

# NAEAC *news*

Official Newsletter of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Issue No. 24

August 2006

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## From the Chair



Central to the role of NAEAC is subsection 63(g) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 that enjoins NAEAC to 'provide information and advice to Animal Ethics Committees'. Such dry legal phrasing does not capture the spirit of support for AECs that is at the forefront of our discussions in NAEAC and, in conjunction with the staff of the Animal Welfare Group in MAF, in the continuing relationship that we seek to maintain with AECs. The 36 AECs are the 'front line' of New Zealand's rigorous regulatory system.

Without the commitment of AEC members the system would not enjoy the respect that it has internationally and in New Zealand.

Earlier in the year, with Joanna Tuckwell, I visited the animal facilities at the Wellington Medical School, University of Otago. In June NAEAC met in Tauranga. This enabled us to visit the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and HyClone New Zealand Ltd. These onsite meetings are an important part of my personal learning experience. But all members of the committee value these opportunities to talk to AEC members and to view facilities. We have been impressed by the dedication of local AECs to a culture of care and their willingness to raise for discussion any uncertainties they may have about their implementation of Part Six of the Act.

The research commissioned by MAF and undertaken last year by UMR on community attitudes towards the use of animals for research, testing and teaching (see the article by Ian Dacre in Biosecurity 65, 1 February 2006) is of considerable practical importance. On the one hand, the low national awareness and interest of New Zealanders in research, testing and teaching (33%) is disturbing, if not entirely surprising. On the other, the fact that 74% expressed support when the existing legislation was explained provides some pointers for the future. NAEAC at its June meeting resolved to devote attention to promoting understanding and respect for the statutory regulatory regime and specifically 'to support AECs in explaining their statutory role by the provision of relevant background material and guidance'. To this end, a number of articles from the international literature have been recently circulated.

The AEC workshop held last September was generally held to have been a successful occasion, enabling AEC members to share experiences and to interact with NAEAC, MAF and other stakeholders. A similar workshop will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 14 November. AECs may wish to consider their representation now. The agenda will be built around the feedback from the 2005 workshop and will pick up some unfinished business such as interpretation issues about 'manipulation'. There will be an opportunity for secretaries to exchange views on record-keeping and other issues.

At NAEAC's first meeting this year Dr Kathy Parton, Senior Lecturer with the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University, Palmerston North was elected deputy chair. Kathy replaced Dr Simon Malpas of Auckland University who stood down after three years in accordance

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with the committee's rotation practice. I wish to acknowledge Simon's large contribution to the work of NAEAC, which, of course, continues as a member. Kathy too has substantial animal welfare knowledge and experience and I am grateful for her acceptance of the additional responsibilities. Since the last NAEAC News we have welcomed David Peart to the committee as the nominee of Local Government New Zealand. David brings to our discussions long experience on the Ruakura AEC and on Environment Waikato.

John R Martin, Chair

## **ACVM Review of Research, Teaching and Testing Organisations**

This year the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Group of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority will be reviewing a sample of research, teaching and testing organisations (RTTOs) to assess the level of compliance to the relevant conditions and standards under the ACVM Act 1997 where these organisations are using veterinary medicines on experimental animals.

It is expected that RTTOs will be able to show operating procedures that demonstrate they are operating to common best practice and that the relevant ACVM standards and conditions are complied with.

The intent of this review is to assess the level of compliance achieved by organisations through the operating procedures it has in place. Compliance can be demonstrated by following operating procedures, such as those recommended under a code of practice approved by the ACVM Group (eg. Code of Practice for the Use of Veterinary and Human Medicines in Research, Testing and Teaching Organisations, sponsor: The Royal Society of New Zealand).

The review is not to report on deficiencies with compliance to the code of practice but should highlight areas where control of veterinary medicines is not being achieved using common best practice either because the standards are not clear or parties are unsure of their obligations.

The level of awareness of the approved codes of practice will be ascertained and the usefulness of the approved codes to developing operational procedures that ensure the conditions of registration, exemption and the relevant standards are complied with will be assessed.

The review sample will be selected by the ACVM Group from a list of RTTOs that use veterinary or human medicines on animals. The sample has been selected from organisations identified by MAF as having current approved codes of ethical conduct and an approved animal ethics committee

as indicators of parties that are likely to be using veterinary medicines on experimental animals. Selected organisations will be contacted prior to the review to ensure their activities are covered by the ACVM Act and to organise a suitable time for the review to be conducted. It is expected the review will be conducted in August this year.

