

Monthly newsletter



October 2012

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Notices and news

The Launch of our new Monthly Newsletter

A warm welcome to the Animal Ethics Monthly Newsletter! This monthly newsletter serves to keep you up-to-date with the current news within the Animal Ethics community, upcoming seminars, research highlights and important updates to forms and/or procedures that might occur.

Ph.D. opportunity – Welfare of free-range laying hens

A PhD opportunity in Animal Welfare is available at the Animal Welfare Science Centre, a research centre of the University of Melbourne, Australia. This Ph.D. project will focus on the welfare of laying hens in free-range systems. The candidate is expected to have a strong background in the field of animal behaviour and/or stress physiology and demonstrated independence in conducting research. A Master’s degree in animal behaviour, physiology, or related area is preferred. Expected start date is from October 2012.

For more information or to apply, please send a cover letter and current CV to Jean-Loup Rault at raultj@unimelb.edu.au

For more information regarding the Animal Welfare Science Centre, visit www.animalwelfare.net.au



Seminars

Public Health Ethics and Non-Communicable Diseases

Course date: Monday, **8th October 2012** - Free Admission

Venue: Darlington Centre Conference Room

Cost: FREE - [website](#)

Topics include:

- Introduction to public health ethics from one of the leading international scholars in the field
- Ethical significance of issues including urban design, eating animals and obesity stigma for the public health response to non-communicable diseases
- Managing overweight and obesity in Australia

Be part of a conversation between colleagues from a range of practices and disciplines in a lively debate!

Tomorrow's law: The future of animal law

Course date: Thursday, **18 October 2012**

Venue: The Mint – Sydney

Cost: 250\$ / \$150 (Student), registration via [website](#) - limited places available



The Centre for Legal Governance at Macquarie Law School and RSPCA Australia are hosting a one-day conference on the future of animal law in Australia. The conference will examine pivotal issues relating to animals and the law, including the regulation and governance of animal welfare policy and standard-setting, the intersection between human liberties and animal protection laws, and the future role and impact of public interest litigation for animals.

RSPCA Australia, Tel: 02 6282 8300, Fax: 02 6282 8311, Web: www.rspca.org.au

Living with (out) Animals: Nonhuman Ethics for the 21st

Course date: Monday, **22nd October 2012** - 12:30-5:00pm

Venue: Darlington Centre Conference Room

Cost: FREE – All welcome but places are limited. Register by email at: chris.degeling@sydney.edu.au

Confirmed speakers include:

- *Jan Deckers (University of Newcastle UK)* - "Why everyone should support the vegan project, both up there & down under"
- *Rob Irvine (USYD)* - "What is this thing called Animal Ethics?"
- *John Hadley (UWS)* - "What's the use of animal rights extremism? Violence on behalf of nonhuman animals in liberal democratic states"
- *Jane Johnson (MQ)* - "The ethics of animal vulnerability"
- *Chris Degeling (USYD)* - "Future frontiers: Animal human conflict & infectious disease"

Tips and Hints for your applications

In search for Alternatives

Section 2.3.2 of your application to the AEC asks **“What steps have been taken to ascertain the alternatives (to animal use) in accordance with The Code?”**

This month we highlight the thorough guideline produced for the EU, as a component of implementing the European Commission directive (2010/63/EU) to form the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM).

The [ECVAM](#) Good Search Practice on Animal Alternatives is a guideline on all the steps required for thorough searching of alternatives to animals in research. From simple search terms through to the thorough list of resources, this guide is a fantastic resource.

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/the-ecvam-search-guide-pbLBNA24391/>

We recommend you attempt a literature search of your research. You might be surprised by the alternatives that arise. Certainly you will acquire some practice at searching different databases and in different search styles.

Progress and Final Reports: How to make it painless.

1. Submit progress report prior to the expiry of current approval.

Not only that it is the requirement of your research approval (see [Term of Reference](#) of MQ Animal Ethics Committee (TOR)), submitting your progress report on time will also prevent other future complications for the project such as being suspended for lack of a current ARA. Submitting on-time also will reduce the pain of further administrative requests related to the outstanding expired ARA.

2. Submit Final report within one month of completing your project

This is also a requirement as outlined in the TOR. Delaying the submission of your final report can result in an increase of the probability of data being lost (for example the number of animals used does not match with the MQ inventory), more time being consumed on recollecting historical data and it may prevent approval of a future project by the AEC.

Important AEC Forms Changes

AEC Application Form - Research and Teaching - August 2012 v 4.3.2

Section 2.1.6. of the form has been amended. This section asks about details the component of your proposed project that might repeats any previously performed experiments.

2.1.6. Is there any component of this project which repeats any previously performed experiments (that you have undertaken or that has been previously been undertaken by others)?

The new form can be found online. Always use the most recent form when applying to the AEC. http://www.research.mq.edu.au/for/researchers/how_to_obtain_ethics_approval/animal_ethics/forms

AWO Report

The past months have seen the yearly auditing of our application forms and procedures. To that end I have been meeting with Principal Investigators to obtain their feedback. If you have a query or comment on the AEC processes please ask your PI to communicate them to me, or you may email me directly.

The refurbishment of the Central Animal Facility has been progressing smoothly with no significant welfare implications on the animals. If you have noted any effects on the welfare of your animals please do not hesitate to contact me.

There have been few adverse events with animals in the past month. Some events have been related to anaesthetic procedures and monitoring. I am developing a training short course in anaesthesia induction and maintenance to be trailed with all researchers in the near future.

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline dates 2012

Monday, 19 November 2012

Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates 2012

Thursday, 6 December 2012

Proposed "Working with Research Animals Workshops" in 2013

Thursday, 21 February 2013

Thursday, 25 July 2013

Register your interest on our website and to be notified when the registration is open.

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 me:

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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