 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
 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, Monash Research Office

2. INFORMATION SESSIONS / TRAINING / WORKSHOPS


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

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

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

Registration will open soon at <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/moreinfo/training.html>

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.
- AEC members welcome.

No charge to attend.

Run first Friday each month from 2-3 pm. Clayton Campus.

- Friday 7 November 2008
- Friday 5 December 2008

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

2.4 WORKSHOP FOR WRITING SUCCESSFUL MONASH ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS

Run first Friday each month from 3-4 pm, Clayton Campus.

No charge to attend.

- Friday 7 November 2008
- Friday 5 December 2008

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

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 12 November 2008	Mouse Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Wednesday 19 November 2008	Rat Administration of Substances & Blood Collection
Wednesday 26 November 2008	Surgical Techniques in Rodents
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. MUAWC

3.1 ANNUAL / COMPLETED PROJECT REPORT FORM 2008

An annual review of all approved research projects, breeding programs, teaching units and training courses (including those discontinued, not commenced or completed) by the Animal Ethics Committee is required under the Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (2004). Failure to submit

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the required reports by the stipulated deadline will 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.

The Monash Annual / Completed Project Report Form 2008 is now available at <http://www.monash.edu.au/research/ethics/animal/approval/annual.html>. Major changes have been made to this document. Ensure the current version is used.

Note:

- All specified animals (rats, mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and non-human primates) that have been bred in 2008 must be reported using 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 then the Annual report must give a breakdown of animal use by strain as shown in the application form.
- The CI is the CI approved by the AEC.

Researchers Online Projects Enquiry System (ROPES) - Previously reported animal use details are available in ROPES to assist with Annual Reporting for 2008.
<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/academics/ropes/>

3.2 INTER-INSITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS

(i) INTER-INSITUTIONAL 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-INSITUTIONAL 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 a 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>

4. BAW

4.1 PROPOSED VICTORIAN PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS REGULATIONS 2008, PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Regulations covering the use of animals in research and teaching in Victoria (along with other animal welfare), are sunseting, and replacement legislation is being developed. A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

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has been released to allow stakeholder comment on the proposed regulations. Note that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 is not changing; the new regulations are being developed within the framework of the pre-existing Act.

The RIS describes and justifies the need for the Regulations and the changes from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 1997. The Regulations affect, in particular, persons involved in trapping animals or using electronic shock devices as well as rodeo operators and scientific establishments.

Key changes from the existing Regulations include:

- changes to the way rodeos are licensed and regulated;
- specification of traps that can be sold, set or used in Victoria;
- new and amended regulations concerning the use of electric shock devices on animals;
- introduction of new offences that protect the welfare of animals; and
- changes to the requirements for scientific establishments.

Copies of the proposed Regulations and RIS can be downloaded from the following link

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenfa.nsf/LinkView/6316AB2501B51FCACA2574E5001B8CCD6166E48F26CF64DACA256EDD0082EDF1>

Comments to the Monash AEO by Monday 3 October for inclusion in the Monash University response or respond to animal.welfare@dpi.vic.gov.au or POCTA Regulation Review, Bureau of Animal Welfare, 475 Mickleham Rd, Attwood VIC 3049 by 5pm, Monday 17th November 2008.

4.2 – POLICY FOR NEW PREMISES INSPECTIONS

The current policy of the BAW is that the BAW will arrange with an Institution to conduct an inspection of any new premises to be listed on a new or an existing license, prior to issuing the new licence or amendment to a license.

AECs are reminded to arrange with the BAW to inspect any new premises that need to be added to the Scientific Procedures Premises or Specified Animal Breeding License.

5. NHMRC - GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE THE WELLBEING OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

“Guidelines to promote the wellbeing of animals used for scientific purposes: The assessment and alleviation of pain and distress in research animals”

This is a living document and a replacement page has been released for Table H1 Methods of humane killing and euthanasia in rats and mice, page H4 has been updated as of 20 August 2008. There is a change to the wording for cervical dislocation. All copies of the guidelines downloaded prior to this date can be updated by downloading the replacement page at

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

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

6. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) – TEMPLATE UPDATED

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is a set of written instructions that document a routine or repetitive activity. The SOP Templates on the web have been updated.


- [SOP Template 1 - based on application form](#)
- [SOP Template 2 - technical](#)

Select template according to your preference and modify as required.

To find out what approved SOPs are available from Monash University contact the Monash AEO.