Any questions regarding this review can be directed to Lucy Johnston, Advisor (Standards - Animals) email: [lucy.johnston@nzfsa.govt.nz](mailto:lucy.johnston@nzfsa.govt.nz)

The following references can be referred to by organizations wishing to check their obligations under the ACVM Act.

### **References:**

ACVM Amendment Regulations 2005, Schedule 2

ACVM Operational Procedures Standard

The Use of Veterinary and Human Medicines By Non-veterinarians for Research, Testing and Teaching Purposes

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/publications/other-standards/op-research.pdf>

ACVM Standard for Prescription Animal Remedy Veterinary Medicines

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/publications/other-standards/par-veterinary-medicines/index.htm>

ACVM Standard for Unregistered Veterinary Medicines Requiring Veterinary Overview

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/publications/other-standards/veterinary-overview/index.htm>

Code of Practice for the Use of Veterinary and Human Medicines in Research, Testing and Teaching Organisations.

Sponsor: The Royal Society of New Zealand  
<http://www.rsnz.org/advisory/anzccart/index.php>

## The AgResearch Animal Ethics Database system

### Background

AgResearch is New Zealand's largest Crown Research Institute (CRI) and a significant part of its work relates to research involving animals. The studies undertaken range from simple pastoral grazing trials, to the use of more controversial technologies such as cloning and genetic modification.

AgResearch has a total of 670 professional science staff of which at least half will potentially be involved in animal experimentation. The company has five main campuses and 18 farms. There are four regional Animal Ethics Committees all bound, by a single AgResearch Code of Ethical Conduct (CEC) for the use of animals in research, testing and teaching. In addition, these committees act as the parent animal ethics committee (AEC), for 27 external companies or consultants who undertake animal-based research. These parented companies have a total of 244 registered database users.

Such a large and disparate group requires a powerful database system to maintain all of the animal ethics data for the company and its parented organisations. To achieve this AgResearch has developed a series of databases.

### A) The AgResearch "Animal Ethics - Gateway - intranet" site.

This site was developed using "Microsoft share point" and provides all AgResearch staff with access to a range of documents including; the AgResearch CEC and associated quality assurance documents; AgResearch policies and best practices related to animal welfare, ethics and the handling of drugs etc. In addition, access to a range of National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) documents and best practice guides are provided along with links to a range of web sites related to animal welfare (including animal rights organisations), alternatives to the use of animals and to MAF and NAEAC journals and other publications.

Another linked "AEC" share point site with access restricted to chairpersons and secretaries of the four AgResearch AECs is used to store all AEC minutes, reports, animal use returns and other significant AEC correspondence.

The Animal Ethics Gateway site has a direct link to the AgResearch Animal Ethics Database.

### B) AgResearch's Animal Ethics Database

This is an ASP.Net web application with a Microsoft SQL database platform. It is designed as a parameter-derived questionnaire generator to provide total flexibility, which allows the design of a range of different tailor-made applications/reports. It enables linking or 'parenting' of one application/report to another. At various points within the processing of an application, automatic emails are generated to relevant individuals reporting upon the progress of the application. There is the ability to make "blog" entries against an application. These "blog" entries are specifically designed to record monitoring notes, comments from the committee, responses from the applicant and anything else appropriate from time to time. Supporting documents in a .pdf format may be uploaded to any application or report. Automated analysis instantly provides animal use statistics returns to MAF requirements.

The AgResearch Animal Ethics Application Database was designed in-house and is available to all internal AgResearch users. It is also available to authorised external users via a secure portal. Because of the wide usage there were several security criteria that had to be met.

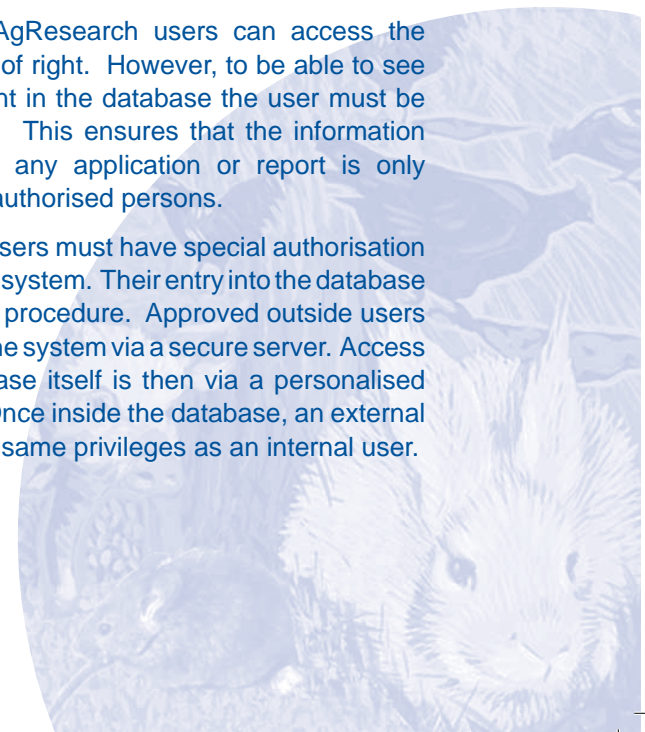
### Security

There are several levels of security inherent in the database that protect the integrity and auditability of the information lodged.

