 <b>MONASH University</b> Animal Ethics, Monash Research Office Phone : (03) 9905 5121 or (03) 9905 9907 Facsimile : (03) 9905 3866 E-mail : <a href="mailto:animal.ethics@adm.monash.edu.au">animal.ethics@adm.monash.edu.au</a> Web Site : <a href="http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/">http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/</a>	<b>Title</b>	Animal Welfare Update
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- This newsletter contains information that is essential for Monash University personnel using animals for research and teaching.
- If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please respond and ask to be deleted.
- Please pass to any interested colleagues / students.
- Queries or comments to the Monash AEO contact details above.

### Abbreviations:

AEC – Animal Ethics Committee

BAW – Bureau of Animal Welfare

NHMRC – National Health and Medical Research Council

Code of Practice – Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes

POCTA – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

MU – Monash University

MUAWC - Monash University Animal Welfare Committee

AEO – Animal Ethics Office, Monash Research Office

## 2. MONASH INFORMATION SESSIONS / TRAINING

### 2.1 REGULATORY ISSUES, ANIMAL CARE & USE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT MONASH UNIVERSITY (FULL DAY), Semester 1, 2009 – Tuesday 24 February 2009

The information session is aimed at


- Monash Students who will be using animals in research and teaching
- New Monash staff who have not attended any previous animal ethics training

Information sessions on

- Ethical & legal responsibilities regarding the use of animals in research & teaching at Monash University
- Occupational Health and Safety issues of using animals
- Animal biology / Introduction to pain, distress, monitoring, analgesia and euthanasia
- Experimental Design

Attendance is **compulsory** for new Monash students and staff who are using animals in research and teaching. No charge to attend.

Register at <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/moreinfo/training.html>

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## 2.2 “UNDERSTANDING YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ANIMAL USE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT MONASH UNIVERSITY” (ONE HOUR)

The information session is aimed at

- Researchers who have recently joined Monash University and are not familiar with the legal responsibilities and structure of Monash University regarding animal ethics and welfare.
- Researchers who wish to update their knowledge of current animal ethics legislation and compliance, and common causes of breaches.

Will be run twice in 2009. Dates to be announced.

## 2.3 WRITING SUCCESSFUL MONASH ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS

The Monash University Animal Ethics Office provides assistance and advice with preparation of animal ethics applications.

Contact details above.

## 2.4 PRACTICAL TRAINING MODULES - Monash Animal Services

- Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
- Rat Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
- Surgical Techniques in Rodents
- Rodent Anaesthesia (new in 2009)

There is no charge to attend. Places limited, register early.

More information at <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/moreinfo/training.html>

Wednesday 25 February 2009	Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Friday 27 February 2009	Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Friday 6 March 2009	Rat Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Wednesday 11 March 2009	Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Friday 13 March 2009	Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Wednesday 18 March 2009	Rodent Anaesthesia
Friday 20 March 2009	Rodent Anaesthesia
Wednesday 25 March 2009	Surgical Techniques in Rodents
Friday 3 April 2009	Surgical Techniques in Rodents

## 3. 2008 ANIMAL USE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 BUREAU OF ANIMAL WELFARE (BAW) 2008 ANNUAL RETURN


The 2008 BAW Annual Return spreadsheet and explanatory documents are available at:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/approval/annual.html>

Time frame - The BAW spreadsheet must be completed and returned to your AEC Secretary by the 13 February 2009.

Note:

- The BAW **will** be imposing fines for late BAW returns.
- All animal use for scientific purposes must be reported in the BAW Return · All specified animals (rats, mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and non-human primates) that have been bred and/or held in 2008 must be reported separately from animals used in Research and Teaching.
- All specified animals to be reported to the BAW and AEC once only – either used for breeding or research and teaching.
- A report is required for each project; even if zero animals were used for the project in 2008 (i.e. “Null Returns” for 2008 must be reported to the AEC).
- Location: animals participating in projects conducted in Victoria or Victorian waters only are to be reported. Animals in project conducted interstate under interstate licences must be reported to the interstate regulatory bodies.
- The Guidelines state “Column D. AEC approval number. The project number assigned by the AEC. For Specified Animal Breeding Colony animals enter "SABC" (Specified Animal Breeding Colony).” Where a Breeding Colony approval number or SOP number has been assigned, this number should be used.

