

# Animal Research Review Panel Annual Report 2017-18



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**More information**

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NSW Department of Primary Industries

[www.animaethics.org.au](http://www.animaethics.org.au)

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## ANIMAL RESEARCH REVIEW PANEL

6 December 2018

The Hon Niall Blair MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Lands and Water  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blair

In accordance with Section 11 of the Animal Research Act 1985, the Animal Research Review Panel presents its annual report covering the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Andrew Dart**  
Chair, Animal Research Review Panel

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## 1. Framework under the Animal Research Act 1985

### 1.1 The Animal Research Act 1985

The NSW Animal Research Act 1985 was the first piece of self-contained animal research legislation introduced in Australia. In introducing the legislation in 1985, the Hon. Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, said that it was based on ‘the twin tenets of ... enforced self-regulation and public participation in the decision-making process’. It received bipartisan support in the Parliament when it was introduced in 1985 and continues to do so.

The primary aim of the legislation is to protect the welfare of animals used in research and teaching by ensuring that their use is justified, humane and considerate of their needs. The Act incorporates a system of enforced self-regulation, with community participation at the institutional and regulatory levels.

The Act establishes a system of accreditation, licensing and authorisation of organisations and individual researchers. The Act also establishes the Animal Research Review Panel (ARRP) to provide a mechanism for representatives of government, scientific and animal welfare groups to participate jointly in monitoring the effectiveness of the legislation.

The Act creates offences for conducting animal research without appropriate authorisation, with substantial custodial and financial penalties.

### 1.2 The Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes

The [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes](#) (the Code) is a nationally accepted document and is included under the Animal Research Regulation 2010. The Code is reviewed regularly by the Code Reference Group, under the auspices of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The Code Reference group includes representatives from NHMRC, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Australian Research Council, Universities Australia, the state government ministries with responsibility for animal welfare, commonwealth government departments for the sectors of environment, education and primary industries, the RSPCA Australia and Animals Australia.

### 1.3 The Animal Research Review Panel

The Animal Research Review Panel has responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of the animal research legislation, investigating complaints, and evaluating compliance of individuals and establishments with the legislation.

The constitution, membership and mode of operation of the Panel are set out in the *Animal Research Act 1985*. The Panel has twelve members with equal representation from industry, government and animal welfare groups. This provides for a range of expertise in regulating the conduct of animal research in New South Wales.

Apart from developing overall policy on animal research issues, the Panel is closely involved in the administration of the legislation. This is achieved through evaluating applications for accreditation and licences of research establishments, conducting site visits to assess compliance, and investigating complaints. The Panel also has a role in considering amendments to the Animal Research Regulation. NSW Department of Primary Industries staff provide executive support for the Panel.

#### 1.3.1 Mission statement

- To protect and enhance the welfare of animals used in scientific research, testing and teaching in New South Wales.

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- To promote an understanding within the New South Wales community of the ethical and technical issues involved in the use of animals for scientific purposes.

The strength of the Panel lies in the diversity of expertise, opinions and ethical perspectives of its members. The development of cohesive and progressive policies has occurred as a result of this diversity. All members are employed in other fields and participate on a largely voluntary basis. Non-government members are paid fees for attending formal meetings and participating in site inspections. Members are not paid for time spent preparing for meetings and inspections, for considering applications for accreditation or licenses, or for drafting discussion papers.

### 1.3.2 Functions of the Animal Research Review Panel

Section 9 of the Animal Research Act defines the functions of the Panel as:

- The investigation of matters relating to the conduct of animal research and the supply of animals for use in connection with animal research
- The investigation and evaluation of the efficacy of the Code in regulating the conduct of animal research and the supply of animals for use in connection with animal research
- The investigation of applications and complaints referred to it under the Act
- Such other functions as the Minister may from time to time confer or impose on it.

In November 1998, the then Minister, the Hon. Richard Amery MP, conferred the following additional function on to the ARRP, pursuant to section 9 (d) of the Act:

The consideration and comment on proposals referred to the Animal Research Review Panel which relate to the making, amendment or review of the regulations under the *Animal Research Act 1985*.

There have been no other functions formally conferred on the ARRP under section 9 (d) of the Act since it commenced.

### 1.3.3 Membership

The Panel consists of 12 members appointed by the Minister on the basis of nominations received from industry, government and animal welfare groups. The nominating organisations are:

- New South Wales Vice-Chancellors' Committee: three nominees
- Medicines Australia: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Health: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Education: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Primary Industries: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for the Environment: one nominee
- Animal Societies' Federation (New South Wales): two nominees
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (New South Wales): two nominees.

All members of the Panel are part-time and are normally appointed for a term of 3 years.

During the 2017–18 period the membership of the Panel was:

A/Professor Andrew Dart (Chair) (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; reappointed 13 October 2016)

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Professor Robert Mulley (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; reappointed 13 October 2016)

Professor Jacqueline Phillips (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; reappointed 13 October 2016)

Dr Peter Rolfe (nominated by Medicines Australia; reappointed 1 December 2016)

Professor Annemarie Hennessy (nominated by the Minister for Health; reappointed 13 October 2016)

Ms Sally Bannerman (nominated by the Minister for Education and Training; appointed 5 March 2017)

Ms Belinda Lucas (Deputy Chair) (nominated by the Minister for Primary Industries; appointed 14 August 2016)

Dr Mike Fleming (nominated by the Minister for the Environment; reappointed 13 October 2016)

Dr Sophie Riley (nominated by the Animal Societies' Federation; appointed 13 October 2016)

Ms Paula Wallace (nominated by the Animal Societies' Federation; appointed 13 October 2016)

Mr David O'Shannessy (nominated by RSPCA NSW; reappointed 13 October 2016 – resigned April 2018)

Dr Christina Zhu (nominated by RSPCA NSW; appointed 13 October 2016)

Information on members of the Animal Research Review Panel in 2017–18 is as follows:

**Professor Andrew DART(Chair) BVSc PhD Dip ACVS Dip ECVS**

Dr Dart is Professor of Equine Veterinary Science and Director of the Research and Clinical Trials Unit of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the University of Sydney. He has held positions as Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Deputy Chair and Acting Chair of the Animal Ethics Committee of the University of Sydney. Dr Dart is a Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery and has spent time in private practice and as a Clinical Academic. Professor Dart was appointed as Chair of the ARRP in December 2010.