#### 1. Accessing the database

All internal AgResearch users can access the database as of right. However, to be able to see any document in the database the user must be named on it. This ensures that the information contained in any application or report is only available to authorised persons.

All external users must have special authorisation to access the system. Their entry into the database is a two-step procedure. Approved outside users can access the system via a secure server. Access to the database itself is then via a personalised password. Once inside the database, an external user has the same privileges as an internal user.



## 2. Protection of database information

When a document is created it is given the status NEW and can be edited by any named person.

Once an application or a report has been 'SUBMITTED' it is locked so that no further editing can be done. The exceptions are that comments or notes can be added to the form at any time and further documents can be attached as .pdf files. These are not removable by anyone other than the administrator.

If a document is required to be edited after it is submitted, the committee can change its status to RESUBMIT. This unlocks the document for editing, and activates an audit copy that allows the committee to check that only those changes requested have been made.

When the committee is satisfied the project can be given the status APPROVED, CONDITIONAL or PROVISIONAL and is locked to all editing and cannot be altered.

A project can also be SUSPENDED or TERMINATED. The documents remain locked for editing.

An applicant can CANCEL a document at any time prior to it being submitted. In this case it retains the same conditions as a NEW document and can be edited and submitted at a later date.

## 3. Status changes

All changes of status of a document are recorded as blogs so that there is an audit trail of the procedures that have locked or unlocked an application for editing.

## 4. Electronic signatures

All verification and signatures of acceptance/approval etc are recorded via electronic signatures. The database recognises approved participants by their login and password. Where people without access to the system are mentioned on a form they sign a hard copy of the form, which is then appended to the application as a .pdf file.

## 5. Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Standard Operating Procedures can be lodged in the database, after approval by an AEC, and referred to by an applicant to save repetition of information in the database. AgResearch users can only see AgResearch SOPs, and parented organisation users can only see the SOPs that are pertinent to their own organisation. In this way, commercially or IP sensitive SOPs are

only available to those users authorised to have access to them. To ensure that SOPs remain as they were approved, they are loaded as html files and cannot be edited.

## 6. Administrator changes

- Occasionally errors are made. For example, a .pdf file can be added to a document incorrectly. This can be corrected by the administrator on the request of the applicant. From time to time there are staff changes and new personnel must be added to (or removed from) an already approved project in order for reporting conditions to be met, or for modifications to be linked to the original application.

- New personnel can be added by the administrator after an application is approved.

- In all cases a blog note is added to the parent application by the administrator indicating that the change has been made, the date, why it has been made and who requested it.

## Elements of the Database

The **database** contains the following **compulsory documents**:

### AE Application

This contains the full details of the application. The AE Application form is required to be completed using 'lay language' and asks questions aimed at obtaining all the information required to comply with the CEC and Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

These include:

A description of the aim, experimental design and methods of the proposed work.

A list of any statutory requirements needed for the work to proceed (e.g. ERMA, DOC, NZFSA, etc.).

A scientific justification as to why the work should be done and what benefits it is likely to produce.

Justification as to why it is necessary to use animals, and what alternatives have been considered.

Justification of the need to use the specific species, strain or breed of animal proposed.

Details of how the animals will be cared for prior to, during and after the manipulations. This includes detailed information on what traits and behaviours will be monitored and how often the

monitoring will occur.

A justification for the numbers of animals used with a requirement for either details of a 'power analysis' or comments and sign off by a biometrician that these are the minimum required to provide statistically meaningful results.

Details of any manipulation(s) that will take place, an assessment of the likely stress or suffering these will cause the animals and details of what steps are being taken to alleviate or minimise this.

Where surgical manipulations are involved the subsequent fate of the animal, the type and levels of anaesthesia and analgesia to be used have to be specified along with details of the post operative care and monitoring.

Where any level of stress or suffering is envisaged then a list of 'humane study endpoints' is required. These are points at which the work will be terminated and the animal either humanely euthanased or given the necessary veterinary directed treatment required for recovery. The endpoints must at least comply with those in the NAEAC "Good practice guide".