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### 3.2 MONASH ANNUAL AND COMPLETED PROJECT REPORTS

The Monash Annual and Completed Projects report form for 2008 is available from the web at: <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/approval/annual.html>

Time Frame - Monash Annual Report to the AEC Secretary by 13 February 2009 and Completed Project Report within six months of the completion of a project.

**Note:**

All specified animals (rats, mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and non-human primates) that have been bred in 2008 must be reported using either the Monash Research Annual Report or the Monash Breeding Colony Annual Report.

Any projects approved to start during the year 2008 will require a Monash annual report even if no animals have been used.

If ethics approval is given for multiple mouse strains or ages then the Annual report must give a breakdown of animal use as shown in the application form.

To use copy & paste function in the form, ensure that the form is unlocked using the lock icon on the forms toolbar.

The CI is the CI approved by the AEC.

Failure to submit the required reports by the stipulated deadline may lead to suspension of approval of the project. The Committee may also exercise its right to withhold approval for new applications while project reports on previously approved projects are outstanding.

### RESEARCHERS ONLINE PROJECTS ENQUIRY SYSTEM (ROPES)

Previously reported animal use details are available in ROPES to assist with Monash Annual Reporting for 2008. <https://my.monash.edu.au/teaching-and-research/research/ropes/>

If you have any queries regarding 2008 reporting, please contact us.

## 4. BUREAU OF ANIMAL WELFARE

### 4.1. AEC NEWSLETTER

AEC Newsletter, Issue 14, December 2008

Available from <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/administration/bawnewsletters.html>

### 4.2 AUDITING

In addition to the routine triennial audits, the Bureau of Animal Welfare will be conducting at short notice more tailored audits examining areas of community concern or poor compliance. Focus topics of these specialised audits in 2009 include surgical competency, anaesthetic practice and post-operative recovery.

The Bureau will also be conducting occasional visits to animal and scientific facilities on little or no notice. The purpose of these visits is to allow the Bureau to inspect animals and talk to staff during the normal working day.

### 4.3 THE VICTORIAN PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS REGULATIONS 2008 - UPDATED

Summary of changes pertinent to animal use in research and teaching.

- Scientific procedures using live adult decapod crustaceans (crabs, lobster and crayfish only) now require animal ethics approval.
- The monthly record-keeping requirements for specified animals held at licensed premises have been extended to include all species of animal held at licensed premises.
- The use of 'fieldwork notifications' for scientific procedures performed at other scientific premises has changed. The holder of a Scientific Procedures Premises Licence cannot allow scientific procedures to be performed on scientific premises which are not already listed on the licence unless this is first notified to the Bureau of Animal Welfare.


## 5. NHMRC

### 5.1 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY PRODUCTION

Available from [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health\\_ethics/animal/issues.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health_ethics/animal/issues.htm)

The guidelines were initially issued by the NHMRC in 2001 and were reviewed in 2008 and issued by the NHMRC on 7 December 2008.

The use of the ascites method for MAb production has the potential to cause significant pain and distress to animals and in nearly all cases the *in vitro* method is an equally viable method. For the ascites method to be

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approved by the AEC, the 2008 Guidelines require that *in vitro* methods have been shown to be unsuitable for production of specific Mab has to be verified by an independent institution with expertise in the *in vitro* production of MAbs.

A completed "Application for *in vivo* production of monoclonal antibodies" form with full supporting documentation must be submitted by the investigator before the matter can be considered by the AEC.

This form is available from

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/approval/app-forms/index.html>.

## 5.2 GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE THE WELLBEING OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES BLOOD SAMPLING

The NHMRC "Guidelines to promote the wellbeing of animals used for scientific purposes: The assessment and alleviation of pain and distress in research animals" no longer permit tail-tipping as a method for collecting blood samples. The Monash Animal Ethics Office has asked for further clarification from the NHMRC but in the interim advises AECs to evaluate each application on a case by case basis.

"All forms of blood collection via mutilation, including the transection of blood vessels and the amputation of toes, are inhumane and therefore unacceptable."

The Monash AEO has spare hard copies of the guidelines. To request a copy contact us.

## 6. INTERSTATE RESEARCH - LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Researchers who wish to conduct animal research in States and Territories other than Victoria must meet the particular State/Territory licensing requirements. If your work involves the use of animals interstate or overseas you must contact the Animal Ethics Office immediately as there may be a requirement for additional state licencing to be undertaken by the Monash University. Your ethics approval from Monash University does not automatically allow you to conduct research in other Australian States and it may require further approval from an animal ethics committee of the other state. This can be a lengthy and expensive process, contact us for further advice.

