animals in research and teaching (Schofield and Williams)
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/naeac/analgesic-practice>
- Euthanasia of Animals for Scientific Purposes (ANZCCART 1993)
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/publications/>
- ANZCCART information package for animal ethics committees
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/about/AEC%20Induction%20Package%20-%209%20Nov%202007.pdf>
- Understanding Animal Research
<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/>
- New Zealand Three Rs Programme
<http://animalwelfare.massey.ac.nz/3r.html>

Further information is available on the MAF animal welfare website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>

and the New Zealand ANZCCART website:

http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/Site/About/Our_structure/advisory/anzccart/default.aspx/

We hope that this material provides useful guidance during your introductory period on the AEC and also later as a continued source of information, perhaps when new and complex issues arise. Best wishes for your new task; we hope it will be interesting and satisfying. If you have further questions or concerns which cannot be answered by other members on the committee, please do not hesitate to contact the secretary of NAEAC (naeac@maf.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Virginia Williams
Chairperson