 <b>MONASH University</b> Animal Ethics Office, 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  
 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  
 AEO – Animal Ethics Office

## 2. SELF- AUDIT OF ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS - DUE 6 JUNE


The self-audit document was discussed and approved by MUAWC at meeting 1/2008 held on 5 February 2008 and 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.

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. Apologies for the inconvenience and the lack of thorough testing of the document.

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.

The timing of the distribution of the self-audit was aimed at prompting submission of late 2007 Annual Reports to the AEC to reduce the amount of time spent in chasing late reports. Any problems meeting the 6 June deadline contact us for an extension.

The Manager, Ethics & Compliance may use the self-audit results to conduct verification audits of projects.

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### 3. TRAINING

#### 3.1 LABORATORY ANIMALS - "Regulatory Issues & Animal Welfare" Tuesday 8 July 2008.

Compulsory for new students and staff.

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

#### 3.2 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 but there is a waiting list.

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

#### 3.3 WORKSHOP FOR WRITING SUCCESSFUL MONASH ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS

Run first Friday each month.

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

Date
Friday 6 June 2008
Friday 4 July 2008
Friday 1 August 2008
Friday 5 September 2008
Friday 3 October 2008
Friday 7 November 2008
Friday 5 December 2008

#### 3.4 ON-LINE TRAINING (UK)

Assessing the Health and Welfare of Laboratory Animals has developed the following on-line tutorials:

- Practical Animal Handling – demonstrating procedures for handling small mammals
- Recognising post-operative pain in animals – an introduction of pain assessment in laboratory animals
- Basic assessment of laboratory animal health and welfare

<http://www.ahwla.org.uk/>

#### ON-LINE TRAINING PROGRAM (CANADA)

The Canadian Council for Animal Care have 12 web based modules covering core topics for all animal users.

[http://www.ccac.ca/en/CCAC\\_Programs/ETCC/Intro-coretopics-Web11.htm](http://www.ccac.ca/en/CCAC_Programs/ETCC/Intro-coretopics-Web11.htm)

#### TRAINING - CD ROM

Careful How You Hold - an insight into caring for laboratory animals. Melbourne University

The CD Rom covers the topics - Laws, Regulations and Codes of Practice / Husbandry / Anaesthesia, Aseptic Technique and Surgical Practice / Euthanasia, Autopsy and Disposal.

<http://eshowcase.unimelb.edu.au/eshowcase/FMPro?-db=eshowcase.fp5&-format=record%5fdetail.htm&-lay=web&-sortfield=product%5ftitle&Keywords=careful&-recid=120&-find=>

### 4. APPLICATION FORM

Very minor changes have been made. Download the latest version from

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

### 5. UNDERGRADUATE HANDBOOKS - ANIMAL ETHICS

The Monash Animal Ethics Office has produced a two page document – "Animal Welfare at Monash University - Ethical Guidelines for Students in Laboratory Classes involving the use of animals and animal tissues" to be used in notes / handouts for these classes.

If required request a copy from our office.

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## 6. HOLDING ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

The Monash Animal Ethics Office has produced an overview of the requirements that Researchers / Laboratory Managers must meet if they are holding / using live animals in laboratories for more than one hour. The Records of daily minimum/maximum temperatures and humidity must be kept, Air exchange, temperature, humidity, light and noise should be maintained within limits comply with "Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits" in the references section. For access to a light meter to measure lux levels contact us.

Overview at: <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/approval/holding-animals.html>

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

If animals die unexpectedly please contact the Monash Animal Services Laboratory Animal Veterinarians (contact details below) 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

## 8. FIVE FREEDOMS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

This approach was first formulated by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, a body set up by the UK government, in response to the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1968, to advise them on issues relating to farm animal welfare and to develop new standards for agricultural practice. However, the same approach is applicable to other types of animal use by humans, since the following Five Freedoms define the needs of animals which should be met under all circumstances:

### 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst -

- by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

### 2. Freedom from discomfort

- by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

### 3. Freedom from pain, and injury and disease

- by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

### 4. Freedom from fear and distress

- by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

### 5. Freedom to express normal behaviour

- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.


## 9. AVERTIN CAN CAUSE PERITONITIS IN RODENTS

Tribromoethanol (Avertin) has toxic breakdown products that if not stored properly can kill mice. Even when stored properly (or freshly made) it has been reported to cause peritonitis in mice (Zeller 1998) and rats (Reid 1999). In direct comparisons of ketamine-xylazine versus tribromoethanol, ketamine-xylazine was reported to cause no peritonitis, and to result in a comparable success rate in embryo transfer. (Zeller 1998).

References:

Reid WC, Carmichael KP, Srinivas S, Bryant JL. Pathologic changes associated with use of tribromoethanol (avertin) in the Sprague Dawley rat. *Lab Anim Sci* 1999 Dec; 49(6):665-7

Zeller W, Meier G, Burki K, Panoussis B Adverse effects of tribromoethanol as used in the production of transgenic mice. *Lab Anim* 1998 Oct;32(4):407-13

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## 10. COMMON MISTAKES THAT CAN LEAD TO A BREACH of the POCTA Act and Code of Practice

### STARTING BEFORE RECEIVING WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

- Must have written approval before beginning any animal research outlined in an application OR minor amendment.

### NOT REPORTING SICK ANIMALS

- MUST immediately inform AEC of unexpected or adverse effects which impact on the welfare of the animals
- Call the Monash Animal Services Clinical Vets to look at sick animals.