**Emeritus Professor Robert MULLEY BA (Macquarie), MScAg (Sydney), PhD (Sydney).**

Professor Mulley joined the Panel in 2008. He is a nominee of the NSW Vice Chancellors' Committee. He is Professor of Animal Science at Western Sydney University, and has extensive experience in husbandry and management of farmed livestock, particularly pigs, deer and cattle. More recently he has engaged in research on a range of wildlife species.

**Professor Jacqueline Phillips. BVSc Hons (Uni of Syd), PhD (ANU)**

Professor Phillips is a nominee of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee and was appointed to the ARRP in 2010. Professor Phillips is a registered veterinarian who has worked in small animal and mixed practice. She has served on Animal Ethics Committees as a Category A member at the Australian National University (ACT) and Murdoch University (WA). She is a Professor of Neuroscience in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Macquarie University. Her research is in the areas of hypertension and renal disease.

**Dr Peter ROLFE BVSc, PhD (Syd)**

Dr Rolfe is a nominee of Medicines Australia. He is an employee of Elanco Animal Health, a registered veterinary surgeon and has had a career in research and research management and in various public and private sector roles. He currently manages global programs for the research and development of innovative pharmaceuticals for use in farm and companion animals.

**Professor Annemarie HENNESSY BMdSu, PhD**

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Professor Hennessy was previously a member the ARRP from 2008 to 2010. She was re-appointed in January 2014. She is the director of the National Baboon Colony and an active medical teacher and researcher. She is a qualified nephrologist and specialises in general medicine, renal medicine and obstetric medicine. She is the Dean, School of Medicine, at the University of Western Sydney.

**Ms Sally Bannerman BSAgr (Syd), Grad Dip Ed**

Ms Bannerman is a nominee of the Minister for Education. She is the Animal Welfare Coordinator for the NSW Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW. She administers the work of the Schools Animal Ethics Committee for the three school sectors and their 3500 schools. She has extensive experience in agricultural education and has worked in face to face delivery, distance education and teacher support for over 30 years.

**Ms Belinda Lucas (Deputy Chair)**

Ms Lucas was an employee of the NSW Department of Primary Industries. She held the role of Manager, Animal Welfare, Biosecurity & Food Safety. She has substantial animal welfare administrative and policy experience which includes animal welfare policy creation, planning and program development and delivery. She has extensive experience in the management of key stakeholder groups across Government and Industry.

**Dr Mike FLEMING BSc (Hons) ANU, PhD (Monash)**

Dr Fleming is a nominee of the Minister for the Environment and has been with Panel since February 2009. He is a Senior Team Leader with the Science Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Dr Fleming has conducted research in marsupial physiology, wildlife management and biodiversity survey. He has worked extensively in the Northern Territory and New South Wales.

**Dr Sophie Riley**

Dr Sophie Riley is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney. She teaches Animal Law and Policy, Environmental Law, Environmental Ethics and Corporate Law. Dr Riley's research interests focus on the ethics and treatment of invasive species, farm animals and wildlife welfare. She has also published in the area of legal education, particularly regarding the pedagogy of international students. Dr Riley is the editor of an animal law case book, comprising case notes written by students as part of their assessment. Dr Riley, is also the legal researcher for the Centre for Compassionate Conservation at the University of Technology.

**Ms Paula Wallace**

Ms Wallace is a communications professional who has operated a consultancy business since 2000. Her writing has been published widely in Australia's business and specialist press and she has focused on environmental and sustainability writing for more than 10 years. Ms Wallace has a deep interest in the areas of enterprise which involve animals and how related industries can provide leadership from an ethical and practical perspective. She is spearheading the movement for rehoming animals from research and has established the Liberty Foundation to further these aims. Ms Wallace is an alumni of the Centre for Sustainability Leadership. She was appointed to the Panel in 2016 as a nominee of the Animal Societies Federation.

**Mr David O'SHANNESY, BSAgr.**

Mr O'Shannessy was the nominee of the RSPCA (NSW). Since completing an Agricultural Science degree he was employed as an inspector with RSPCA NSW and for a period of time was a sales representative for a veterinary pharmaceutical company. He was appointed RSPCA Chief Inspector in May 2005 and was appointed as a member of the Panel in January 2005.

**Dr Christina Zhu, BVSc (merit) MANZCVS (Small animal surgery)**

Christina Zhu is a nominee of the RSPCA (NSW). After graduating from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, she worked in private practice, followed by a rotating

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internship at the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital after which she completed a clinical research masters. In 2013 she became a Member of the surgery chapter of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists. She is currently the Managing Veterinarian at RSPCA NSW and became a member of the panel in 2017.

#### 1.4 Animal Ethics Committees

At the establishment level, Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) provide avenues for public participation in the regulation of animal research.

AECs are responsible for approving and monitoring research within establishments, including inspections of animals and facilities. No animal research may be carried out without AEC approval. AECs must consider and evaluate applications to conduct research on the basis of the researchers' responses to a comprehensive set of questions, including their justification for the research, its likely impact on the animals, and procedures for preventing or alleviating pain or distress. On behalf of the establishment, AECs have the power to stop inappropriate research and to discipline researchers by withdrawing their research approvals. They can require that adequate care, including emergency care, is provided for animals. They also provide guidance and support to researchers on matters relevant to animal welfare, through means such as the preparation of guidelines and dissemination of relevant scientific literature. They are responsible for advising institutions on the changes to physical facilities that should be made to provide for the needs of the animals used.

The membership and duties of AECs are laid down in the NSW legislation and in the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*, which also provides guidance on how AECs should operate.

Committee membership must include members as follows:

Category A: a veterinarian

Category B: an animal researcher

Category C: a person with a demonstrated commitment to animal welfare who is not associated with the establishment, and not currently involved in the care and use of animals for research.

Category D: an independent person who does not fit the requirements of the other categories, is not associated with the establishment and who has never been involved in the use of animals for research.

The *Code* states that more than one person may be appointed to each category and, if a Committee has more than four members, categories C plus D must represent no less than one-third of the members.

The criteria used by the Panel for assessment of AEC membership are documented in a Panel policy document, *Policy 9: Criteria for the Assessment of Animal Ethics Committee Membership* (<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/operation>). In examining applications from establishments for accreditation as animal research establishments, the membership of AECs are assessed to ensure they are of acceptable composition. The Panel also assesses, and makes recommendations to the Secretary, on the suitability of all new appointments to AECs. All new AEC appointments must be approved by the Secretary. During site inspections, the Panel assesses the operation of the AECs.

