

Animal Ethics Newsletter

July 2009

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NHMRC

ANZCCART

IRMA

Introduction

This information is aimed at staff and students associated with the use of animals for scientific purposes at Murdoch University.

Please pass this newsletter to any interested colleagues or students who may not have received it.

The newsletter will be sent by email on a regular basis to assist investigators to keep their knowledge of animal ethics current.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletters, please ask to be deleted from the list.

New Form - Notification of unexpected animal death or euthanasia

The AEC must be notified within 2 working days if any animal becomes terminally ill or dies unexpectedly. Researchers undertaking fieldwork are not exempt from this requirement.

To assist this process, a notification form has been introduced. This form should be used for any unexpected animal deaths or euthanasia. The form is available at the 'form tab' on the animal ethics website or via this [link Animal Ethics Forms](#).

As this is a new form, the Animal Ethics Committee welcomes your feedback.

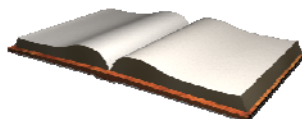
AEC Operating Statement

The Operating Statement of the Animal Ethics Committee is now available from the website. This document provides background information regarding committee structure and decision making processes and brings together all of the active resolutions of the committee.

Go to the "Committee" page of the website or click [here](#).

Handbook for New Investigators

If you are new to the area of animal use for scientific purposes, it can be difficult to remember all the rules, regulations and requirements. You will find a lot of supporting information on our website. For those who prefer a booklet, we have prepared printed copies of the relevant information.



This is an easy to read, ready reference handbook. If you would like one, please email animal.ethics@murdoch.edu.au and request a copy.

Revision of the Code of Practice

The 7th version of the *Australian Code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (the Code) has been in place since 2004. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) have advised that



review for the 8th edition has begun.

Formal submissions have not yet been called from institutions; however, we expect to begin making recommendations within the next few months. As an investigator directly affected by the requirements of the Code, your feedback is important. We suggest that you make note of areas of the Code that you would like changed, strengthened, removed or clarified, in readiness for Murdoch University's formal submission later this year.

Conferences

- **ISAE** (International Society for Applied Ethology) – 6 – 10 July 2009, Cairns.
- **ANZCART** (Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching) – "AEC Best Practice": 28-30 July 2009, Port Douglas.
- **ANZLAA** (Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association) – 1–3 September, New Zealand.

Training sessions

Information and training sessions are run on a regular basis to assist investigators.

- **Tips for Successful AEC Applications:** Held on the last Friday of every month (depending on numbers). RSVP essential. Approx 2 hours.
- **Introduction to Animal Ethics Regulatory requirements:** Held on an as-needs basis. (Minimum 3 participants).

Interstate and Overseas Research

Investigators are reminded that the licence held by Murdoch University allowing the use of animals for research and teaching (scientific purposes) is only valid for animals located within Western Australia.

If you wish to conduct research (or teaching) on animals located interstate in Australia, the university is required to obtain accreditation and a licence to use animals for scientific purposes in that state. The Research Ethics Office will provide assistance to meet this requirement. Please be aware that the process can take up to 2 – 4 months. Please notify us as early as possible when animal use interstate is anticipated. AEC approval for the work cannot be finalised until this requirement is met.

If you wish to conduct research (or teaching) on animals located overseas, the university may be required to obtain accreditation and a licence, depending on each country's animal welfare legislation. If it is required, this process can take 4 – 5 months. When you submit your application to the AEC, remember to include evidence of how animal welfare will be maintained to the standard of the Australian Code, whether the project has approval from a local AEC (or equivalent), how you intend to monitor the animal welfare and (where possible) photographs of the animal handling or housing facility.

Animal Ethics on IRMA

You may be aware that the Division of Research and Development has purchased a new database called Integrated Research Management Applications (IRMA). It has many modules: Publications is currently in use, Grants is about to launch and Animal Ethics is scheduled for release around November this year. We appreciate that this will be a busy time of the year for investigators and will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. For further information, visit the [IRMA website](#)

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