 MONASH University Animal Ethics, Monash Research Office Phone : (03) 9905 5121 or (03) 9905 9907 Facsimile : (03) 9905 3866 E-mail : animal.ethics@adm.monash.edu.au Web Site : http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/	Title	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
 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
 MUAWC - Monash University Animal Welfare Committee
 Monash AEO – Monash Animal Ethics Office


2. NHMRC - GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE THE WELLBEING OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES: THE ASSESSMENT & ALLEVIATION OF PAIN & DISTRESS IN RESEARCH ANIMALS 2008

These are essential guidelines that contain excellent information on general principles of wellbeing, pain and distress in animals and are to be utilised when writing / considering animal ethics applications. They contain information on euthanasia, blood sampling, surgery and administration of substances. Hard copies will be provided to all AEC members by the Monash AEO soon. Available from <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/ea18syn.htm>

3. SELF- AUDIT OF ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS - DUE 6 JUNE

The self-audit document was distributed to the Chief Investigator named on all pending and approved animal ethics applications on 13 May. The purpose of the audit is to highlight to the investigator any areas of potential non-compliance with the Code of Practice or POCTA Act and Regulations and to allow remedial action such as submitting reports or minor amendments to be undertaken. The reports were due on 6 June and late reports are being followed up.

Unfortunately many Researchers had various problems with the self audit document including opening, saving and submitting due to different computer types and default email settings. If the form won't submit through the submit button, it can either be saved and sent as an attachment or printed out and faxed or mailed.

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4. TRAINING

4.1 INFORMATION SESSIONS – IMPORTANT NEW SESSION FOR RESEARCHERS Investigator awareness of legislations regulating animals in scientific use

“Understanding your Legal Responsibilities and Animal Use in Research and Teaching at Monash University” (one hour)

The Monash AEO will be holding these information sessions for researchers to inform on the ethical and legal responsibilities regarding the use of animals in research and teaching at Monash University.

The information session is aimed at

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

Run first Friday each month from 2-3 pm.

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

Date
Friday 1 August 2008
Friday 5 September 2008
Friday 3 October 2008
Friday 7 November 2008
Friday 5 December 2008

“Regulatory Issues, Animal Care and Use in Research and Teaching at Monash University” (one day)

The Monash AEO holds these information sessions for students and staff twice a year to inform on:

- The ethical and legal responsibilities regarding the use of live animals in research and teaching at Monash University
- Occupational Health and Safety issues of using animals
- Animal biology
- Experimental Design
- Introduction to Pain, Distress, Monitoring, Analgesia & Euthanasia

Attendance is compulsory for new Monash students and staff who are using animals in scientific research and teaching.

The information session is aimed at”


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

The last session was held Tuesday 8 July 2008. Note there was no charge to attend this course or future courses.

What if I missed the course?

The Monash Animal Ethics Office recommends that students / staff who were unable to attend the compulsory theory module "Regulatory Issues, Animal Care and Use in Research and Teaching at Monash University"

- Contact Monash AEO and request a copy of the notes for this course.
- Review the CD Rom "Careful How You Hold Me" - Contact Monash AEO to borrow this CD ROM.
- Download and read the 7th Edition of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for scientific purposes – the main rulebook and guide for animal investigators.
<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/regguide/nhmrc.html#a1>
- Download and read the NHMRC Guidelines to Promote the Wellbeing of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes - <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/regguide/nhmrc.html>
- Familiarise yourself with the content of the Monash Animal Ethics website
- Attend the next full day program, Orientation Week, 2009. Date to be confirmed.

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4.2 WORKSHOP FOR WRITING SUCCESSFUL MONASH ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS

Do you need help with writing your animal ethics application? The Monash University Animal Ethics Office offers small workshops in preparing animal ethics applications step-by-step. You are given the opportunity to workshop your next animal ethics application in a small group setting. We explain and give examples of the what, why and how of a good application.

Run first Friday each month from 3-4 pm.

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

Date
Friday 1 August 2008
Friday 5 September 2008
Friday 3 October 2008
Friday 7 November 2008
Friday 5 December 2008

4.3 PRACTICAL TRAINING MODULES - Monash Animal Services

- Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
- Rat Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
- Surgical Techniques in Rodents

There is no charge to attend these courses but there is a waiting list.

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

5. BUREAU OF ANIMAL WELFARE

5.1 FEEDBACK REQUESTED - "THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HOUSING AND CARE OF LABORATORY MICE, RATS, GUINEA PIGS AND RABBITS"

This mandatory code is due for review. Preliminary feedback on this code regarding areas that may require updating or improvement is requested.

Please submit your comments to Monash AEO by 29 August for inclusion in a Monash response or to BAW yvette.chen@dpi.vic.gov.au by 30 September.

5.2 FEEDBACK REQUESTED - "THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR USE OF ANIMALS FROM MUNICIPAL POUNDS IN SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES"

This mandatory code is due for review. Preliminary feedback on this code and the issue of use of animals from Pounds in scientific procedures and teaching is requested.

