



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) 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 18 August 2017 general meeting included the following:

- **Sentience workshop:** The committee received an update on arrangements for the upcoming sentience workshop due to be held in Wellington in November. This included information on the number of people who had registered so far; speaker line up; and requirements of committee members on the day to facilitate the table discussions.
- **Implementation of animal welfare regulations:** The committee received an update on MPI's animal welfare priorities which included the implementation of the 46 new animal welfare regulations which had been approved by Cabinet. A framework, similar to the one that had been convened for the calf regulations, would be set up for relevant stakeholders affected or interested by the incoming regulations.
- **Mini-tutorial on shark tracking:** Warrick Lyon, a Fisheries Technician from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research presented to NAEAC on the topic of shark tracking. The presentation covered the tracking systems used in both rig sharks in Pauatahanui Inlet, Wellington and great white sharks in the open ocean. Tracking rig shark allows for a detailed map of real-time shark locations which could identify what habitat the shark was in and what it was feeding on. The tracking system used on great white sharks provided only approximate location data, most useful for tracking long-distance migrations.
- **Code of ethical conduct template:** The Act requires that NAEAC make recommendations to the Director-General of MPI concerning the approval, amendment, suspension, or revocation of any code of ethical conduct. In order to facilitate the review process in future, NAEAC approved the final version of the code of ethical conduct template they had been developing over the last few years. The aim of the template is to provide clarity to code holders about what should be contained in a code of ethical conduct.
- **NAEAC Three Rs award:** The NAEAC Three Rs award is made to an individual or organisation who/which has excelled in the implementation of the principles of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction, and refinement) in the use of animals in RTT. At the meeting, an update was provided on arrangements to find sponsors for the 2018 award. The committee is looking to increase the value of the award and run it every second year instead of annually.