



## National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). NAEAC's role is to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on welfare issues arising from the use of live animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). Its other functions include giving advice on the codes of ethical conduct that govern live animal use in RTT and providing information to the bodies that administer the codes (animal ethics committees (AECs)). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 15 February 2017 general meeting included the following:

- **Election of deputy chairperson:** The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires NAEAC to elect one of its members as its deputy chairperson, at its first meeting each year. Professor Craig Johnson, the New Zealand Veterinary Association nominee on the committee, was elected to the role of deputy chairperson for 2017.
- **New strategic and operational plans:** The committee adopted an updated strategic plan for 2014-2019 and operational plan for 2017. The operational plan details how the committee will progress its objectives during the year.
- **Analgesic best practice:** The committee agreed that the analgesic best practice guidelines on the MPI website were out of date, and should be replaced. NAEAC member C Johnson would draft a list of 10 -12 good sources of information (mainly websites) relating to analgesic best practice and put them together on one page for distribution to AECs.
- **MPI's magazine *Welfare Pulse*:** The following topics for articles were identified for future issues of MPI's online magazine *Welfare Pulse*: shark tagging, ethical decision making and compassion fatigue.
- **NAEAC occasional paper series:** NAEAC's statutory role includes providing information and advice to AECs that approve and monitor projects using animals in RTT. One of the ways in which NAEAC does this is by publishing 'occasional papers' on topics of relevance to AECs and their work. It was agreed to have a framework in place for the next paper in the series (remote monitoring tools for tracking animals), available at the next general meeting.
- **New Zealand Three Rs initiatives:** MPI and the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) have been working on developing booklets that describe real life examples of the Three Rs. NAEAC member, Bronwen Connor, reported she had been approached by ANZCCART to provide content for an additional resource, based on her occasional paper *Animal Models and Drug Discovery: How Can We Improve the Outcome?*