National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

1995 Annual Report
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1. BACKGROUND

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) to the Minister of Agriculture was established in 1984. It reported on its activities between August 1984 and June 1989 in June 1989. During that period, a system of protection for animals under manipulation for research, testing, diagnosis and teaching purposes was designed, necessary legislation enacted, codes of ethical conduct drawn up and approved, and institutional animal ethics committees (AECs) established. Further reports have been issued to cover the period 1 July 1989 to 31 December 1991, and the 1992, 1993 and 1994 calendar years. This report covers the period 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995.
2. MEMBERSHIP

In February 1992, the Minister of Agriculture decided that members of the committee would be appointed for a period of three years. In addition, they would be appointed on the basis of their personal background and experience, not as representatives of nominating bodies.

Membership of the committee in 1995 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Position</th>
<th>Expiry of Appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Keith Robinson (chairman):</td>
<td>10.11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor J. Marbrook (nominated by the Royal Society of New Zealand):</td>
<td>31.10.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor D. J. Mellor (nominated by the Royal Society of New Zealand):</td>
<td>31.10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr C. H. B. Smith (nominated by the NZ Veterinary Association):</td>
<td>31.10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr J. C. Schofield (nominated by the NZ Veterinary Association):</td>
<td>31.10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs P. N. Loague (nominated by the Royal NZ for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals):</td>
<td>31.10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr N. E. Wells (nominated by the Royal NZ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals):</td>
<td>31.10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr M.C. Farnsworth (nominated by the NZ School Trustees Association):</td>
<td>31.10.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr B.H. Breier (nominated by the Medical Research Council):</td>
<td>30.04.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms L.M. Meikle (Nominated by Landcare Research NZ Ltd):</td>
<td>31.10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms J.D. Strong (nominated by the Australian and New Zealand Federation of Animal Societies):</td>
<td>31.10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs B. M. Hager (nominated by the NZ Local Government Association):</td>
<td>31.10.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr A. C. D. Bayvel (nominee of the Ministry of Agriculture):</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three founding members of NAEAC retired from office during 1995. They were:

Dr Catherine Smith;

Mrs Peg Loague;

Mr Neil Wells.

The committee’s secretary was Ms Debbie Taylor. Ms Taylor resigned from MAF and her replacement is Ms Joanne Tacon. Mrs Pam Edwards of the MAF Regulatory Authority assists with the committee’s work.
3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Broadly, it is the committee’s function:

- To advise the Minister of Agriculture on the administration of sections 19A and 19B of the Animals Protection Act 1960.

Specifically it is required:

- To advise the Minister on the content of regulations to be made under s 19A(1) of the Act, in particular on matters to be incorporated in any code of ethical conduct.
- To review and negotiate any desirable modifications to codes of ethical conduct prior to recommending approval under s 19A(5).
- To consider and advise on information that should be collated and available on the use of live animals in research, testing or teaching.
- To undertake such other activities as may be requested by the Minister of Agriculture pertaining to the administration of sections 19A and 19B of the Act.

Generally:

- The committee should feel free to bring to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture any matters it believes appropriate in the interests of enhancing the welfare and humane treatment of live animals in research, testing or teaching.

These terms of reference have not been changed since NAEAC was first established. The committee is clearly required to have a close association with the activities of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), particularly with respect to legislation concerned with animal welfare and the welfare of “laboratory” animals. This inter-committee liaison takes place through the Chairman of NAEAC being an ex officio member of AWAC.

NAEAC has a regular programme of meeting four times per year. Visitors to the meetings assist the committee with their special expertise or keep the committee informed of significant current developments.

Temporary working groups are formed should an issue require additional deliberation and activity before making a recommendation to the full committee.
4. CODES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Increased public awareness of the requirements of sections 19A and 19B of the Animals Protection Act 1960 has led to more contact being made in 1995 with the NAEAC secretariat regarding the necessity (or otherwise) to establish an animal ethics committee.

At the same time, efforts continue to establish contact with other organisations that may be manipulating animals as defined in the terms of the Act.

Assistance is willingly given by the secretariat or committee members to any person or organisation requiring further information.

Revocation of codes by the Minister, on the advice of NAEAC, has occurred where organisations with previous codes no longer exist, where they no longer wish to manipulate animals as defined under the Act, or where they wish to alter their arrangements.

The model code which was adopted in 1994 is providing a consistent approach to code content and ensures that no obligations under the legislation are omitted. All persons or organisations are provided with a copy of the model code to use as the basis of their application.

This system is now in use and proving beneficial and expeditious to both NAEAC and applicants.

