



Monthly newsletter

20th Edition - February 2015

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Notices and news

News from the Animal Ethics Team

Wishing a warm welcome to our new AWO, Dr Justin Clarke who joined our team full time on the 1st January 2015.

Justin has been a registered veterinary surgeon for more than 20 years, spending the last 16 years as a practice owner/manager on the NSW south coast working with wildlife, exotics and companion animals. He is a member and deputy chair of the NPWS South Coast Regional Advisory Committee; a member and past President of the Nowra Branch of the RSPCA, an Associate Researcher with our own Marine Mammals Research Group, a member of the NSW Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and past member of Macquarie University's Animal Ethics Committee, as well as a Macquarie University Alumnus.



Photo courtesy: J Clarke, (On the far right)



Annual Reporting on the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching

Just a reminder that all Institutions are required to submit an annual report on the use of animals in research and teaching every year. This **annual report** is due for all 2014 animal use statistics. An email will be sent to all researchers requesting this information shortly.

Please ensure that you return this information to our office **no later than Friday, 20 February 2015**.

News from the NSW Animal Welfare Unit

Animal Research Regulation amendment

The Animal Research Regulation 2010 has been amended to include reference to the current version of the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg+425+2010+cd+o+N>

Animals in Schools

The Animals in Schools website has been updated and can be accessed at: <http://nswschoolanimals.com/>

Retirement of Dr Peter Johnson

Dr Peter Johnson will be leaving the Animal Welfare Unit from the end of December 2014. He joined the Unit in 1998 and his services have proved to be invaluable since that time. For many years he has been the main contributor to the site inspection process, a task which he has carried out with his characteristic high levels of diligence and competence. That he is greatly respected by the majority of those he has dealt with in his roles as both a regulator and educator is testament to his abilities. His encyclopaedic knowledge combined with humility and a wonderful sense of humour have made him a treasured member of the Animal Welfare Unit team. Peter has contributed significantly to furthering the welfare of animals, and will certainly continue to do so in his future beyond the Animal Welfare Unit.

Peter has sent the following message:

I would like to thank the AEC Executive Officers, Chairs, AEC members and staff of our Accredited Establishments who I have met over the past 14 years. Your cooperation and assistance with the site inspections has been very much appreciated and it has been a pleasure working with you.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. PJ

Important AEC Information

Reporting Form for Unexpected Adverse Events

It is the policy of the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) that unexpected adverse events, including unexpected deaths, are reported to the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) within 72 hours. Email animal.ethics@mq.edu.au (Att: AWO) or call (02) 9850 7758 or 0439 497 383

An **unexpected adverse event** is an outcome that is not described in the AEC approved protocol and one that has a negative effect on animal welfare, i.e. is not good from the animal's point of view (e.g. the experience of pain and/or distress).



- **An unexpected death** is a death that occurs prior to the approved experimental endpoint. This includes death as a result of unplanned euthanasia and death under anaesthesia.
- The information in this form is required under sections of the *Australian Code Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* (NHMRC 2013 8th Ed.) that relate to keeping records and reporting unexpected and/or adverse events/impacts/effects (Sections 2.1.5, 2.1.7, 2.2.32, 2.3.2, 2.3.24, 2.4.18, 2.4.34, 2.5.5, 2.5.12, 2.5.15, 3.1.22 and 3.1.24).
- Information provided in this report will be presented by the AWO at the next scheduled AEC meeting after the date of receipt. The report will be filed with all other records pertaining to your animal research protocol.

Instructions for Submission of this form

- Attach any supporting documents (e.g. veterinary or pathology reports)
- The form must be typed (not hand written) and signed by the Principal Investigator or their delegate
- **Please email completed forms to BOTH animal.ethics@mq.edu.au (Att: AWO) AND to the manager of the facility in which the animal is being held.**

Training opportunities this month

Research Animal Care and Ethics Training

RACE Training: Module 1 - Introduction to Animal Research

We are getting our Research Animal Care and Ethics Training on-line course up and running, and while we haven't yet streamlined our enrollment process, we do have the course content available. The link to the online course is here: ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/. This training will replace the current Working With Research Animals Workshop which was held bi-annually.

Once you have successfully completed the course, please advise animal.ethics@mq.edu.au by email and we will arrange to issue you a certificate, the recording of which will allow you to begin/continue to work with research animals at Macquarie University.

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline date 2015

Monday 23 February 2015

Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2015

Thursday 19 March 2015



Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates 2015

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS*	MEETING DATE
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:

Animal Ethics Team

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_ethic