 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 http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/	Title	Animal Welfare Update
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Abbreviations:

AEC – Animal Ethics Committee
 ANZCCART – Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research & Teaching
 BAW – Bureau of Animal Welfare
 NHMRC – National Health and Medical Research Council
 POCTA – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
 MU – Monash University
 MUAWC - Monash University Animal Welfare Committee
 AEO – Animal Ethics Office, Monash Research Office
 Code of Practice – Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes

1. INTRODUCTION

- This information is essential for Monash University personnel using animals for research & teaching.
- If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please respond and ask to be deleted from our list.
- Please pass to any interested colleagues / students.

2. MONASH INFORMATION SESSIONS / TRAINING

2.1 REGULATORY ISSUES, ANIMAL CARE & USE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT MONASH UNIVERSITY (FULL DAY), Semester 2, 2009 – Tuesday 23 February 2010

This 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
- Attendance is **compulsory** for new Monash students and inexperienced staff who are using animals in research and teaching.

No charge to attend.

Tuesday 23 February 2010

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

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


This 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 non-compliance.

Semester 1, 2010. Date to be announced.

2.3 WRITING SUCCESSFUL MONASH ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATIONS AT MONASH UNIVERSITY

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

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2.4 PRACTICAL TRAINING MODULES - Monash Animal Services

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

More information at <http://mas.monash.edu.au/Training/>

Wednesday 23rd September 2009	Rat – Administration of Substances and Blood Collection
Wednesday 30th September 2009	Rodent Anaesthesia
Wednesday 14th October 2009	Surgical Techniques in Rodents

3. BUREAU OF ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS

Addition of New Animal Facilities / Laboratories to Scientific Licenses

The Bureau of Animal Welfare AND the Animal Ethics Committee must approve and inspect new premises BEFORE they can be used.

4. BREEDING COLONY APPLICATIONS

Breeding Colony Applications can be extended for a further three years using the Request for Minor Amendment to Approved Animal Ethics Application Form at

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

Standard Operating Procedures can be used to describe the breeding procedures but all breeding must be covered under Breeding Colony application/s. Multiple strains can be listed on one breeding colony application.

5. ANIMAL ETHICS FORMS UPDATED

(a) Application Form

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

The source of animals has been clarified to provide more detail including breeding colony numbers where applicable.

(b) Minor Amendment Guidelines

Breeding Colony approvals are allowed a 3 year extension. Minor Amendment Form to be used.

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

(d) REMINDER - Removal of the Phenotype Form

To simplify the animal ethics processes, the Phenotype form has been removed and in its place two extra questions incorporated into the animal ethics application form and the breeding colony form.

Researchers now advise the AEC of the phenotype of newly created genetically modified line when applying for a breeding colony approval for the strain.

Researchers are still required to abide by the condition of approval of all animals ethics applications to immediately notify the AEC of any unexpected or adverse phenotype which impacts on the welfare of the animals.

6. RESEARCHERS ONLINE PROJECTS ENQUIRY SYSTEM (ROPES)

Approved Monash animal ethics applications, animal use and other details are available in ROPES

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/ropes/>

Please report any errors or omissions.

7. REVIEW OF THE 7TH EDITION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

The Australian Code is due for review. The discussion paper and a covering letter are available from <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/codereview2009.html>

AECs and Institutions are encouraged to comment on the issues raised in the discussion paper as well as any other aspects of the Code they would like addressed.

Submit comments by COB 22 September 2009 to ethics@nhmrc.gov.au

8. MONASH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE POLICY


<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/animals-in-coursework-policy.html>

In brief,

Policy Title - Use of Animals in Coursework Programs

Purpose - To replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in coursework programs.

Scope -All coursework units, All campuses, All staff and students

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9. COMMON MISTAKES THAT CAN LEAD TO A BREACH OF THE POCTA ACT AND CODE OF PRACTICE

STARTING ACTIVITY INVOLVING ANIMALS BEFORE RECEIVING A WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

MUST have a WRITTEN approval before beginning any scientific activity involving animals, do not acquire, breed or start scientific or teaching activity involving the use of animals before written AEC approval

MODIFICATION OF PROTOCOL WITHOUT A WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

- MUST adhere to all requirements of the AEC, do not modify protocol without written approval from AEC.

NOT REPORTING UNEXPECTED OR ADVERSE EFFECTS

- MUST immediately inform AEC of unexpected or adverse events which impact on the welfare of the animals
- Seek advice from Monash Animal Services Clinical Veterinarians

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/researchoffice/animal/regguide/>

TRAINING NOT COVERED

- Any animal used for training purposes must be approved.

CHANGE STRAIN / SEX / AGE

- Any change must be approved.

HOLDING ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

- Can only use laboratories approved by AEC.
 - Animals cannot be held overnight in labs without approval from AEC.
- <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/regguide/muawc.html>

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, cross referenced with AEC approval number.

SCAVENGING FROM ANAESTHETISED ANIMALS


MUAWC policy "Acquiring organs or tissues from animals"

<http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/regguide/muawc.html>

- 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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10. BLOOD SAMPLING WEBSITES

The Norwegian Reference Centre for Laboratory Animal Science and Alternatives

<http://film.oslovet.veths.no/>

Demonstrates various techniques in mouse, rat, rabbit , injections, gavage.

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research

<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/bloodsamplingmicrosite/page.asp?id=313>

Information on blood sampling from many laboratory animal species.

11. 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.

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

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

12. SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

BAW Introductory AEC Training

Date: 20 October 2009

Venue: DPI Offices, Attwood

RSVP: Alan Fried Alan.Fried@dpi.vic.gov.au

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

Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Attwood. RSVP jskuse@unimelb.edu.au

13. HOW CAN THE AEO HELP?

The Monash AEO offers the following services;

- Information sessions on Understanding Your Legal Responsibilities and Animal Use in Research & Teaching at Monash University <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/moreinfo/training.html>
- 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 Web Site <http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/animal/>