#### 1.5 Accreditation and licensing

The legislation requires that all applications for Accreditation and Animal Supply Licences be referred to the Panel for consideration. The Panel has established procedures to deal with the

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considerable workload this entails and has regularly reviewed and updated these procedures to take account of changes in needs and resources.

There are two components in the assessment of applicants by the Panel:

- consideration of a written application to determine whether the applicant is complying with a limited number of fundamental requirements of the legislation
- evaluation of the applicant at a site inspection, when a much broader approach is taken.

The recommendations of the Panel are referred to the delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Industry, who has statutory authority for the issue of accreditation and licences and for imposing, altering or removing conditions of accreditation or licence.

Accreditation and licences are usually issued subject to a condition that any site inspection is satisfactory and to a condition requiring the reporting of changes in AEC membership to the Secretary for approval. Other conditions may also be stipulated, as relevant to the operation of each establishment. (See Appendix I for standard conditions on Accreditation and Licences).

### 1.5.1 Evaluation of written applications

New and renewal applications for accreditation or licences are assessed by Department of Primary Industries staff, according to criteria developed by the Panel. Arising from these assessments, recommendations on the applications are made to the Panel. The Panel considers the recommendations and then makes recommendations on the applications to the Secretary.

A small number of applications are also viewed directly and considered by the full Panel. These include applications from individuals or organisations about which the Panel has particular concerns, or situations where the application is sufficiently different from the norm to raise policy implications.

The criteria against which the Panel assesses written applications are drawn from the legislation. Considerations include whether the AEC is properly constituted, whether its procedures are adequate, whether it is meeting sufficiently frequently to deal with the volume of work, and whether it is conducting inspections of the animals and facilities it supervises. The types and numbers of animals held and their accommodation are also checked, and likely problem areas are flagged for follow-up at site inspection. Similarly, numbers and qualifications of animal care staff are assessed for adequacy.

Monitoring of animal care and use by the AEC is another area of assessment. Details of AEC inspections carried out must be provided. Questions on the source and destination of animals allow a double-check on compliance with the Act's provisions relating to animal supply.

[Form R- application for accreditation as an animal research establishment and licence as an animal supplier](#), and the [criteria for application assessment](#) are published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

### 1.5.2 Conduct of site inspections

Following the evaluation of written applications, the second phase of the process of assessing establishments is the site inspection. The aim of site inspections is to determine whether establishments and individuals are complying with the legislation. The *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* provides the criteria against which establishments are assessed. The range of items assessed includes: the membership, procedures and activities of the AEC; animal care procedures; animal research procedures; and the physical facilities for housing and using animals. An evaluation is also made of the wellbeing of the animals held.

Audit visits are arranged in advance and usually take from 1 to 4 days per site. Large establishments with multiple sites can take up to 2 weeks to inspect. Information about

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inspections conducted in the 2017–18 year is provided in Appendices C and D. The dates provided represent days on site and do not include preparation and follow-up time, which is often considerable.

### **Assessment of written material**

Assessment begins before site inspection with an examination of written material provided by the establishment or individual. This includes records of research applications approved by the AEC, AEC minutes, the AEC annual report, and records of inspections conducted, together with information about the procedures of the committee and the institutional policy on the committee's operation and decisions.

The examination is carried out by a Department Animal Research Act Veterinary Inspector and the Panel members who have been nominated to participate in the inspection. This pre-inspection evaluation allows likely problem areas to be identified and a general idea to be gained of how the establishment is operating.

### **Inspection of animals and facilities and meeting with the Animal Ethics Committee**

On the day(s) of the inspection the inspection team initially looks at the animals and the facilities and talks with researchers and animal care staff. This examination includes assessing a broad range of items such as the physical condition of animals, animal care and management, and records related to the animals held. After examining animals and facilities, the inspection team sits in on a scheduled meeting of the AEC, which allows it to view the operation of the AEC and the interaction of its members. At the end of the meeting, time is taken to discuss with the AEC issues arising from the inspection and to solicit feedback from AEC members. Additional important considerations are how the committee liaises with researchers and whether it has developed its own policies or guidelines for procedures of particular concern, such as blood collection techniques, standards for wildlife transportation and the recognition and relief of pain.

A meeting is usually held with the head of the establishment at the beginning or end of the inspection. Any serious concerns are immediately referred to the establishment at the appropriate level.

### **Inspection report**

As soon as possible after the inspection, a detailed report is prepared. The report covers an evaluation of the AEC and an assessment of the animals' wellbeing, housing and holding, and their care and monitoring.

The reports are referred to a full meeting of the Panel. Once the Panel has considered the report, recommendations may arise for the Secretary to impose additional conditions on the accreditation or licence. For example, a condition may be that appropriate post-operative procedures must be implemented.

In addition to conditions for accreditation or licence (which are mandatory and must be implemented), the Panel report usually contains a number of recommendations—for example, for more effective operation of the AEC, for improvement of the management of research within the establishment, or for improvement of the animal facilities. Implementation of recommendations is not mandatory, but the institution is required to advise on how it has responded to the recommendations. If the recommendations have not been implemented, then the reasons for this must be explained.

Inspection reports also provide an opportunity for the Panel to commend the institution, individual researchers or animal attendants for initiatives that raise the standards of the overall operation of the research facility or for techniques or facilities that enhance the welfare of research animals.

### **Response to inspection reports**

Establishments are required to respond in writing, usually within 3 months, to the conditions and

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recommendations arising from the inspection. The response must involve the input of the Animal Ethics Committee. Responses are considered at meetings of the Panel, and an assessment is made of whether the responses are satisfactory. If necessary, further follow up with the establishment is carried out.

The Panel also conducts revisits to establishments (and individuals) that have been inspected previously and where particular concerns were raised during the inspection. The primary purpose of these revisits is to evaluate the responses to the recommendations and conditions imposed.

### **Inspection schedule**

The Panel aims to carry out full routine inspections for all Accredited Establishments (with fixed animal facilities and/or AECs) approximately every 4 years, as well as visits by inspectors to follow up on problems. Announced and unannounced visits to look at specific aspects of operation may be carried out between full visits.

## **1.6 The Animal Research Act in schools and TAFE NSW**

The Animal Research Act allows the use of animals for educational purposes when there is a demonstrated educational benefit, when there is no suitable alternative, and when the least number of animals is used, with the least impact on their wellbeing. Although animals are used for educational purposes in many situations, their use in schools and TAFE colleges presents special issues, such as mechanisms for approval and monitoring of animal use across the State. Their use also presents opportunities to promote in students an understanding of the ethical and technical issues involved with the use of animals.