## 7. INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS

### (i) INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT FOR NOMINATION OF ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Institutes that have insufficient activity to justify establishing their own AEC may nominate a Monash University AEC on their Scientific Licence.

The Code permits for individuals who, or organisations that, do not have direct access to an institutional Animal Ethics Committee ("AEC"), yet require AEC approval before proceeding to use animals for scientific purposes, to approach an AEC. Non-Monash organisations with a Victorian Scientific License may use a Monash AEC for approval for animal use in research and teaching provided the inter-institutional agreement has been signed by both parties.

### (ii) INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT FOR DELEGATION OF ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Institutes/Investigators that have insufficient facilities for holding certain animals and/or equipment to conduct scientific procedures in their own institute may wish to conduct part or all of the project at a Monash University premises.

Non-Monash personnel operating under an Victorian Scientific License and having AEC approval from their own institute may wish to use a Monash University premises to conduct scientific procedures on animals and/or wish to house animal(s) at Monash University Animal Facilities. This is an agreement where the Monash AEC assumes responsibility for the monitoring of the animal facility where experimentation and/or housing is taking place at Monash University premises.

Please discuss with the Monash AEO or your AEC.


Inter-Institutional Agreements are now available from the Monash AEO website at

<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/administration/interinstitutional.html>

## 8. ADDING THE NEW ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORY (STRIP) TO YOUR ETHICS

If you are transferring your animals to the new facility you must let your AEC know using the "Request for Minor Amendment to Approved project Form". You can use one form for multiple projects to be transferred to the new facility.

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/approval/minoramendment.html>

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## 9. WHOM TO CONTACT IF ANIMALS DIE UNEXPECTEDLY?

If animals die unexpectedly please contact the Monash Animal Services Laboratory Animal Veterinarians to discuss if a post-mortem is necessary.

Note it is a requirement of animal ethics approval to immediately inform the AEC of unexpected or adverse effects which impact on the welfare of the animals

Monash Animal Services Laboratory Animal Veterinarians Dr Christine MacKay (Monday – Wednesday) or Dr Anne Gibbon (Wednesday – Friday)

Phone: 990 54851 Email: [MAS.Vet@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAS.Vet@adm.monash.edu.au)

## 10. SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### RSCPA Seminar

Animals & Human Health

RSCPA Australia Scientific Seminar 2009, Tuesday 24 February

CSIRO Discovery Centre, Canberra

**Animal Welfare Science Centre Seminars** - <http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/>

DPI Vic, DPI Lecture Theatre, 475 Mickleham Road, Attwood. RSVP [jskuse@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jskuse@unimelb.edu.au)

Effects of Handling Procedures and Transport Conditions on Welfare and Meat Quality of Pigs

Wednesday 11 March, 1.45pm – 3.00pm

Lecture Theatre 421, The University of Melbourne, 234 Queensberry Street (4th Floor)

Prof. Tina Widowski, University of Guelph, Canada <http://www.uoguelph.ca/abw/twidowski/index.shtml>

### Bureau of Animal Welfare Animal Ethics Committee Training

475 Mickleham Road, Attwood

#### New AEC members

March 20 - 1.30 to 5.30 pm

June 19 - 1.30 to 5.30 pm

October 20 - 1.30 to 5.30 pm

#### Advanced AEC training

Expressions of Interest required. Contact us if you are interested.

#### AEC Chairs Training

Expressions of Interest required. Contact us if you are interested.

### ANZCCART Conference – AEC Best Practice

28-30 July 2009 – Port Douglas

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/>

## 11. REFERENCES / READING

The Canadian Council on Animal Care Three Rs microsite aims to provide those involved with the use of animals in science with easily accessible, useful, and relevant information and resources on the Three Rs - Replacement, Reduction and Refinement alternatives. This microsite will be continually evolving.

<http://www.ccac.ca>.

## 12. HOW CAN THE AEO HELP?

The Monash AEO offers the following services;

- Information session on Understanding Your Legal Responsibilities and Animal Use in Research & Teaching at Monash University
- Assistance and advice on writing successful Monash Animal Ethics Applications – phone, email or in person
- Advice on animal ethics / welfare issues
- Information and help on the Monash AEO Web Site

<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/>