The application must also contain a set of contingency plans – detailing what steps will be taken if unexpected situations arise.

In addition to these animal ethics requirements the application form requires the details of all chemicals, drugs, veterinary and human medicines etc that will be administered to the animals to comply with the requirement of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997.

Finally the form has a list of all personnel involved with a list of their duties and relevant experience. All personnel are required to electronically sign off that they have read and understood the proposal and that they agree to comply with all statutory requirements regarding the use of animals in research, testing or teaching.

The database is an information storage facility, not a word-processing package. Therefore, it has limited formatting and no spell checking capability. Supplementary information that requires specific formatting such as timetables of events, copies of supporting manuscripts, graphs or tables of previous data etc are attached as .pdf files.

Once the application form has been completed and electronically signed off it is submitted to the relevant AEC and its contents assessed at the next meeting of that committee. The committee's

decision or further questions are also electronically communicated to all personnel named on the application and once 'APPROVED' the work may proceed. Upon the completion of the work a series of monitoring reports are required.

### **AE Report A**

This is an animal welfare report and must be completed and lodged as soon as the project is finished. In this report any animal welfare issues must be disclosed and discussed. The report requires input from the person responsible for the animals and asks for information or suggestions on how things could be improved for the animals. It is required even if there are no animal welfare issues.

### **AE Stats**

A separate form designed for easy gathering of statistics of animal use for MAF. A separate form must be completed for each species. These forms are to be submitted with the AE Report A.

### **AE Report B**

A science report that describes the outcomes in terms of the science of the project, that is to be completed within 6 months of the end date of the project. In this report any experimental design flaws must be disclosed, any unusual results reported and any information that might be useful for future work described.

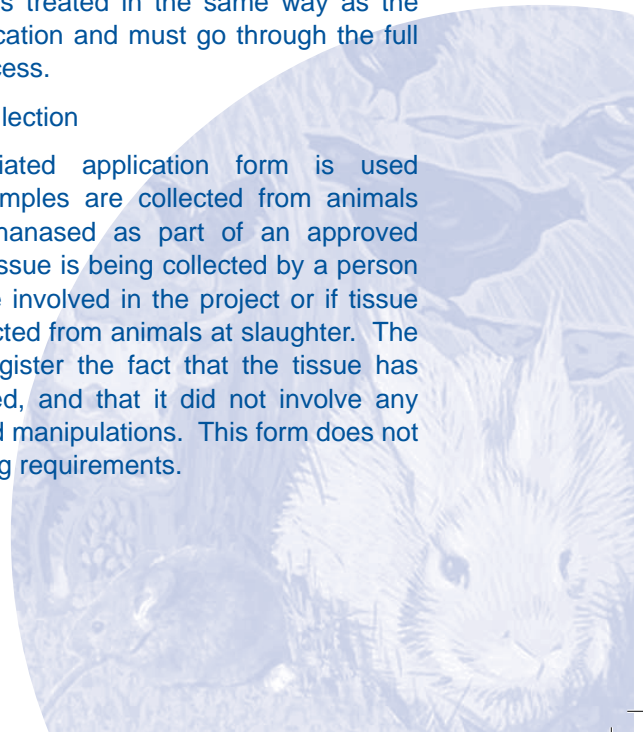
There are also a number of other **occasional documents**.

### **AE Modification**

If there is to be any change to an aspect of an already approved project an AE Modification form must be submitted. This is required for ANY changes made after approval, including changes of dates, personnel, numbers of animals etc. A modification is treated in the same way as the original application and must go through the full approval process.

### **AE Tissue collection**

This abbreviated application form is used whenever samples are collected from animals that are euthanased as part of an approved project and tissue is being collected by a person not otherwise involved in the project or if tissue is to be collected from animals at slaughter. The form is to register the fact that the tissue has been collected, and that it did not involve any non-approved manipulations. This form does not carry reporting requirements.



## **INTERIM Report**

Interim reports may be made by anyone connected with an application, including the committee. Such reports may be requested by the committee, added after a monitoring visit, or be attached by personnel in response to interesting or unusual observations made during the course of the project. These reports are often used as periodic updates on progress of applications with an approval of longer than 12 months.

## **AE Complaint**

Any person with access to the system who believes that animal welfare is being compromised in a research situation can submit a complaint to the AEC. This is included in the database with all the security and audit trails of any other document. Any member of staff can make a complaint if there are reasonable grounds; they do not have to have any connection with the project concerned. Complaints can also be lodged directly with the AEC chairman or Animal Welfare Officer who will then complete the necessary complaint documents.