## **1.7 Administration**

Administration is by NSW Department of Primary Industries Animal Welfare, the functions of which include:

- animal research issues under the *Animal Research Act*, including providing executive services to the Panel
- general animal welfare and cruelty issues under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, including the operation of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council for the Minister for Primary Industries
- animal display issues under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act*, including the operation of the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee

## **2. Report on work and activities**

### **2.1 Administration and planning**

Administrative functions have varied from activities such as assessments of Accreditation and Licensing, to formulating the Panel's operational plan for 2017–18. The appendices to this annual report contain details of many of the operational and strategic functions of the Panel. These include the dates of, and attendance at, Panel meetings (Appendixes A and B); dates and attendance of Panel members at inspections (Appendixes C and D); the Animal Research Review Panel Strategic Plan 2017–20 (Appendix E) and Operational Plan for 2017–18 (Appendix F); and Panel operating expenses (Appendix G).

#### **2.1.1 Strategic plan 2017 – 20**

The Panel's 3-year strategic plan for 2017-20 identifies the primary goals of the Panel and strategies for achieving these goals and is provided in Appendix E.

#### **2.1.2 Operational plan for 2017-18**

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The Panel Operational Plan for 2017–18, including performance status for each activity, is provided in Appendix F.

### 2.1.3 Liaison with establishments and individuals

The Panel liaises with establishments and individuals to offer advice and to facilitate the implementation of legislative requirements and adherence to replacement, reduction and refinement principles.

During the 2017-18 year the main method of liaison was via discussions during, and feedback after, site inspections. Additionally recommendations were made in the process of assessing Accreditation and Licence applications.

There was ongoing communication with an accredited establishment following the investigation of a complaint, to enable the assessment of the effectiveness of measures put in place to deal with the issues identified.

Feedback was provided to four establishments that voluntarily reported matters of non-compliance and how these had been managed by the establishments. The actions taken by all the establishments demonstrated effective self-regulation under the animal research legislation.

## 2.2 Assessment of applications

During 2017-18 there were 166 Accredited Animal Research Establishments and 34 holders of Animal Supply Licences.

During 2017–18 the Panel considered and made recommendations to the Secretary on:

- 17 new applications for Accreditation
- 35 renewal applications for Accreditation
- 2 renewal applications for Animal Supply Licences.
- 11 extensions to existing Accreditation and/or Animal Supply Licences.

### 2.2.1 LD50 testing

LD50 is a toxicity test used to determine the dose or concentration of a test substance—that is, the lethal dose—that is expected to kill 50% of the animals to which it is administered. For the purposes of the *Animal Research Act 1985* the definition of LD50 has been broadened. Included are all tests in which a potentially lethal dose of a substance will be administered and is expected to kill a proportion of the individuals in any group of animals to which it is given. In NSW such tests may be undertaken only under the approval of a properly constituted Animal Ethics Committee, with the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries. Applications for permission to conduct LD50 tests are evaluated by a Panel subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee in 2017–18 were Professor Dart and Dr Fleming. The subcommittee makes recommendations to the ARRP, which in turn advises the Minister.

In 2017–18 the subcommittee considered one application (four tests) from an Accredited Animal Research Establishment.

The testing is used in quality control during the manufacturing of vaccines and in the development of new vaccine formulations. The majority of the tests are related to the manufacture of clostridial vaccines, used to protect livestock and companion animals against tetanus, enterotoxaemia, black leg and black disease that are rapidly fatal if contracted by unvaccinated animals.

The Panel recommended the Minister grant concurrence on the following conditions:

- 1) Data is provided in graphical form by 31 January 2018 with figures comparing 2016, 2017 and 2018 calendar years on the following:

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- a) The number of animals used for each quality control test in relation to a relevant measure to be determined by the establishment. The measure should provide information on the trends in numbers of animals used over time.
  - b) The number of animals used for development and research over time, with an explanation of the purpose – for example replacement of a test, refinement of a procedure.
  - c) The total number of animals produced in relation to numbers of animals actually used in tests.
  - d) The number of animals that die in tests and the number euthanased as an early end-point in tests.
- 2) Any application for Ministerial concurrence to conduct LD50 tests between April 2019 and April 2020 must be presented by the establishment to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by 31 January 2019.
  - 3) The establishment must continue, in consultation with the AEC, to identify and implement refinements to lessen the impact of existing approved tests on animals and methods of reducing the numbers of animals used in existing approved tests or replacing animal tests with alternatives and reports upon these to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by 31 January 2019.

The establishment carrying out these tests has estimated most animal use will be replaced by alternative tests being developed by 2022.

### **2.3 Assessment of changes to AEC membership**

All establishments are required to advise the Department of changes to AEC membership. The Panel assesses and makes recommendations to the Department on the suitability of the qualifications of the new members for the categories of membership to which they are nominated.

The qualifications of AEC members are assessed in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* and Panel Policy 9: *Criteria for Assessment of Animal Ethics Committee Membership* (<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/operation/criteria-for-assessment>).

In the 2017–18 year the Panel assessed and made recommendations to the Secretary on the appointment of 77 members of Animal Ethics Committees.

### **2.4 Assessment of Accreditation and Licence responses**

The Panel assesses and makes recommendations to the Secretary on responses from Accredited Animal Research Establishments and Licensed Animal Suppliers to conditions and recommendations arising from site inspection and / or placed at the time of Accreditation and Licence application.

In the 2017–18 year the Panel considered 45 responses from Accredited Animal Research Establishments and Licensed Animal Suppliers.

### **2.5 Subcommittees**

The Panel appoints subcommittees to deal with particular issues. They explore issues in depth and have discussions with relevant members of the scientific and broader communities. Subcommittees provide reports and recommendations to the full Panel for consideration. Activities of subcommittees in the 2017–18 year included:

- Evaluation of applications for LD50 testing (Professor Dart and Dr Fleming)

- 
- Rehoming animals (Ms Wallace sub-committee Chair and Dr Riley).

## 2.6 Statistics on animal use

The Animal Research Regulation 2010 requires accredited research establishments (other than schools) and animal research authority holders to record and submit information on the number of animals used in research each year.

The requirements for reporting on animal use provide data on the numbers of animals used in all research projects in NSW, reported against the purpose of the research and the types of procedures in which they were involved. The aim of collecting these statistics is to give some indication of the level of 'invasiveness' of the procedures on the animals and to provide data on the use of animals in research. Aspects of the system include the recording of:

- an animal in all projects in which the animal is used.
- animals for each year in which they are held in long-term projects.
- the types of procedures used (giving an indication of the impact of procedures) combined with the recording of the purpose of the research.

