



Monthly newsletter



November 2012

Notices and news	1	Performing a Post Mortem	3
The Anaesthetic Monitoring Sheet (excel file based).....	1	Animal Ethics Calendar	3
IV line Labels now available from Leonie Diment.....	1	Next Application submission deadline dates 2012.....	3
Using Eye Lubrication.....	2	Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates 2012 /2013.....	3
Tips and Hints for your applications	2	Animal Researcher Training dates 2012 (proposed)	4
Important AEC Forms Changes or Notice ..	3	Proposed “Working with Research Animals Workshops” in 2013	4
AWO Report	3	Contributions	4
Reporting Adverse Events.....	3		

Notices and news

The Anaesthetic Monitoring Sheet (excel file based)

A template for your procedural monitoring has been put on the [Animal Ethics wiki](#). This is an excel based sheet which can be altered to suit your procedure. Just plug in your animal’s body weight and the dose and volume can be calculated for your chosen drug dosages. If you are unsure how to use an excel file for calculations, or you are unsure if your drug dosages are correct, just email your form to the animal welfare officer and she will advise you.

We encourage you to use a monitoring template for all your procedures to ensure no step is forgotten.

Thank you to Jonathan Li, Vivek Gupta and Alvin You, for sharing their monitoring sheet.

IV line Labels now available from Leonie Diment

When multiple IV lines are used to administer drugs during a procedure, it is possible that a drug could accidentally be administered in the wrong line. To try to prevent this error, human and veterinary anaesthetists commonly tag the IV lines.

The Animal Ethics Committee recommends that IV **line labels** are used in any procedures where multiple lines are placed (arterial, venous or intrathecal). These are available now from Leonie Diment.

Using Eye Lubrication.

If performing recovery surgeries, please ask Leonie Diment to provide you with lubricant eye gel for your recovery animal. Eye lubrication should be used in all long surgeries and most definitely in injectable anaesthetics where the blink reflex will be lost.

In the absence of access to eye lubricant in the lab, please walk over to the pharmacy at the MUH and purchase a tube of eye lubricant for your animals. Please note that KY jelly has a pH of 4.5-5 and **is not suitable** for use in the eye.

Tips and Hints for your applications

The importance of clarity in applications to an Animal Ethics Committee.

Researchers, it is timely to remind you that Category "D" members of the Macquarie University Animal Ethics Committee are lay persons. One, and often both of us will sit in consideration of every application before the Committee (new applications, amendments, and progress reports). My own background is legal. I suppose I was a reasonable lawyer as I sat in judgment of others as a Magistrate of the NSW Local Courts, and as a Coroner for some 23 years.

However, Category "D" members are required NOT to have scientific backgrounds. We are, if you will, the people on the "Clapham Omnibus". As a jury in a fraud case probably has no background/training at all of accounting, we have no background/training in science/medicine/psychology. Whilst though life experience and through membership of the Animal Ethics Committee itself we have gained knowledge, we will never be able to fully understand, for example, the nuances of advanced medical/scientific/psychological research.

It follows that we rely heavily on the short "**lay**" summary to give us our grounding in relation to the application we are considering. If that is clear, succinct and in relatively straightforward terms, we ought to be able to gain enough of an understanding to broadly understand the rest of the application. From that point we are able to take our position to the Committee and meaningfully join fully in Committee deliberations.

Some of the most complex applications we see are written extremely well and are relatively simple for us to understand in broad terms. Sadly, some others are written in such a manner that even scientific members of the Committee have difficulty in their understanding.

This modest article is simply to remind applicants of the need to be clear and concise and of the need to couch, at least, the summary in lay terms. Though we "D" members are not scientists we do have a deep understanding of the importance of your research as it is served up to us. It interests us and, frankly, at times amazes us. It is in your interests, therefore, to make it clear.

J. A.

Category "D" Member

Macquarie University Animal Ethics Committee

Important AEC Forms Changes or Notice

For [Unexpected Adverse Event reports](#) ALWAYS use MS Word format and ALWAYS copy the email and attachment to the facility manager (Robby Miller for the Fauna Park, Christine Sutter for the Central Animal Facility and Leonie Diment for ASAM Laboratories)

AWO Report

There have been many Adverse Events report this month. Following are some reminders to assist in smooth assessment and finalisation of adverse events.

Reporting Adverse Events

- An Adverse Event is anything that you would not have expected when you rose that morning. It does not necessitate the sickness or death of an animal. It may be any event which adversely affects the health or welfare of you research animals, or your research.
- Reporting needs to be timely - if necessary give a verbal report by phone until such time as you can fill out a report.
- Please provide any associated paperwork with your report, for example a facility manager's report or photos.
- **Always** copy in the animal facility manager (Christine Sutter, Robby Miller, Leonie Diment)

Performing a Post Mortem

It has become evident that some researchers are not familiar with doing a post-mortem examination. According to [The Code](#) (3.3.24) "When an animal dies unexpectedly, or is euthanased due to unforeseen complications, an autopsy should be performed by a person with appropriate qualifications and /or experience." On the wiki you will find a post-mortem [template](#) to assist you.

Training in a simple correct post-mortem procedure will be offered as part of the researcher training in December and January. It will be expected that all researchers who may be called upon to do a post-mortem examination will have adequate training or experience. Please email animal.ethics@mq.edu.au to register your interest.

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline dates 2012

Monday, 19 November 2012

Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates 2012 /2013

Thursday, 6 December 2012

2013 – See the [web site](#) / [wiki](#)

Animal Researcher Training dates 2012 (proposed)

Researcher training in four areas will begin in December.

1. Rodent handling
2. Rodent anaesthesia with injectable and inhalant anaesthetics
3. Clean and aseptic surgical techniques
4. Post-treatment monitoring and pain relief.

The expected dates to begin the training sessions are: 5, 7, 12, 14 December 2012

Please contact animal.ethics@mq.edu.au to **register your interest**.

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