Please submit your comments to Monash AEO by 29 August for inclusion in a Monash response or to BAW yvette.chen@dpi.vic.gov.au by 30 September.

5.3 BAW - ANIMALS IN SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES NEWSLETTER ISSUE 13, JULY 2008

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

5.4 IMPORTANT – BAW AUDITING OF ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS

The BAW audits our AECs and Animal Facilities at least every three years. It is expected that Investigators are aware of their legal and compliance obligations including mandatory Codes and know how to assess for pain and distress in the species they are working with. As part of the process, BAW randomly audit a number of approved animal ethics applications and interview investigators as well as inspecting records of anaesthesia, analgesia, monitoring, drugs, humane end-points, and authorised personnel in the applications.

In particular

- Each room/field work site where animals are held/used/observed must be listed on the animal ethics application form
- If the protocol has a condition (e.g. pilot experiment and/or to be monitored) that it must be met
- All procedures (e.g. injections, surgery, blood collections, analgesia, anaesthesia, euthanasia, monitoring) must be recorded in laboratory notebook
- Any unexpected and/or adverse effects must be reported to Animal Ethics Committee immediately.

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- The species/strain/ages/numbers of animals must be consistent with those in the approved Animal Ethics Application
- Only animal procedures outlined in the approved application can be performed.
- Failure to perform a procedure outlined in the original application must be approved by the AEC eg not giving pain relief
- The approved analgesic and anaesthetic regimes must be adopted.
- The administration of drugs & chemicals to animals must be in accord with the approved project.
- Agreed end-points have been followed.
- Euthanasia must be conducted by approved personnel in the AEC approved standard.
- All personnel involved in animal use must be listed on the approved animal ethics applications. This includes any volunteers and animal facility staff.

Reference - BAW Principles of Record Keeping

Reference – BAW “Auditing of licenses and Animal Ethics Committees”

Available from the BAW website

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/childdocs/-180715ADC627966E4A256B750004BDD5-6166E48F26CF64DACA256EDD0082EDF1-7EB3AD34077BF913CA256D780013EFFC?open#auditing>

5.6 RECORD KEEPING WHEN THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR HAS LEFT THE ESTABLISHMENT

It is mandatory that records relating to animal use from past scientific procedures are available for inspection for up to 7 years after the finish of a research project. When researchers / students leave the establishment it is important that these records are retained by the establishment.

6. APPLICATION FORM

Application form updated - Genetically Manipulated information.

- OGTR Exempt Dealing (e.g. Animals with genetically modified somatic cells introduced)
- OGTR Notifiable Low Risk Dealing Physical Containment 1 (PC1) (e.g. Genetically modified mice and rats)
- OGTR Notifiable Low Risk Dealing Physical Containment 2 (PC2) (e.g. Genetically modified mice and rats with conferred advantage)
- Randomly induced mutation that not regulated by OGTR (e.g. Chemical mutagenesis, Ethyl Nitrosourea – ENU)
- Naturally occurring mutation (e.g. Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), Nude Mice)

Download the latest version from

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

7. SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

Bureau of Animal Welfare AEC Member Training – last session for 2008

Courses at DPI Offices, Attwood

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenfa.nsf/FID/-7EB3AD34077BF913CA256D780013EFFC?OpenDocument#ethics>

Fri 17 October 1:30-5:30

Bureau of Animal Welfare Annual Scientific Seminar Day

November 2008, date to be advised.

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

DPI Vic, Attwood, 475 Mickleham Road, Attwood

Public education


Date: Friday, 26th September, Time: 1.30pm – 5.00pm inc afternoon tea (RSVP before 19 Sept)

Speakers: Informed decisions on animal welfare - Grahame Coleman Head of the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, Monash University

Production Animals - Research Priorities

Date: Friday, 5th December, Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm inc afternoon tea (RSVP before 21 Nov)

Full program to be announced

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AAWS International Animal Welfare Conference

'The Welfare of Animals - A Universal Responsibility. AAWS - the Australian Approach'

31 August - 3 September 2008, Gold Coast, Queensland

http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/aaws_international_animal_welfare_conference

ANZLAA Annual Conference

3-5 September 2008, Sydney, New South Wales

<http://www.anzlaa.org/>

8. HOW CAN THE MONASH AEO HELP?

The Monash AEO offers the following services;

- Training in filling out the application form - Individual tutorial conducted in the animal ethics office - save time and frustration
- Advice (phone/email) on how to fill in the application form
- Advice on draft animal ethics applications - improve the passage through the AEC.
- Advice on animal ethics / welfare issues
- Information and help on the Monash AEO Web Site

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

Please call the Monash Animal Services Laboratory Animal Veterinarians Dr Christine MacKay (Monday – Wednesday) or Dr Anne Gibbon (Wednesday – Friday) for animal health / Veterinarian services. Phone: 990 54851 MAS.Vet@adm.monash.edu.au