### PERSONNEL NOT LISTED

- MUST add new personnel to existing projects BEFORE beginning any work including training.
- All personnel provided with
  - copy of the approved application
  - copy of Code of Practice and the POCTA Act and Regulations.<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/regguide/index.html>

### TRAINING NOT COVERED

- Any animal used for training purposes must be counted.

### CHANGE STRAIN / SEX / AGE

- Any change must be approved.

### HOLDING ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/approval/holding-animals.html>

- Can only use laboratories approved by AEC.
- Animals cannot be held overnight in labs without approval from AEC.

### CHANGE IN PROCEDURES

- Only animal procedures outlined in the approved application can be performed.
- A change in procedure must be approved.
- Failure to perform a procedure outlined in the original application must be justified and approved by the AEC. eg not giving pain relief

### ANIMAL USE AFTER THE END DATE / OVERUSE OF ANIMALS

- Keep track of animal numbers and end dates.
- Do not rely on others to maintain records on your animals.

### RECORD KEEPING NOT ADEQUATE

- Keep adequate records of animal use, procedures & monitoring.


### SCAVENGING FROM ANAESTHETISED ANIMALS

MUAWC policy "Acquiring organs or tissues from animals"

- In some situations, animal tissues and substances are allowed to be collected from animals that are already dead. AEC approval may not be required prior to obtaining the material.
- However, obtaining biological material discarded following the practice of veterinary procedures by a veterinarian, or discarded following routine animal husbandry procedures, or found in the animal's environment are considered special cases of scavenging requiring AEC approval prior to collecting and using the material, as living animals are involved and there may be legal, ethical or welfare issues
- If the animal is anaesthetised then collection of animal tissues or substances needs PRIOR AEC approval.

### CONSEQUENCE OF A BREACH

- The researcher and the University are liable for prosecution under the POCTA Act.
- Loss of permission for researcher to use animals in research at Monash University.
- Loss of grant funding.
- Loss of license by the University to conduct animal based research.

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## 11. NHMRC

### CODE OF PRACTICE LIAISON GROUP MEETING

The Queensland Government Department Primary Industries reported on the following outcomes from the Code Liaison Group meeting.

#### Clarification of C and D member's payment options

The CLG agreed that Category C and D members may be allocated 'employee numbers' by an institution (e.g. university or government department) to enable the institution to pay those members "the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses and/or payment of an allowance" as per Section 2.1.1 (viii) of the Scientific Use Code without compromising that the Category C or D member meets the relevant membership criteria that they "not [be] employed or otherwise associated with the institution" and be "independent of the institution" as per Section 2.2.2.

'Employment' of C and D members for the purposes of paying reimbursements or allowances as an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) member is permitted where:

- it is necessary to make the payments to the person as an AEC member
- no payments other than those relating to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses and/or payment of an allowance as an AEC member are made to the person by the institution
- that no other obligations as an employee apply to the member (e.g. to comply with institutional confidentiality, Code of Conduct, or policy requirements etc.)

The Code Liaison Group has recognised institution participation in all current 'Regulator' audits (Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare) as satisfying the requirement that institutions should undertake external triennial reviews as per section 2.1.2 and Appendix 1 of the Scientific Use Code.

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

Prepared for publication and to be released very soon.

## 12. SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

#### Animal Law Talk – An Indian Perspective

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2008 at 1:00pm

Venue: Faculty of Law, Building 12, L4 (Basement), Monash University, Clayton Campus

Free public lecture

RSVP: [events@voiceless.org.au](mailto:events@voiceless.org.au)

<http://www.law.monash.edu.au/news/events/monashvoicelessflyer.pdf>

#### Bureau of Animal Welfare AEC Member Training

Courses at DPI Offices, Attwood

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

Wed 2nd July\* 10:30 - 3:30

Fri 17 October 1:30-5:30

\* Precedence in July will be given to non-Melbourne metropolitan members

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

DPI Vic, Attwood, 475 Mickleham Road, Attwood

Date: Tuesday, 8th July 1.30pm – 5.00pm inc afternoon tea (RSVP before 1 July)


Theme: **Animal welfare considerations**

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

Theme: **Public education**

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

Theme: **Centre Biennial Research Day**

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### **AVA Annual Conference**

25-30 May 2008, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth, Western Australia

<http://www.ava.com.au/index>

### **ANZCCART Conference**

Blue sky to deep water: the reality and the promise

29 June - 1 July 2008, Auckland, New Zealand

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

### **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](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/>

## **13. REFERENCES / READING**

### **NSW Department of Primary Industries**

#### **Emergency planning:**

'Planning for emergencies - a guide for animal holding establishments'. The document contains advice relevant to animal facilities.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/management>

Additional information on emergency planning is contained in the Animal Research Review Panel's policy on Emergency procedures.

<http://www.animaethics.org.au/reader/info-accred-establish/arrp-emergency-procedures.htm>

#### **Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Establishments**

<http://www.animaethics.org.au/reader/animal-care>

### **American Association for Laboratory Animal Science**

**Dealing with Grief in the Research Environment** - Brochure - The cost of caring: Recognising human emotions in the care of laboratory animals.

<http://www.aalas.org/bookstore/downloads.asp>

#### **TechTalk**

The Newsletter for Laboratory Animal Science Technicians

### **NNMRC**

Communication to AECs - February 2008

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/ethics/animal/issues/files/AEC\\_communication\\_dec\\_07.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/ethics/animal/issues/files/AEC_communication_dec_07.pdf)

## **14. HOW CAN THE 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](mailto:MAS.Vet@adm.monash.edu.au)