

Monthly newsletter



18th Edition - October 2014

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Notices and news

Use of Restricted Drugs

In past Newsletters we have brought you updates on the use of restricted drugs and the conduct of restricted acts of veterinary science in animal research. All this information is available at the website below.

<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/information/acts-of-veterinary-science>

4. Restricted acts of veterinary science

Researchers who are not veterinary practitioners may conduct restricted acts of veterinary science and not be veterinary practitioners only if they have approval to do so from an Animal Ethics Committee and are in compliance with their Animal Research Authority issued for the approved project. (See Veterinary Practice Act 2003 sections 7 and 9; Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013 clauses 4 and 5(b))

Acknowledgements

The contribution of Ms Leanne Gillespie and Dr Mike Fleming (Office of Environment and Heritage) and Ms Monique Reyes (Pharmaceutical Services Unit, NSW Ministry of Health) to the revision of this policy is gratefully acknowledged.

Important AEC Information

Release of a Guide to the care and use of Australian Native Mammals in research and teaching

A Guide to the care and use of Australian native mammals in research and teaching (the Guide) has recently been released. Australia has a strong ethical framework to protect animals that may be used for scientific purposes. NHMRC has been leading the development and revision of guidelines for the welfare of animals in research for over 40 years.

The Guide supports the implementation of the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition, 2013 (the Code). The Guide seeks to ensure that any care and use of Australian native mammals for the purpose of research and teaching is ethical, humane and responsible, and accords with current best practice. An obligation to respect animals underpins the Guide and the Code. Any use of animals must be justified, must have scientific or educational merit, must be beneficial to humans, animals or the environment and must be conducted with integrity. The specific and unique needs of Australian native mammals must be met when these animals are used for scientific purposes.

The revised Guide includes up-to-date information on general considerations related to the care and use of Australian native mammals with 22 chapters on individual species. This is a comprehensive guide, the development of which would not have been possible without the significant contribution, expertise and commitment of the Chair (Dr Kathrine Handasyde) and members of NHMRC's expert [working committee](#).

In developing the revised Guide, the strong consultative process used by NHMRC has ensured input from the community as well as key stakeholders including animal welfare organisations, researchers and teachers, institutions, members of animal ethics committees, state and territory governments and relevant Commonwealth government departments.

The Guide is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

A.R.T. News (Animals in Research and Teaching Newsletter)

Welcome to the 22nd edition of the Animals in Research and Teaching Newsletter (A.R.T. News), a source of information and updates for people involved in the use of animals in scientific procedures. Our website (www.depi.vic.gov.au/licensingandaudit) also contains useful information and resources that are updated regularly. If you wish to receive this newsletter by email, or remove yourself from the email list, please contact sp.licensing@depi.vic.gov.au

Update from DEPI

Last year, the Department of Primary Industries merged with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to form the Department of Environment and Primary

Industries (DEPI).

A review of Biosecurity Victoria followed, and the resulting restructure saw the discontinuation of the Bureau of Animal Welfare, effective from 1st July 2014. There are no changes to your points of contact, or the information and services provided by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries in relation to the use of animals in research and teaching. DEPI continues to administer the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and remains strongly committed to animal welfare. Dr Dani Maver's position has been renamed as Manager, Licensing and Audit Branch, and Alan Fried is now the Project Officer—Licensing. Both roles retain all their previous responsibilities. We're now part of Biosecurity Assurance in the Regulation and Compliance Group of DEPI. We continue to provide compliance advice, administer licence applications and renewals, collate annual returns, and deliver training for AEC members, licence nominees and institutional compliance officers. Our auditing program continues!

Announcement of changes to the Victorian Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008

Amendments to the Victorian Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations were approved by the Governor in Council on September 24th and will come into effect from 1st October 2014. The amendments are:

Prescription of the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th edition, 2013 (the Australian code). The 8th edition of the Australian code will become mandatory in Victoria as a prescribed condition of scientific procedures premises licences, scientific procedures fieldwork licences, and specified animal breeding licences. A new requirement for any scientific procedure involving a non-human hominid (gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo or orang utan) to be approved by the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security before commencing.

Training opportunities this month

Please contact the AWO for any training requirements. New Researcher training has been incorporated into the CAF Induction process. The format of this training will be refined over the next few months to ultimately deliver the best possible service to new researchers or any researcher looking to refresh their skills.

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline date 2014

Monday 24 November 2014

Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2014

Monday 11 December 2014

Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates 2014/2015

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS*	MEETING DATE
Monday 24 November 2014	Thursday 11 December 2014
Tuesday 27 January 2015	Thursday 19 February 2015
Monday 23 February 2015	Thursday 19 March 2015**
Monday 30 March 2015	Thursday 16 April 2015**
Monday 27 April 2015	Thursday 14 May 2015**
Monday 25 May 2015	Thursday 18 June 2015
Monday 29 June 2015	Thursday 16 July 2015
Monday 27 July 2015	Thursday 20 August 2015
Monday 24 August 2015	Thursday 17 September 2015**
Monday 28 September 2015	Thursday 15 October 2015**
Monday 23 November 2015	Thursday 10 December 2015**

Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the Animal Ethics monthly newsletter, kindly email that content for the next month's newsletter.

Should you have any queries regarding your research, please do not hesitate to contact the:

Animal Welfare Officer
Animal.ethics@mq.edu.au
+61 (0) 2 9850 7758, +61 (0) 439 497 383

*Alternatively, for more information about AEC policies, procedures, forms and ethical clearance requirements,
please go to our webpage at*

http://www.research.mq.edu.au/for/researchers/how_to_obtain_ethics_approval/animal_ethics