The categories used are based on those used on a national basis. Figures are collected on a calendar year rather than by financial year.

Animal usage in 2017 will be published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

In addition to information on numbers of animals used, information is collected on initiatives in the areas of reduction, replacement and refinement of animal use. A summary of this information for 2017 will be published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

As an additional means of monitoring Accredited Animal Research Establishments, the annual reports of AECs are required to be submitted with the submission of annual statistics. The *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* requires that each AEC must submit a written report on its activities at least annually to the governing body of the institution for which it acts. In the 2017-18 year, the Panel carried out an assessment of these reports and provided feedback to the AECs and establishments.

### 2.6.1 Lethality testing

Accredited research establishments must keep figures on lethality testing and submit these to the Panel. Lethality testing is defined as '*any animal research procedure in which any material or substance is administered to animals for the purpose of determining whether any animals will die or how many animals will die*'. Lethality tests include, but are not limited to, LD50 tests (see item 2.2.1). Figures on lethality testing for 2017 will be published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

## 2.7 Support for Animal Ethics Committees

The Panel and the Department continue to use various means to support AECs in performing their duties. These means include the conducting of site inspections; the writing of policies, guidelines and fact sheets where a need is identified; the holding of seminars for AEC members and researchers; the maintenance of a website dedicated to animal research issues ([Animal Ethics Infolink](#)) and the supply of advice over the telephone or by correspondence.

The Panel is used as a reference source by the State's AECs, for example as a source of information on successful policies developed at other institutions.

### 2.7.1 Register of candidates for AEC membership

Finding interested and suitable members has been a problem experienced by a number of AECs. Categories C (Animal Welfare) and D (Independent) have presented the most difficulty. To help AECs find potential members, the Department maintains a list of names, contact details and the categories that individuals believe they can represent. This list is available to all NSW AECs, but has remained short for a number of years.

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## 2.8 Website: Animal Ethics Infolink

Development and maintenance of a website by the Panel and Department - 'Animal Ethics Infolink'- is aimed at assisting researchers, teachers and members of Animal Ethics Committees to access information about the operation of the animal research legislation in NSW. In addition to specific information about this legislation, including Panel policies and guidelines, this site provides general information about legislation in other states and countries and links to many sites from which useful information promoting the humane care and use of animals for scientific purposes can be sourced. The website also gives the broader community access to information about animal use for research and teaching in NSW.

The Animal Ethics Infolink site is accessible at [www.animaethics.org.au](http://www.animaethics.org.au) .

## 2.9 Site inspections

A list of dates of site inspections undertaken in 2017–18 is provided in Appendix C, and a list of Panel members attending is given in Appendix D. There were 20 establishments inspected over 36 working days. The length of these inspections ranged from one day to nine days. Arising from these inspections there were:

- 106 conditions on accreditation
- 111 recommendations for action
- 77 commendations.

The Panel aims to carry out a routine inspection of each Accredited Animal Research Establishment approximately every 4 years to maintain personal contact with establishments, AECs and researchers, and to carry out a complete audit of establishment operation under the *Animal Research Act 1985*.

The Panel places a major focus on reviewing the operation of AECs, to ensure that AECs, researchers and establishments understand their responsibilities under the Act and the Code. The conduct of research procedures and the conditions in which animals are held also receive close scrutiny during site visits.

## 2.10 Policies and guidelines

The Panel and Department produce policies and guidelines to aid researchers, AECs, research establishments, animal suppliers and members of the broader community to understand and comply with the requirements of the animal research legislation. These documents can be found by following the links from the Panel's website, [Animal Ethics Infolink](http://www.animaethics.org.au) (see Appendix H for a list of guidelines and policies).

New policies and guidelines are produced to fill needs identified by the Panel.

In 2017-18 two policy documents and one guideline were revised:

- P3. Procedures Prohibited under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (revised December 2017)  
<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/information/procedures-prohibited>
- P4. Non-Research Animals at Accredited Animal Research Establishments (revised December 2017)  
<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/information/non-research-animals>
- G3. Individuals and Institutions Engaged in Collaborative Research (revised May 2018)  
<https://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines>

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## 2.11 Initiatives in replacement, reduction and refinement

Information collected from the 'Annual Return on Animal Use' submitted by each research establishment includes information on techniques developed or used by the establishment to replace, reduce and refine animal use in research and teaching. The adoption of such techniques is actively encouraged by the Panel. A list of some of the initiatives for the 2017 year will be published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

## 2.12 Complaints

A formal process for making specific complaints about animal research is set out in sections 22, 28 and 42 of the *Animal Research Act 1985*. The process allows any person to make such a formal complaint. The complaint must be made in writing to the Secretary, who refers the complaint to the Panel for investigation. The Panel is bound to investigate formal complaints and to make recommendations to the Secretary for disciplinary action (if it is considered warranted) or dismissal of the complaint. Both the complainant and the individual or establishment being investigated have a right of appeal to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

The Panel also has a policy of responding to informal complaints. These may involve varying degrees of investigation, from formal interviews to requests for documents or unannounced visits to animal holding facilities. Complaints may arrive from a variety of sources: the RSPCA may refer matters that fall outside its jurisdiction; Panel members may raise matters brought to their attention by members of the community; public concern may be expressed in the media; and complaints may be raised in direct correspondence to the Minister for Primary Industries, the Panel, or the Department.

In the 2017–18 reporting period one complaint was received.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Dates of Animal Research Review Panel meetings 2017–18

Meeting number	Date of meeting
223	6 July 2017
224	21 September 2017
225	30 November 2017
226	15 February 2018
227	3 May 2018

### Appendix B: Attendance of members at Panel meetings

Member	Meeting number				
	223	224	225	226	227
Professor Andrew Dart (Chair)	*	*	*	*	*
Ms Belinda Lucas (Deputy Chair)	*	A	A	*	A
Dr Mike Fleming	*	A	*	*	*
Professor Annemarie Hennessy	*	A	*	*	*
Professor Robert Mulley	A	*	A	*	*
Mr David O'Shannessy	*	*	*	A	N/A
Professor Jacqueline Phillips	A	*	*	*	A
Dr Peter Rolfe	A	*	*	A	*
Dr Sophie Riley	*	*	*	A	*
Ms Paula Wallace	*	*	*	A	*
Dr Christina Zhu	*	*	*	*	A
Ms Sally Bannerman	*	*	A	A	A