Note that SOPs are the property of the author and can not be made available without permission of the author.

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

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7. BREEDING ANIMALS - How to Apply For Ethics Approval?

Any specified animal (mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, primate) breeding to supply animals for scientific research and teaching requires approval from the relevant Monash Animal Ethics Committee. Approval is granted by submission of a Breeding Colony Request Form to the relevant Animal Ethics Committee.

In the past Researchers have used the "Application Form for Research and Teaching" to request approval to breed animals.

The current procedure is for researchers to use a "Breeding Colony Request Form" to gain approval to breed animals. This approval covers the breeding of animals only. Separate approval using the "Application Form for Research and Teaching" must be used for permission to use animals in research protocols.

There are two advantages to using the Breeding Form;

- An estimate of numbers is required not exact numbers
- Assists annual reporting to the BAW which requires animals to be split into breeding and research use.

8. DOMESTIC (FERAL & NUISANCE) ANIMALS ACT - Governor in Council exemption

In response to feedback from Institutes in March 2008, the Minister of Agriculture, Minister Joe Helper, has created an Exemption Order under Section 5 of the *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994* which exempts certain dogs and cats in Scientific Establishments from the requirements of registration and micro-chipping. This was gazetted on 14th August, 2008 and has immediate effect.

9. AVERTIN (TRIBROMOETHANOL)- PROBLEMS

Tribromoethanol (Avertin®): Avertin is made by mixing equal amounts of tribromyl ethyl alcohol and tertiary amyl alcohol (2.5% dilution). It was once manufactured under the trade name Avertin®, but this product is no longer commercially available.

Advantages:


- Tribromoethanol induces anesthesia rapidly and provides good surgical analgesia for approximately 1h
- Since it is given by injection, one is spared the occupational health risks and technical difficulties associated with volatile anesthetics if used appropriately.

Disadvantages of Avertin:

- Tribromoethanol degrades in the presence of heat or light to produce toxic by products. If Avertin is improperly prepared or stored in the light, it will break down into dibromoacetic acid and hydrobromic acid, which can be lethal in 24 hours.
- Even if Avertin is stored properly (or freshly made), tribromoethanol has been reported to be a potent gastrointestinal irritant, cause fibroneous and fatal peritonitis, diffuse necrosis of the abdominal wall and necrotic changes on the surfaces of the abdominal organs.
- Avertin has inflammatory properties, Avertin sensitizes some animals to subsequent exposure, and causes idiosyncratic deaths in about 1% of naive mice, not appropriate for repeated anesthesia.
- The effects of Tribromoethanol are also somewhat unpredictable in mice younger than 16 days, or in animals with altered carbohydrate metabolism, such as various mouse strains used for diabetes or obesity models (db/db mice or ob/ob mice).
- Post-procedural analgesia has not been demonstrated, use of another analgesic is generally required

References:

- Papaioannou VE, Fox JG. Efficacy of tribromoethanol anesthesia in mice. *Lab Anim Sci* 1993 Apr;43(2):189-192.
- 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):665-667.
- Weiss, J. and F. Zimmermann, Tribromoethanol (Avertin) as an anaesthetic in mice. *Lab Anim*, 1999. 33(2): p. 192-193.
- 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):407-413

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10. 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

11. SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

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

DPI Vic, DPI Lecture Theatre, 475 Mickleham Road, Attwood. RSVP jskuse@unimelb.edu.au

Production Animal Research Day - Highlight current production animal research being undertaken at the Centre and Identify priority areas for future research

Friday 5 December - 10:00am to 4:30pm.

More details to be released.

ANZCCART Conference

2009 – Cairns

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

12. REFERENCES / READING

Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) NEWS

Vol 21, Number 1 2008

NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Guidelines for the Housing of Mice in Scientific Establishments
- Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Institutions
- Guidelines for the Housing of Rabbits in Scientific Institutions
- Guidelines for the Housing of Guinea Pigs in Scientific Institutions
- Guidelines for the Housing of Sheep in Scientific Establishments
- Institutions Guidelines for the Care and Housing of Dogs in Scientific Institutions

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

AEO Animal Ethics Committee Member Reading Kit

Request from the Monash AEO.

13. 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
- Workshops on filling out the Monash application form - Individual tutorial conducted in the animal ethics office
- Advice (phone/email) on how to fill in the application form
- Advice on draft animal ethics applications -
- Advice on animal ethics / welfare issues
- Information and help on the Monash AEO Web Site

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