As at 31 December 1995, 81 organisations have approved codes of ethical conduct, 46 have their own AECs and the remaining 35 are authorised to use an already established AEC.

Appendix 1 lists the organisations with an approved code as at 31 December 1995 and indicates those which have their own animal ethics committees. Appendix 2 lists those organisations whose codes of ethical conduct have been revoked (25 at 31 December 1995).

Revocations were all at the request of the institutions concerned due to administrative changes or where institutions were no longer involved in the manipulation of animals for research or teaching.
5. STRATEGIC PLAN

A strategic planning exercise conducted in 1995 emphasised the importance of needs present, or likely to emerge, in the external operating environment over the next 5 to 7 years.

The strategic planning exercise identified the mission statement of NAEAC to be:

- To provide independent, high quality advice to the Minister of Agriculture on the policy and practices relating to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching.

The following specific functions are included in the mission statement:

- To service the Minister of Agriculture;
- To be conscious of the needs of:
  - Animal Ethics Committees;
  - Educational Institutions;
  - Research Institutions;
  - Industry.

In support of these functions there is a need to:

- Review the relevant legislation to ensure that it meets current needs;
- Promote the implementation of refinement, reduction and replacement in animal use;
- Review codes of ethical conduct;
- Review and promote awareness of the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes;
- Ensure that the committee membership is appropriate;
- Produce an Annual Report for the Minister of Agriculture;
- Keep informed of relevant national and international trends.

NAEAC will develop an operational plan for 1996 and subsequent years based on the strategic plan.
6. SPECIFIC ISSUES ADDRESSED

6.1 Animal Welfare Information

MAF negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture for access to the National Agricultural Library situated in Beltsville, Maryland. The Animal Welfare Information Centre of the USDA will provide New Zealand users with access to 2.6 million volumes and articles on agriculture and animal welfare.

Six New Zealand organisations have been approved for access. They are:

- AgResearch;
- Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching;
- MAF Information Service;
- Massey University Faculty of Veterinary Science;
- New Zealand Veterinary Association; and
- NEW Animal Welfare Information Services (for public access).

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture on 12 April and 25 April 1995 respectively.

6.2 Animal Welfare Research

The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) has identified animal welfare as both a key research goal and a high priority area for research emphasis in the Public Good Science Fund strategy for the next five years.

Following receipt of a FRST document *Establishing Priorities for the Public Good Science Fund* NAEAC, in association with AWAC, made a submission to the Science Priorities Review Panel. The submission emphasized the importance of ethical issues in animal based research and the need to support research on *in vitro* methods.

Science Strategies for Outputs 1 and 2 were received, and reviewed. It was noted that in Output 1, although animal welfare was given a high priority in the strategy, this was not reflected in the funding allocated for research. Contact will continue to be maintained with FRST and MORST.

6.3 Assessment of Animal Ethics Committees

NAEAC is conscious that the regulations do not provide for regulatory inspections of the operations of Animal Ethics Committees. NAEAC does not have the legislative authority nor the financial resources to be responsible for policing AECs.

However, institutions need to be able to assess how well their Animal Ethics Committees are functioning in terms of compliance with their code of ethical
conduct and institutions are encouraged to regularly review their own operations. There is also a general need to ensure that the established system is operating effectively.

ANZCCART has commissioned a report on an external assessment system modelled on that used by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. A select number of institutions have been consulted and it has been recognised that an external assessment system would add credibility to the existing system in the eyes of both the New Zealand public and the international community.

NAEAC supports and encourages ANZCCART to continue to develop this project and will monitor progress closely during 1996.

6.4 Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)

NAEAC re-affirmed its policy commitment to maintain strong links with ANZCCART.

In August 1995, ANZCCART (New Zealand) and ANZCCART (Australia) held a combined conference in Wellington entitled Farm Animals in Biomedical and Agricultural Research. The conference was well attended with a significant number of delegates from Australia.

6.5 Blood Harvesting

A number of commercial enterprises are now active in harvesting blood from large animals and there are indications that this industry is set to expand. NAEAC was concerned that there were no standard guidelines for blood harvesting and asked AWAC to establish a task group to draw up national guidelines.

Issues identified included nutrition and husbandry, the volume of blood removed, the frequency of removal and monitoring the health of the animals used.

These guidelines will be available early in 1996.

6.6 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes

A sub committee of NAEAC progressed this issue through 1995 and a policy decision was taken by NAEAC to adopt the code as one of the existing series of codes of recommendations and minimum standards already published by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC).

The Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes has now been published.

This code will serve as a comprehensive document for the guidance of all AECs.
6.7 Commercially Sensitive Products

AECs are at times asked to consider protocols where some information has been withheld for commercial reasons.

Professor John Marbrook and Dr John Schofield, members of NAEAC, wrote a paper entitled Commercially Sensitive Products to assist members of AECs. This was published in NAEAC Newsletter, No.5, March 1995.

6.8 Communication

Facilitating dialogue between the national committee and AECs has been of major concern to members of NAEAC. Whenever possible, opportunities have been taken to enhance, explain and promote this aspect of NAEAC's work. A meeting was held with members of Auckland-based AECs, prior to the November NAEAC meeting, to encourage similar interactions. It is intended to hold the May 1996 and November 1996 NAEAC meetings in Dunedin and Christchurch respectively.

Newsletters are produced after the February and August meetings each year and distributed widely throughout the AEC network.

AECs continue to receive copies of ANZCCART News and be reminded of any other published material. Several conferences have been attended by members of NAEAC which has resulted in a flow of information and proceedings that benefit all involved in the use of animals in research, testing and teaching.

During 1995, one or more NAEAC members attended the following conferences:

- ANZCCART (NZ) Conference, August 1995, Wellington, entitled Farm Animals in Biomedical and Agricultural Research.” (AECs were invited).

NAEAC hosted a luncheon for members of AECs during this conference which provided a valuable opportunity for interaction between NAEAC and AECs.


NAEAC representatives visited various organisations in 1995 and reported back to NAEAC, as appropriate.

6.9 Data Reporting

Under the present law the Director-General of Agriculture must be provided annually with details of all animal use as contained in the Animals Protection (Codes of Ethical Conduct) Regulations 1987.

There is significant public interest in the extent to which animals are manipulated and the degree of invasiveness.
NAEAC has reviewed the data that have been collected annually and concluded that three additional categories will be required to be reported on by AECs:

- the status of the animals to be used;
- the main reason for manipulation; and
- the level of invasiveness.

Before this can be brought into effect the regulations need to be amended. Government approved this revised policy in late 1995 and amended regulations should be available for introduction in 1996.

6.10 Genetic Manipulation of Animals

NAEAC acknowledges that there is a need to be better informed about the ethics of genetic manipulation of animals and a discussion paper was prepared for consideration by the committee at its November meeting.

6.11 Guide for Lay Members of AECs

In 1994, a NAEAC working group was formed to progress and finalise an educational information package for lay members of AECs. The need for suitably
written material is considered essential to enable these members to contribute effectively to the deliberations of the AEC and so meet the public's expectation of them.

The guide has now been published and includes a glossary of terms commonly used in protocols and a list of sources of further help.

6.12 Jargon in Protocols
Members of AECs, particularly lay members, have expressed concern that jargon used by some scientists in protocols renders the job of assessing protocols difficult at times.

Professor John Marbrook wrote a paper entitled Jargon in Protocols which was published in NAEAC Newsletter, No.6, November 1995.

6.13 Use of Animals in Schools
This has continued to be an area in need of resolution. NAEAC members are committed to finding ways to assist teachers to comply with the legislation.

Dr John Schofield prepared a paper entitled Guidelines for Animal Use in Schools.

NAEAC is concerned that the facility for schools to use university ethics committees may not continue and is anxious that a system is put in place that meets the needs of the education sector.

A revised code for the education sector has been drafted and is currently being discussed with the New Zealand School Trustees Association.

6.14 Veterinary Evaluations
NAEAC has been concerned for some time that clinical trials carried out by veterinarians are required to be conducted under a code of ethical conduct.

NAEAC has recommended that the regulations be amended so as to exempt "veterinary evaluations" from the definition of "manipulation".

7. CONCLUSION

NAEAC continues to consider and advise on information that should be collated and available on the use of live animals in research, testing and teaching. In addition, it pursues any indication that an alternative to the use of live animals could be contemplated or considered.

AECs are the cornerstone of the system which controls the use of animals in research and teaching in New Zealand. The codes of ethical conduct set out the principles and rules for such use. Individual and institutional responsibility is fostered by the codes.