\* = Present

A = Absent

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## Appendix C: Dates of Inspections July 2017 – June 2018

Dates
04/07/17
05/07/17
25/07/17
03/08/17
09/08/17
24/10/17
25/10/17
26/10/17
27/10/17
31/08/17
06/09/17
11/09/17
14/09/17
18/09/17
20/09/17
12/10/17
02/11/17
16/11/17
23/11/17
12/12/17
14/12/17
28/02/18
19/03/18
05/04/18
09/04/18
05/02/18

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07/02/18

13/02/18

27/03/18

23/04/18

21/05/18

28/05/18

01/06/18

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14/05/18

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13/06/18

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20/06/18

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#### Appendix D: Attendance of Panel members at site inspections 2017–18

Member	Days
Professor Andrew Dart (Chair)	1
Ms Belinda Lucas (Deputy Chair)	3
Ms Sally Bannerman	4
Dr Mike Fleming	3
Professor Annemarie Hennessy	-
Professor Robert Mulley	3
Mr David O'Shannessy	2
Professor Jacqueline Phillips	5
Dr Peter Rolfe	1
Dr Sophie Riley	3
Ms Paula Wallace	2
Dr Christina Zhu	3

## Appendix E: Animal Research Review Panel Strategic Plan July 2017 – June 2020

\* Numbers on the right refer to items from 2017/18 Animal Research Review Panel Operational Plan that address the strategies.

<b>Goals and Strategies</b>	
<b>Goal 1: Effective and efficient implementation of the statutory requirements of the Animal Research Act 1985, the Animal Research Regulation 2010 and the <i>Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes</i> .</b>	
1.1 Maintain a system to accredit and licence all establishments and individuals in NSW conducting research and teaching using animals.	1.1
1.2 Maintain a programme of site visits to effectively monitor compliance with the legislation.	2
1.3 Review the methods of conducting site visits and documentation of these methods on a regular basis to help ensure high standards of efficiency, effectiveness and consistency.	
1.4 Identify and implement adjuncts to inspections to better ensure compliance with the legislation.	2.5 3
1.5 Monitor compliance with the Act, Regulation and Code with respect to the conduct of animal research and teaching and the supply of animals for research and teaching.	1 2
1.6 Active participation in national reviews of the Code to ensure that it is effective in regulating the conduct of animal research and teaching and the supply of animals for research and teaching.	
1.7 Prepare an annual report to Parliament on the operations and achievements of the Animal Research Review Panel.	1.4
1.8 Maintain and review the system for collection and analysis of statistics on animal use for research and teaching, to ensure that it provides useful information which accurately reflects the use of animals, without imposing an undue administrative burden on institutions or Government.	1.5 5.1
1.9 Maintain a system for receiving and investigating complaints relating to the requirements of the legislation.	1.2
1.10 Provide opportunities to the research, teaching, veterinary, animal welfare and lay communities to provide feedback on the activities of the Animal Research Review Panel and respond appropriately.	2 3
1.11 Maintain a system to consider and make recommendations on applications for permission to carry out LD50 tests.	1.3
<b>Goal 2: The principles, processes and responsibilities in the <i>Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes</i> are actively embraced by all involved wherever animals are used.</b>	
2.1 Promote an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of institutions in supporting the effective operation of their AECs.	1 2 3 4
2.2 Promote an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of institutions in actively pursuing programmes for researchers and teachers that underpin their responsibilities under the Code.	1 2 3 4
2.3 Ensure there is effective participation by researchers and teachers, veterinarians, animal	1

welfare representatives and independent representatives in a formal review of the justification and merit for all proposals for the use of animals for scientific purposes.	2 3
2.4 Promote and foster interaction between AECs and researchers/teachers.	2 3 4
2.5 Promote an appreciation of the ethos underpinning the Code through visits and all communications from the Animal Research Review Panel to institutions, AECs, researchers/teachers and animal care staff.	2 3 4
2.6 Promote an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of AECs through encouraging participation in AEC training programmes.	1 2 3 4
2.7 By identifying problems and suggesting remedies, provide assistance to institutions, AECs and researchers/teachers to ensure that the principles, processes and responsibilities in the Code are actively embraced.	1 2 3 4
2.8 Promote discussion and understanding of key technical and ethical issues and foster interaction between AECs.	1 2 3 4
2.9 Review the membership and operation of individual AECs to ensure they are operating effectively.	1.1 2
2.10 Develop and promulgate evidence-based guidelines to assist AECs, researchers and teachers to effectively implement the 3Rs.	4
2.11 Promote a critical review of the operation of AECs by the institution with a view to maximising their effectiveness.	2 4
<b>Goal 3: Researchers and teachers considering using animals are aware of and actively apply the principals set out in the Act, Regulation and the <i>Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes</i>.</b>	
3.1 Promote an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of researchers/teachers through participation in education programmes, to foster an awareness of ethical and scientific issues and the implementation of the 3Rs.	3 4
3.2 Maintain the "Animal Ethics Infolink" website as a resource for AECs, researchers and teachers and members of the community.	3.1
<b>Goal 4: Methods that complement or replace animal use are used wherever possible.</b>	
4.1 Encourage AECs critically to assess the adequacy of researchers'/teachers' attempts to identify alternatives to animal use.	2 3
4.2 Encourage greater awareness of the use of alternatives to animals in research and teaching.	2 3
4.3 Collate and disseminate information on alternatives to animal use.	3
4.4 Promote consideration of funding for development and validation of alternatives.	
<b>Goal 5: Procedures involving animals are regularly reviewed and refined to minimise the number of animals required and to reduce the impact on individual animals.</b>	
5.1 Encourage a critical review of the design of projects before applications are submitted to AECs.	2 3 4