## **Applicant Notes**

Notes can be added to any of the AE forms by anyone named on the application, or by members of the AEC. These can include the response by the applicant to requests from the AEC or the response from the AEC to information supplied by the applicant or a named person

## **Internal Drug Administration Order (IDAO)**

So that AgResearch staff can operate under the Royal Society code to the ACVM Act, on the use of human and veterinary medicines in research, testing and teaching organisations, an **IDAO** for each drug that will be administered during the experiment is required. This must be signed by the station veterinarian or animal welfare officer. While this is not an animal ethics requirement, it is required for ACVM compliance and the database is the most logical place to store the information.

## **Administration of the database**

### **Audit**

Once an application has been submitted an audit copy is kept. If a committee requires the application to be resubmitted either with changes or answers provided to specific questions the status of the application is changed to 'RESUBMIT' and editorship is returned to the applicant and other personnel. Any changes made under this status can be seen on screen so that the committee

can compare them in two ways. Firstly, that any requested changes have in fact been made, and secondly what un-requested changes have also been made. When an AEC decision on the status of the application is made, a note or comment can be added to the auto email that is sent to the personnel involved indicating any conditions or comments. This decision and note is automatically blogged and recorded. Anyone with access to a document can add a note to it at any time. All notes (added either under an AEC's direction or voluntarily) are also recorded as 'blogs'. Each blog is numbered and labelled with the date and the user's name.

Any administrator changes are logged manually by adding an Administrator blog.

## **Communication**

The system supports a set of auto emails that are designed to alert all personnel and/or the appropriate AEC executive members (chair, secretary and animal welfare officer) of the current status of the various documents.

- When a document requires approval by the named personnel they can be notified from within the system that the document is awaiting their input.
- Similarly, when the input has been made the personnel can notify the applicant. When the last signature is received the system automatically alerts the applicant that the document can now be submitted.
- When a document is submitted the executive members of the AEC committees are notified.
- Whenever an AEC decision is made, all personnel named on the document are notified.
- When anyone adds a note/comment or appends a document the appropriate executive committee members are notified.
- In addition the executive AEC members have access to a system which enables them to generate emails to remind applicants about reports that are due/overdue and these are sent out monthly.
- Some parented organisations require sign-off every document by a specified person. The system allows such persons to be added to every document generated by users from that organisation automatically.

## User assistance

The database has an in-built HELP function for every page of every document, as well as generic HELP features on menu pages. For internal users the administrator has a remote assistance capability, which permits real-time access to any of AgResearch's computers, so that the user can view corrective procedures on-screen.

## Analysis of the database

A second computer application sits behind the database. This has the ability to mine the database and generate reports on different analyses of the information contained in it.

Typical analysis requests include:

- listing all the applications made to any or all combinations of the AgResearch AECs
- further limiting this information to specified dates
- listing all applications that pertain to a specified individual user
- generating a list of reports that are due but are yet to be received.

As with any typical database, reporting enables information lodged in the database to be analysed in any way.

## Reporting

Statistics of animal use can be generated in a linked Excel pivot table on a single mouse click. These statistics can be customised to a specific organisation, location, species or AEC etc.

## C) AgResearch's drug and veterinary medicine administration database "Animal Tools"

This is a "Delphi software" developed SQL Database used to record all manipulations and drug administrations to all farm animals in AgResearch. It is used for the collection of the records required for compliance with the Royal Society Code to the ACVM Act in relation to the use of veterinary and human medicines in research, testing and teaching. It has unique identification for all AgResearch-owned farm animals and is linked to the Animal Ethics Application Database. The approval of an application in that database provides "Animal Tools" with an approved AE Application number which allows the farm managers to allocate animals to that specific application. A reporting function is available which can indicate the status of any individual animal

relative to withholding periods for administered drugs and also a summary of drug usage in relation to any application.

## Summary

The AgResearch Animal Ethics Application Database caters for the whole of New Zealand's largest CRI plus registered users from external parented research organisations and individuals. The database went live in April 2004. The titles of all applications processed by AgResearch's Animal Ethics Committees prior to that date were lodged retrospectively. Approximately 850 users have used the system to date.

The database contains a comprehensive set of documents that provide an audit and analysis trail for a total of 28 research organisations including AgResearch.

Stringent security procedures maintain the integrity of the database and restrict access to any documents to only those people authorised to view them.