Public confidence in such a system will continue so long as compliance with the codes is demonstrable.
Organisations with an Approved Code of Ethical Conduct
(As at 31 December 1995)

*Use other organisation’s animal ethics committee

*Advanced Animal Technology
Private Bag 3203
HAMILTON

Agri-feeds Ltd
Tasman Quay
PO Box 4180
MOUNT MAUNGANUI
SOUTH

AgVet Consultants
702/9 Hope Town Street
AUCKLAND 1

Alexander & Associates
Pinfold Road
RD1 Aokautere
PALMERSTON NORTH

Ambreed NZ Ltd
P O Box 176
HAMILTON

Ancare New Zealand Ltd
P O Box 36-240
AUCKLAND 2

Animal Health Advisory
PO Box 11-153
Ellerslie
AUCKLAND

Aoraki Polytechnic
Private Bag
TIMARU

*Aspiring Animal Services
Ballantyne Road
RD2
WANAKA

Auckland City Zoological Park
Motions Road
Western Springs
AUCKLAND 1

*Auckland Institute of Technology
Private Bag
AUCKLAND 1

*Awatapu College
434 Botanical Road
PALMERSTON NORTH

Bay of Plenty Polytechnic
Private Bag TG 12-001
TAURANGA

*Calf Collection Services
Mr Paul McGuire
65 Shelly Bay Road
Beachlands
AUCKLAND

Christchurch Polytechnic
P O Box 22-095
CHRISTCHURCH

Ciba-Geigy NZ Ltd
Private Bag 19-999
Avondale
AUCKLAND

Cook Laboratories Ltd
C/- Alpha Biologicals
P O Box 38-213
Howick
AUCKLAND

Crown Research Institutes
Palmerston North Campus
C/- AgResearch Grasslands
Research Centre
Private Bag 11-008
PALMERSTON NORTH

Cyamid NZ Ltd
Private Bag 92-903
Onetangi
AUCKLAND

*Dairy Research Corporation
LTD
Private Bag 3123
HAMILTON

Department of Conservation
P O Box 10-420
WELLINGTON

*Elanco Animal Health
9 Gladding Place
Manukau City
AUCKLAND

Ethical Agents Ltd
PO Box 97 110
South Auckland
Mail Centre
AUCKLAND

*Feilding Agricultural College
Churcher Street
FEILDING

*Genesis Research
P O Box 50
AUCKLAND

Green Lane National Women’s Hospital
Green Lane West
AUCKLAND 3

*Hastings Girls High School
PO Box 2441
STORTFORD LODGE

*Health Waikato
P O Box 485
HAMILTON

*Hillcrest High School
P O Box 11-020
HAMILTON

Immuo-Chemical Products Ltd
P O Box 1607
AUCKLAND 1

Kristin School
P O Box 87
Albany
AUCKLAND

Landcare Research NZ Ltd
P O Box 31-011
CHRISTCHURCH

*Lift Technologies Ltd
P O Box 12-602
Penrose
AUCKLAND 6

Lincoln University
P O Box 84
CANTERBURY

*Livestock Improvement Corporation Ltd
Private Bag 3016
HAMILTON

*Lowe Walker Hawera Ltd
P O Box 449
HAWERA

*MAF Quality Management
P O Box 363
WELLINGTON

Mallinckrodt Veterinary Ltd
Private Bag
UPPER HUTT
Manawatu Polytechnic
Private Bag
PALMERSTON NORTH
Massey University
Private Bag 11-222
PALMERSTON NORTH
*Meat Industry Research Institute of NZ
P O Box 617
HAMILTON
*Medlab Hamilton
P O Box 52
HAMILTON
Ministry of Education
P O Box 1666
WELLINGTON
(On behalf of all state and integrated schools. Non-integrated schools and schools using non-Ministry code are listed separately.)

MSD Agvet
P O Box 23-244
Papatoetoe
AUCKLAND
Nelson-Marlborough Health Services
P O Box 132
NELSON
NZ Communicable Disease Centre
P O Box 50-348
PORIRUA
New Zealand Forest Research Institute
PO Box 3020
ROTORUA
New Zealand Pastoral Agriculture Research Institute
Ruakura Agricultural Centre
Private Bag 3123
HAMILTON
*Nufarm Ltd
P O Box 22-407
AUCKLAND 6
Orana Park Wildlife Trust
P O Box 5130
Papanui
CHRISTCHURCH
*Otago Polytechnic
Private Bag 1910
DUNEDIN
*Palmerston North Boys High School
PO Box 4049
PALMERSTON NORTH