5.2 Ensure close scrutiny by AECs of breeding programmes to minimise overproduction of animals.	1 2 3 4
5.3 Ensure close scrutiny by AECs of the competence of researchers to carry out specific procedures.	1 2 3 4
5.4 Promote the critical evaluation of the monitoring of animals being used in procedures.	1 2 3 4
5.5 Promote the critical evaluation by AECs and researchers of the impact of the type of housing / holding on experimental animals and awareness of its implications for experimental results.	1 2 3 4
<b>Goal 6: When animals are used in research and teaching, their well-being is promoted and there is the anticipation, prompt recognition and alleviation of pain and distress.</b>	
6.1 Promote the implementation of strategies which will foster the well-being of animals and which will foster the development of appropriate risk management assessments related to pain and distress in animals.	1 2 3 4
6.2 Ensure that AECs and researchers/teachers focus on the possible impact of procedures at the planning stage and implement appropriate strategies for monitoring and alleviation.	1 2 3 4
6.3 Promote awareness by researchers / teachers and animal care staff of signs of well-being, pain and distress in animals.	2 3 4
6.4 Promote the use of appropriate analgesia and anaesthesia by facilitating access by researchers/teachers to information resources.	2 3 4
6.5 Promote awareness of the effects of handling and other interactions with humans on levels of pain and distress and the use of strategies to minimise adverse impacts.	2 3 4
6.6 Monitor and identify deficiencies in anticipation, recognition and relief of pain and distress during site visits and ensure deficiencies are rectified, including by provision of pre-operative analgesia where appropriate.	2
<b>Goal 7: High standards of housing and routine care are established for animals used in research and teaching.</b>	
7.1 Evaluate housing and routine care through the ongoing site visit programme and assessment of applications for Accreditation and Animal Supply Licence.	1 2
7.2 Develop and disseminate evidence based guidelines for housing and routine care.	4
7.3 Actively participate in the development and review of appropriate national and international standards for housing and routine care.	
<b>Goal 8: Animals used are supplied in accord with the legislation</b>	
8.1 Identify areas of non-compliance through scrutiny of records during site visits and investigation of complaints.	1.2 2
8.2 Develop and disseminate appropriate educational material.	3 4
<b>Goal 9: The community (research, teaching, veterinary, animal welfare and lay) has access to information about animal use for research and teaching in NSW.</b>	

9.1 Provide information in the annual report on ARRП activities and achievement and areas of concern to the Animal Research Review Panel.	1.4
9.2 Publish collated statistics on animal use on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.	1.5 5.1
9.3 Identify options for disseminating information about specific issues of interest and concern both broadly and to specific groups (researchers, teachers, veterinarians, animal welfare, lay).	3 4
9.4 Review and maintain a web site for the dissemination of information.	3.1
9.5 Provide opportunities for and encourage the community (researchers, teachers, veterinarians, animal welfare, lay) to have an input into legislative review, development of standards for housing and care and policy development.	3 4
9.6 Ensure that information about animal use provided by the Animal Research Review Panel is in lay terms where appropriate.	
9.7 Encourage institutions to provide information about their animal use direct to the general community.	
<b>Goal 10: The approach to administration of animal research and teaching is harmonised between State and Territory regulatory and funding bodies.</b>	
10.1 Promote interaction between State and Territory regulatory and funding bodies.	

## Appendix F: Animal Research Review Panel Operational Plan July 2017 – June 2018

Activity	Measure of Performance	Time Frame	Status
<b>1. Mandatory</b>			
1.1 Review incoming applications for accreditation and licence	Recommendation to the Secretary	3 months (new) 2 months (renewal)	Applications reviewed.
1.2 Investigate formal and informal complaints	Recommendation to the Secretary or NSW DPI as required	Interim or final recommendations within 3 months	Complaints investigated and recommendations made.
1.3 Review incoming applications to conduct LD50 tests	Recommendations to the Minister	3 months	Applications reviewed and recommendations to Minister.
1.4 Prepare annual report for 2016-2017	Report submitted to the Minister	December 2017	Report submitted December 17.
1.5 Prepare statistics on animal use for 2016	Statistics collated	December 2017	Statistics collated and published.
<b>2. Inspections / Monitoring</b>			
2.1 Conduct site visits of accredited animal research establishments on a 4 yearly basis (for those establishments in-State, active and with own AEC)	Number of establishments inspected	Ongoing	20
	Number of days for inspections		36
2.2 Inspect new establishments applying for accreditation prior to or within 6 months of accreditation (for those establishments in-State, active and with own AEC)	Number of new establishments inspected	Ongoing	0
2.3 Review and send inspection reports	Reports sent	Within 3 months of inspection	Reports sent
2.4 Follow up “problems” identified at inspection or on review of applications for accreditation or licence	Problems rectified	Within 12 months	Problems followed up as per “Site inspection/ Accreditation responses” section of ARRП agendas.

2.5 Assessment of 2016 AEC annual reports	Assessment carried out	December 2017	2016 reports assessed and feedback provided to establishments.
2.6 Assess qualifications of new AEC members	Recommendations to the Secretary	Ongoing	Qualifications assessed and recommendations made to Secretary.
<b>3. Education</b>			
3.1 Maintain ARRP website	Site maintained	Ongoing	Some website pages maintained. Revisions required.
3.2 Disseminate information via the Animal Welfare email circular	Information included in the circulars	Ongoing	Circulars sent on a needs basis.
3.3 Animal Ethics Seminar	To consider for a future year.	Ongoing	On hold.
<b>4. Policies and guidelines</b>			
4.1 Develop policies/ guidelines where strong need identified (maximum of 2 )	Developed as need identified. GL: Rehoming developed	June 18	Rehoming guideline in progress.
4.3 Revise current policies and guidelines	Continue programme of revision. P3: Procedures Prohibited under POCTA P4: Non-Research Animals at Accredited Animal Research Establishments P12: Frequency of Animal Ethics Committee Meetings G3. Individuals and Institutions Engaged in Collaborative Research P10: Emergency procedures P13: Inspections by AECs	Ongoing December 2017 December 2017 December 17 June 18 June 18 June 18	P3: Revised December 2017 P4: Revised December 2017 P12: Not revised G3: Revised May 18 P10: Not revised P13: Not revised
<b>5. Additional</b>			
5.1 Consider revised statistics collection package	Package considered for approval	Once package developed by NSW DPI	Revised collection format approved.
5.2 Commonwealth – cosmetic testing ban	Consider legislation amendments	Schedule dependent on action by Commonwealth to progress ban	Not progressed by Federal Government.

### Appendix G: Animal Research Review Panel expenses

**Note:** The following figures do not include the time and costs incurred by individual Panel members—and met at their own expense—for work such as planning for the AEC members meeting, and input into the development of guidelines. In addition, support provided to members by their employing establishments (for example: salaries paid by government departments for their employees' time spent on Panel business) is not included in the figures.