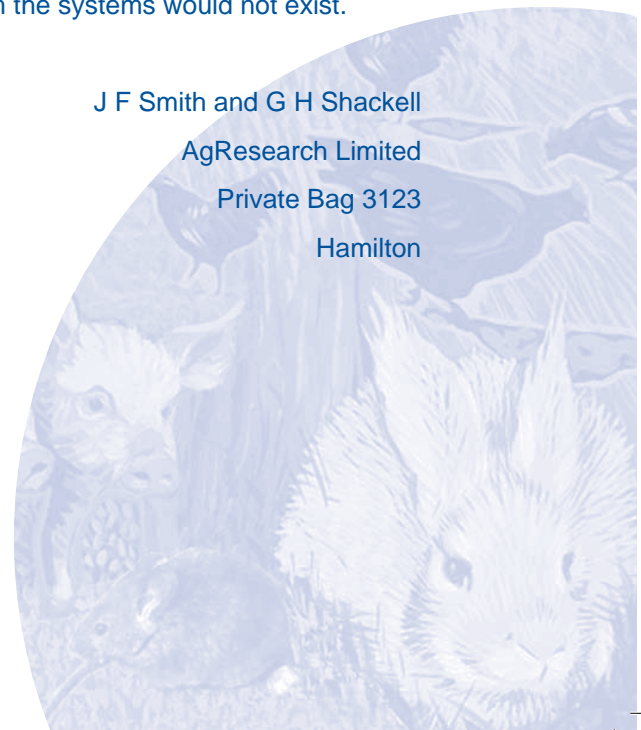
In the 2005 calendar year the four AgResearch AECs processed 281 AE Applications, 171 modifications to approved applications and 935 reports.

In conjunction with the other linked databases the system provides a sophisticated coverage of document and data storage, retrieval and access that enables a very large volume of animal ethics activity to be effectively monitored, assessed and reported on.

## Acknowledgements

The assistance and continuing support of the AgResearch Information Technologies Group and in particular Rob Marshall and Don Wilson without whom the systems would not exist.

J F Smith and G H Shackell  
AgResearch Limited  
Private Bag 3123  
Hamilton



## Codes of Ethical Conduct – Approvals, Notifications & Revocations

(since the last issue of NAEAC News)

*If you would like to check on whether a particular organisation has an approved code of ethical conduct please contact this office.*

### Codes of ethical conduct approved since December 2005

(pursuant to section 91 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999)

- Estendart Ltd

### Codes of ethical conduct transferred

(pursuant to section 93 of the Animal Welfare Act)

Nil

### Code holder name changes

Nil

### Amendments to codes of ethical conduct approved after consultation with NAEAC

(pursuant to section 96 of the Animal Welfare Act)

Nil

### Notifications to MAF of minor amendments to codes of ethical conduct made during 2005/6 (pursuant to section 95 of the Animal Welfare Act)

- Massey University
- New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd

### Notifications to MAF of arrangements to use an existing code of ethical conduct since December 2005 (pursuant to section 84 of the Animal Welfare Act)

- Animal Health Research Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Chemeq Ltd (to use Animal Health Services Centre's code)
- Chemeq Ltd (to use Estendart Ltd's code – code expiry)
- Cook, Trevor (to use Estendart Ltd's code – code expiry)
- Fonterra Innovation (to use Animal Health Services Centre's code)

- Fonterra Innovation (to use Estendart Ltd's code – code expiry)
- Four Rings Enterprises Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Impian Technologies Ltd (to use Estendart Ltd's code – code expiry)
- Intervet NZ Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Mason Consulting (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- PGG Wrightson Consulting (to use Estendart Ltd's code)
- PGG Wrightson Seeds (to use Lincoln University's code)
- Pharma Pacifica (to use AgResearch Ltd's code and Grasslands AEC)

### Revocations of approval because approvals personal to code holder

(pursuant to section 93 of the Animal Welfare Act)

Nil

### Codes expired and not renewed

- Animal Health Services Centre

### Arrangements lapsed and not renewed

- Central Southland Veterinary Services
- Newall, Michael
- Robbins, Lloyd
- Stockguard Laboratories (NZ) Ltd

### Termination of arrangements made pursuant to section 84 of the Animal Welfare Act

- Morrison, Simone
- Plade Holdings Ltd
- Pyne Gould Guinness Ltd
- Wrightson Ltd
- Wrightson Research

## Approvals by the Director-General of MAF for the use of non-human hominids

(pursuant to section 85 of the Animal Welfare Act)

Nil

## Approvals by the Minister of Agriculture of research or testing in the national interest

(pursuant to section 118 of the Animal Welfare Act)

Nil

## News Round Up

*A summary of items of interest from the newsletters, journals and abstracts which cross our desks.*

### **New Altweb debuts: <http://altweb.jhsph.edu>**

Altweb has been redesigned to make it more attractive, informative and easy to use. This site provides resources for researchers, veterinarians, laboratory staff and the public on alternatives. "Highlights of the redesign are a new "Search for Alternatives" section, ... a newscentric main page featuring the latest developments in the alternatives field, an RSS newsfeed, and the addition of Spanish language sections...."

