



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 of Agriculture 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 16 November 2017 general meeting included the following:

- **NAEAC guidance material:** One of NAEAC's statutory functions is to provide information and advice AECs. One of the ways NAEAC does this is by drafting policies, guidance material and publications relevant to AECs and their work. At its meeting, NAEAC discussed the possibility of combining all of its guidance material into one key document that would be updated every year. This would enable AECs to find all the information they might need in one place.
- **Sentience workshop:** The committee discussed the sentience workshop which had been held in Wellington the previous day. It was agreed overall, that the workshop had been a success as 140 people had attended from a variety of animal welfare sector groups and participants seemed to have been engaged. It was noted that the proceedings of the workshop would be made available to attendees in due course.
- **Mini-tutorial on Independent Reviews:** One of NAEAC's statutory functions is to make recommendations to the Director-General of MPI concerning the approval, amendment, suspension, or revocation of any code of ethical conduct. As codes of ethical conduct are only valid for 5 years, organisations wanting to continue using animals for research, testing and teaching must apply to MPI for a new code. As part of the process the code holder must undergo an independent review to ascertain if they have achieved satisfactory compliance with their previous code and animal welfare legislation. When NAEAC reviews a new code of ethical conduct they also receive a copy of the independent review report for the previous code.

Dr Virginia Williams, independent reviewer and former NAEAC chair had been invited to the meeting to describe the review process from the perspective of a reviewer.