Fees and retainers	<b>3,950</b>
Travel and subsistence	<b>508</b>
Stores (including catering) and printing	<b>2,110</b>
Freight and postage	<b>845</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,413</b>

## Appendix H: ARRP policies and guidelines

(Available from <http://www.animaethics.org.au> )

### Policies

2. Payment of External Members of Animal Ethics Committees (revised May 2017)
3. Procedures Prohibited under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (revised December 2017)
4. Non-Research Animals at Accredited Animal Research Establishments (revised December 2017)
5. Annual Reporting by Animal Ethics Committees to Accredited Animal Research Establishments (revised 24/1/2014)
- 5A. Accredited Animal Research Establishment Support for Animal Ethics Committees (revised 8/5/2014)
6. Differentiation between animal research and veterinary treatment (revised 8/5/2014)
8. Establishment of Protocols for Grievance Procedures (revised 16/12/14)
9. Criteria for Assessment of Animal Ethics Committee Membership (revised 16/12/14)
10. Emergency Procedures
11. Formal Agreements between Accredited Research Establishments sharing Animal Ethics Committees
12. Frequency of Animal Ethics Committee Meetings
13. Inspections by Animal Ethics Committees
14. The use of restricted drugs and the conduct of restricted acts of veterinary science in animal research (revised 27/2/2014)
15. Orientation of New Members of Animal Ethics Committees
16. Conflict of Interest with Membership of Animal Ethics Committees

### Guidelines

1. Opportunistic Research on Free-Living Wildlife

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2. Captive Wildlife
  3. Individuals and Institutions Engaged in Collaborative Research (revised May 2018)
  4. Use of Animals in Post-graduate Surgical Training
  5. Collection of Voucher Specimens
  6. Use of Pitfall Traps
  7. The Use of Feral Animals in Research
  8. Teaching Artificial Insemination and Pregnancy Testing in Cattle
  9. Radio Tracking in Wildlife Research
  10. Wildlife Surveys (revised 13/1/15)
  11. Guidelines for Tick Serum Producers
  12. Animal Research Model Application Form
  13. Guidelines for the Production of Monoclonal Antibodies
  14. Guidelines for the Care and Housing of Dogs in Scientific Institutions
  15. Blood Collection
  16. Supervision of Animal Supply by Animal Ethics Committees
  17. Training Personnel
  18. Guidelines for the Housing of Rabbits in Scientific Institutions
  19. Teaching Cervical or Vaginal Artificial Insemination of Sheep
  20. Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Institutions
  21. Guidelines for the Housing of Guinea Pigs in Scientific Institutions
  22. Guidelines for the Housing of Mice in Scientific Institutions (April 2012)
  23. Guidelines for the Housing of Sheep in Scientific Institutions
  24. Consideration of high impact projects by Animal Ethics Committees (December 2015)
  25. Common issues encountered during inspections of animal research establishments (January 2017)
  26. Animal Ethics Committee reporting and amendment application templates (May 2017)

### **Appendix I: Standard conditions for Accreditation and Animal Supply Licence**

The following are standard conditions that are placed on establishments Accredited as Animal Research Establishments and Licenced as Animal Suppliers, if relevant to their activities. Additional conditions are added on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Accreditation**

That any site inspection is satisfactory.

Details of changes to Animal Ethics Committee membership (including the qualifications of new members and the categories to which they are appointed) must be provided to the Animal Welfare Unit of the NSW Department of Primary Industries within 30 days of membership changes. The revised composition of the AEC must meet the approval of the Secretary, Department of Industry.

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Rabbits should be housed in groups in pens. Rabbits may only be housed in cages with the express permission of the AEC on the basis of compelling evidence for the need to use such housing. Lack of space or facilities for pens should not be considered sufficient justification for the use of cages. Where rabbits are held in cages, these cages should be enriched by methods such as pair housing in double cages. (*Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes Clauses 3.1.5, 3.1.6, 3.2.13*) (See ARRPP Guideline 18: Guidelines for the Housing of Rabbits in Scientific Institutions (<https://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/animal-care> ))

Unless otherwise approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, animals should be housed in accordance with the ARRPP guidelines on animal housing for specific species found at: <http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/animal-care>.

Unless precluded by the requirements of specific projects, chickens should be provided with housing that meets their behavioural needs including straw or other suitable bedding to cover the floors of cages, perches and dust bathing substrate.

Dogs should be housed in accordance with ARRPP Guideline 14: Guidelines for the Care and Housing of Dogs in Scientific Institutions (<http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/animal-care> ).

The Establishment must comply with NHMRC Principles and guidelines for the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics/animal-research-ethics/use-non-human-primates-scientific-purposes>

Housing for cats must include:

- A minimum floor area (not including shelves) of 1.5m<sup>2</sup>/ per cat and a minimum height of 2.0m.
- Shelves to enable cats to sit at varying heights must be provided.

In addition to these requirements, facilities for cats must at least meet the guidelines of the Council of Europe (2006) Appendix A. (<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/PDF/123-Arev.pdf> ).

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee ducks must be provided with access to water to enable bathing behaviour (see Council of Europe (2006) Appendix A <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/PDF/123-Arev.pdf> ).

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, pigs should be provided with a solid floored area with bedding material for rooting and resting. (See Council of Europe Appendix A: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/PDF/123-Arev.pdf> ).

Unless otherwise approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, wildlife studies should be carried out in accordance with the ARRPP guidelines on wildlife research found at: <http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/wildlife-research> .

Animals (other than exempt animals) may only be obtained from a licensed animal supplier (see <http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/animal-supply> ).

It is essential that the AEC members are provided with a copy of the inspection report of {date} and that the AEC is involved in the assessment of, and provision of responses to, the conditions, recommendations and observations contained in this report.  
(*Added after inspection*)

A response to conditions {xx} of the inspection report of {date} must be provided to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by {date—within 3 months of inspection report being sent}.  
(*Added after inspection*)

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## **Animal Supply Licence**

That any site inspection is satisfactory.

The documented procedures and methods of record keeping, as required under clauses 2.5.11, 2.5.12, 2.5.15 (vii) and 3.2.2 of the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, must be submitted by the supply unit to the AEC for approval.

To assist in monitoring the management of breeding colonies, the supply unit must provide regular reports to the AEC, for review, on the fertility, fecundity, morbidity and mortality of all breeding colonies. The frequency of such reports should be at least 6 monthly and more often if determined necessary by the AEC.

To help ensure that overproduction is avoided, the supply unit must provide regular reports to the AEC, for review, on the number of animals culled and the reasons for these numbers. The frequency of such reports should be at least 6 monthly and more often if determined necessary by the AEC.

Any breeding which involves animals which have been the subject of genetic modification (involving the introduction of foreign DNA into cells or whole animals) must comply with clauses 2.4.26, 2.4.27 and 3.3.24 of the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*.