*CAAT News, Johns Hopkins University Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, Winter 2005/2006*

### **<http://bioethicsweb.ac.uk/>**

This offers free access to a searchable catalogue of Internet sites and resources covering biomedical ethics.

Topics include:

Biomedicine

Cloning | Genetics | Stem cells ...

Clinical practice

Clinical ethics committees | Codes of practice ...

Countries & regions

Americas | Asia | Europe ...

Environment, agriculture & foods

GM food | Plant & animal biotechnology ...

Ethics: theory and concepts

Ethical theory | Religion & bioethics ...

Organisations

Universities | Government bodies ...

People

Ethnic groups | Non-competent adults ...

Reference

Books | Courses | Journals ...

Research conduct

Commercialisation | Embryo research ...

Society, policy and law

Animal welfare | Informed consent

### **Animal models of diseases related to the fetus and newborn**

ILAR Journal, volume 47(1), 2006 is devoted to this topic.

### **Humane endpoints in laboratory animal experimentation: the production of an interactive cd-rom for educational and training purposes**

This article describes a CD-ROM developed by the Netherlands Centre Alternatives to Animal Use (NCA) to "increase the awareness and competence regarding humane endpoints". Its objectives are to:

- increase knowledge of the normal biology and behaviour of rodents;
- increase awareness of animal pain and suffering and give guidance on the use of analgesics;
- improve competence in the recognition of cardinal clinical signs;
- stimulate the use of humane endpoints.

The CD-ROM is available in Dutch and English for "small compensation ... in combination with the forwarding-charges".

For further information contact the NCA – email [i.boumans@vet.uu.nl](mailto:i.boumans@vet.uu.nl), phone 0031 30 2532615, fax 0031 30 2539227.

*IJMM Boumans and CFM Hendriksen, NCA - Newsletter, November 2005 plus follow up item*

*NCA – Newsletter, April 2006*

### **Effective on line searching for the 3Rs**

The Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare has compiled a document listing Three Rs information sources with hyperlinks to websites. It is intended as a resource for Australian researchers and AECs members but will be equally useful to their New Zealand counterparts. See [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au), go to Bureau of Animal Welfare, then Scientific Procedures and scroll down to Ethical Uses of Animals to reach the document.

*Dr Kate Blaszak, Putting the 3Rs under the microscope, Victorian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee/Bureau of Animal Welfare Scientific Procedures Seminar Proceedings, November 2005*

### **The application of Russell and Burch's Three Rs in commercial livestock experimentation**

This article discusses the above topic and suggests "some approaches regarding the appraisal of the ethics of research involving animals, which could avoid arbitrary boundaries associated with the location or purpose of experimentation...".

*IG Colditz, Animal Welfare, Vol 15(1), 2006*

## **Animal Rights Attacks in Europe**

"Animal rights attacks are on the increase internationally as extremist "terror tourists" fan out across Europe .... .

Exclusive data given to the national policing unit for domestic extremism show that violent attacks against animal research laboratories and their suppliers spread from the UK to other countries in 2005.

According to these figures, seen by The Times Higher, the UK topped the league, with 83 serious attacks last year.

Much activity was focused on Oxford University, which confirmed this week that research funders, including charities, had become the latest targets in the campaign to halt building of its new animal research laboratory.

But the UK is no longer alone. Sweden was particularly hard hit last year, with 55 violent actions reported. There were 21 attacks in the Netherlands, 18 in Italy, 14 in Switzerland and 12 in both Germany and Spain. Ten other countries were also on the hit list."

Copyright 2006 TSL Education Limited, The Times Higher Education Supplement,

January 13, 2006, Section: No.1725; Pg.1 via Americans for Medical Progress, AMP News Service, 18 January 2006

### **Book Launch**

Hon Annette King, Minister of State Services, recently hosted a function at Parliament to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand, more commonly known as IPANZ and to mark the launch of a book, *Spirit of Service*, a history of IPANZ written by NAEAC Chairman, John Martin. The Minister paid tribute to John's contribution to both the public service and to IPANZ. As MP for Rongotai, she also noted with pleasure John's previous book, *Sound of the Sea: A History of Rongotai College 1928-2003*.