Parkway College
Parkway
Wainuiomata
WELLINGTON

*Paxarms
37 Kowhai Street
TIMARU
*Queen Margaret College
53 Hobson Street
WELLINGTON 1
*Rhône-Poulenc NZ Ltd
P O Box 35-060
Naenae
LOWER HUTT
*St Peters College
Holdsworth Avenue
PALMERSTON NORTH
*Salmund Smith Biolab Ltd
Private Bag
Northcote
AUCKLAND 9
Samuel Marsden Collegiate School
Marsden Ave
Private Bag
WELLINGTON
*Scots College
P O Box 15-064
WELLINGTON 3
Selborne Biological Services
NZ Ltd
P O Box 658
TAURANGA
*Mrs Catherine H Smith
56 Orchard Avenue
HAMILTON
*South Auckland Crown Health Enterprise
Private Bag 93-311
Otahuhu
AUCKLAND 6
South Greta Farms Ltd
RD3
PUKEKOHE
South Pacific Sera Ltd
P O Box 27
TIMARU
Sovereign Feeds Ltd
C/- Chief Executive Officer
P O Box 1298
HAMILTON
*St Mary's College
Guildford Terrace
WELLINGTON

*Tamatea High School
Freyberg Avenue
Tamata
NAPIER
*Unitec
Private Bag 92025
AUCKLAND
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92-019
AUCKLAND
University of Canterbury
Private Bag
CHRISTCHURCH
University of Otago
P O Box 913
DUNEDIN
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
HAMILTON
*Dr Nik Van Wiejk
149 Thames Street
MORRINSVILLE
Venous Supplies 1990 Ltd
P O Box 26
TUAKAU
Victoria University of Wellington
P O Box 600
WELLINGTON
Waikato Polytechnic
Private Bag 3086
HAMILTON
*WatPa Enterprises Ltd
23 Coronation Road
Epsom
AUCKLAND 3
Wellington High School & Community Institute
P O Box 4035
WELLINGTON
Wellington Polytechnic
P O Box 756
WELLINGTON
Young's Animal Health (NZ) Ltd
P O Box 40-442
UPPER HUTT
APPENDIX 2

Codes of Ethical Conduct Revoked

- Travenol Laboratories (NZ) Ltd (later known as Baxter Healthcare Ltd)
- Palmerston North Hospital Board (later known as Manawatu Wanganui Area Health Board)
- Bioscience Corporation Ltd
- Wrightson Breeding Services Ltd
- Arthur Webster (NZ) Pty Ltd
- Waikato Area Health Board (formerly Waikato Hospital Board)
- New Zealand Sheepac Ltd
- New Zealand Leather and Shoe Research Association Inc.
- Palmerston North Campus, DSIR
- Smith Kline Beecham (NZ) Ltd (formerly Smith Kline & French (NZ) Ltd)
- Ministry of Forestry
- Shell Chemicals NZ Ltd
- Pfizer Laboratories Ltd
- Central Institute of Technology
- Biotechnology Division, DSIR
- Grasslands Division, DSIR
- Coopers Animal Health New Zealand Ltd
- Ecology Division, DSIR
- Agrimm Biologicals
- Longburn Adventist College
- Tauhara Furs Partnership
- Nelson Area Health Board
- Auckland Area Health Board
- Alpha Biologicals
- Roche Products (NZ)
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<td>2 660</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2 168</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2 576</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>18 660</td>
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Notes:

1. Miscellaneous species include buffaloes, camels, bats, hedgehogs, oryx and wallabies.

2. No information has been collected that will allow analysis of the type of manipulative procedure carried out. For example, administration of a drench to a group of sheep in a worm drenching trial cannot be differentiated from experimental cardiac surgery on one or more animals of the same or a different species.

3. The % dead or destroyed refers to those animals used (manipulated) that either died or were humanely destroyed during or at the end of the reporting period concerned. The remainder were alive at the conclusion of the “manipulation” and were retained for further use by either the reporting institution or another institution, were returned to their owners, given away or sold or were released to the wild.

4. Animal use statistics for the period 1/1/95 to 31/12/95 reflect a change in reporting policy. With effect from 1995, animal usage will only be reported in the year that the research, testing etc was completed or every three years, whichever comes first.
## APPENDIX 4

Animal Usage Report: Summary by Organisation Type

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Notes:
Prior to 1994, Crown Research Institutes were reported as MAF and DSIR.

1. “Commercial” embraces those organisations that manipulate animals for testing chemical and biological products, or for the production of such substances for commercial use.
2. “Other” includes such organisations as Area Health Boards, the Ministry of Forestry, the New Zealand Communicable Disease Centre, etc.
3. “Other domesticated animals” include alpaca, buffalo, cats, deer, dogs, donkeys, horses and pigs.
4. “All other species” include animals such as axolotls, bats, fitches, fur seals, lizards, possums, toads, wallabies, etc.