### **UK Universities Speak Out About Animal Research**

Reports that the number of organisations, such as universities, charities and research institutions, putting statements on their websites about animal research is growing. A survey carried out by RDS late in 2005 identified 30 web statements compared with 12 earlier in 2005. RDS states "It is encouraging to see that more universities are taking this step ...".

*Andreas Sussmilch, RDS News, Winter 2005*

## Kili Challenge

Some readers will have heard Dr Judy MacArthur Clark speak at the 2001 ANZCCART conference and/or the 2003 New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference. She is a former Chair of the (United Kingdom) Farm Animal Welfare Council, former President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and has close links with both MAF and Massey University. She has recently taken up a post as Vice President, Worldwide Comparative Medicine with Pfizer Global R & D. Despite this, she found the time in February to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. This was a fundraising venture on behalf of the RCVS Trust, the charitable arm of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The fund helps pay for veterinary and teaching projects to improve animal health and welfare in Africa. Judy paid for all the expenses relating to the trip herself so that all money raised will go directly to the Trust. Two examples of projects the Trust is

currently supporting are a study of cryptosporidium in wildlife, cattle and humans in Uganda and professional development programmes for vets and livestock advisers in Eritrea.

Judy reported, "After four days of slow hard trekking, rising around 3000 feet in altitude per day, we got up at midnight and made the summit attempt, arriving at around 8.00 in the morning - shortly after sunrise. The last part to the crater rim is perhaps the hardest of all - and no oxygen for relief - but the view is stunning, looking down into the crater of the volcano.

Of course the relief of reaching the summit is soon forgotten during the gruelling fourteen hour trek back down to the bottom once again. I can honestly say this climb is the hardest thing I have ever done and that is no exaggeration."

For more information see <http://www.justgiving.co./judyrcvs-kili>

## Editorial Policies and Animal Welfare

In his paper entitled *Editorial policies and animal welfare*, Dr Don Boisvert, from the Canadian Council on Animal Care, made the following statement: "Today, the importance of achieving a balance between animal welfare and scientific objectives is being increasingly expressed through regulations, guidelines, organizational terms of reference, and institutional review processes. This balance has also recently been recognized and expressed in the editorial policies of some scientific journals. In general, scientific journals exert enormous influence on the quality of experimental design and planning."<sup>1</sup>

In a survey reported in this paper, of 46 journals publishing animal-based research, only 24 required authors to certify that the research met an established standard for the care and use of animals.

In 2004, the New Zealand Veterinary Journal adopted a rule which has been incorporated into the journal's instructions for authors. In brief, it states that projects carried out in New Zealand involving the manipulation of animals must be approved by the relevant animal ethics committee in accordance with Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

NAEAC applauds the adoption of such policies and urges other New Zealand journals which do not have such a policy to consider developing one. ANZCCART New Zealand has an editorial policy template for the responsible use of animals in science.

<sup>1</sup> Boisvert, DPJ, *Editorial Policies and Animal Welfare in Animal Alternatives, Welfare and Ethics*, van Zutphen, LFM and Balls, M (eds), 1997, p 399 - 404, *Proceedings of the Second World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences*



## ANZCCART (NZ) has New Chair

The Royal Society of New Zealand has appointed Mr James Battye of Palmerston North as the new Chair of ANZCCART for a 2-year term starting on 1 January 2006. Jim was born and spent the first half of his life in Perth, Western Australia, and came to Massey University, Palmerston North, in 1971 after studying physics and philosophy at the University of Western Australia. In addition to Critical Thinking, his main teaching interests have been in Ethics, Applied Ethics, the Philosophy of Science and Philosophy for Children. His research interests are in Applied Ethics and Philosophy for Children. Jim's main extracurricular interests are classical music, especially singing, reading novels, travelling, and eating foreign food.

## Membership Change



At the September 2005 NAEAC meeting, we formally farewelled Joanna Roberts who was attending her last committee meeting as her term of appointment was due to expire on 31 October. It eventually ended officially when her successor was appointed in December. Jo had served a little over five years on the committee. Nominated by Local Government New Zealand to represent the general public, Jo Roberts went by the alias of Jo Public.

The Minister of Agriculture has appointed David Peart JP to replace Joanna. He was also nominated by Local Government New Zealand and his term will expire on 31 October 2008.

David is a retired dairy farmer and former President of Waikato Federated Farmers. He is currently a Regional Councillor and chairs Environment Waikato's Biosecurity Committee. He has also served on the Hamilton City Council, the Waikato Valley Authority and the Waikato Polytechnic Council.

Alert readers will have spotted that David was featured in the last issue of NAEAC News as the recipient of an AEC Service Award for his significant contribution to and lengthy service on the AgResearch Ruakura AEC.

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