Monthy newsletter

June 2017

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Hints and tips for your Application

⚠️ Unexpected Adverse Events

It is the policy of the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) that unexpected adverse events, including unexpected deaths, are reported to the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) immediately. Email animal.ethics@mq.edu.au (Att: AWO) or call (02) 9850 7758 or 0439 497 383. All UAE Reports must be emailed to animal.ethics@mq.edu.au.

Per the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition (2013):

**Unexpected adverse event**: an event that may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of animals and was not foreshadowed in the approved project or activity.

An unexpected adverse event may result from different causes, including but not limited to:
- death of an animal, or group of animals, that was not expected (e.g. during surgery or anaesthesia, or after a procedure or treatment)
- adverse effects following a procedure or treatment that were not expected
- adverse effects in a larger number of animals than predicted during the planning of the project or activity, based on the number of animals actually used, not the number approved for the study
- a greater level of pain or distress than was predicted during the planning of the project or activity
- power failures, inclement weather, emergency situations or other factors external to the project or activity that have a negative impact on the welfare of the animals.
Section 2.1 Responsibilities of institutions / Promote compliance

2.1.5 Institutions must promote compliance with the Code by:

(d) actions required for unexpected adverse events and emergencies, including those that require welfare interventions such as the emergency treatment or humane killing of any animal, to ensure that adverse impacts on animal wellbeing are addressed rapidly. Such guidance should include timeframes for actions, prompt reporting to the AEC, liaison between animal carers and investigators, and circumstances when consultation with a veterinarian, the performance of a necropsy by a competent person, and access to diagnostic investigations are required.

Instructions for Submission of this form

- Attach any supporting documents (e.g. veterinary or pathology reports).
- The form must be typed (not hand written) and signed by the Principal Investigator or their delegate/s.
- Please email completed forms to BOTH animal.ethics@mq.edu.au (Attn: AWO) AND where relevant, to the Manager of the facility in which the animal is being held.

Notices and News

ANZCCART 2017 Conference
The 2017 Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) Conference will be held in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 2 - 4 September. View more information and the Conference Programme.

ANZLAA 2017 Conference
The 2017 Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association conference will be held 6-8th Sept at Sheraton on the Park in Sydney - with the theme of Emerging Technologies; Enhancing Animal Welfare and Research.


Research Animal Care and Ethics Training (RACE) / Training Opportunities

Who should complete the Training?

Everyone undertaking animal based research at Macquarie University or under a Macquarie University AEC protocol must have proof of attendance at an animal ethics course. All Macquarie University employees and students must complete Research Animal Care and Ethics (RACE) training Module 1 (see below) no matter what their level of experience. A certificate is issued after completing RACE training. New researchers, students, graduates and post-graduates with minimal animal research experience must complete RACE Module 1 as soon as possible as they will not be added to Animal Research Authorities until the module is completed. It is recommended that personnel inexperienced in animal research procedures also complete the practical modules of RACE Training (see below for more information). Experienced researchers will also be asked to complete Module 1 of RACE training. New researchers will not be added to Animal Research Authorities until the training is done.

More experienced researchers will also be asked to complete RACE training or updates irrespective of level of seniority. All Animal Care and Ethics training certificates are deemed to be valid for a period of three (3) years only.
Program objectives:

The overall aim of this program is to provide personnel using animals for scientific purposes with the knowledge and practical skills to ensure:

- compliance with the legislation
- humane animal use
- ethical animal use
- minimisation of risks associated with the use of animals

Presentation:

The program consists of on-line learning and practical sessions. Participants may participate in or attend all/any of the modules. However, it should be noted that some modules are prerequisites for other modules.

Research Animal Care and Ethics Training Course via iLearn

Program outline and structure:

MODULE 1: Introduction to the use of animals in research (COMPULSORY MODULE)

Description: On-line course covering the legislative and institutional requirements governing the use of animals for research and teaching at the Macquarie University, and the principles and practice of animal care and welfare.

Prerequisite: Working or studying in areas in which animals are used for research or teaching purposes.

Delivery type: Online only via iLearn.

Availability: Continuous

Assessment: On-line quiz which must be completed before proceeding to other modules

Additional information: This module is administered through the Animal Ethics Office.

MODULE 2: Research animal care, handling, and basic research procedures.

Description: Practical and online course concentrating on rats and mice. The module covers basic anatomy and physiology, handling and restraint, administration of substances (injection and gavage), blood collection, euthanasia and post mortem techniques.

All participants have the opportunity to obtain "hands-on" experience with the demonstrated techniques.

Prerequisite: Working or studying in areas in which animals are used for research or teaching purposes. Ideally Module 1 should have been completed prior to attending Module 2, however this is not mandatory.

Delivery type: Online via iLearn, plus a 4 hour practical session.

Additional information: This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.

MODULE 3: Anaesthetic Techniques in Research Animals

Description: Online learning combined with a practical session demonstrating the principles and techniques involved in rodent anaesthesia. Topics covered include gaseous and injectable anaesthesia; pre-anaesthetic assessment, monitoring and assessment of anaesthetic depth, and OHS issues associated with anaesthesia.

All participants will have the opportunity to obtain "hands-on" experience with the basic techniques.

Prerequisite: Completion of Module 2 or equivalent experience.

Delivery type: Online via iLearn, plus a 4 hour practical session.

Additional information: This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.
MODULE 4: Aseptic surgical techniques in research animals

**Description:** Online and practical session for researchers who will be performing surgery on animals. Areas covered include instrument identification and use, suture selection and use, aseptic technique (including preparation of the facilities, equipment, animal and surgeon), making incisions, handling tissues, haemostasis, and wound closure techniques.

**Prerequisite:**
1. Completion of Module 3 or equivalent experience.
2. Viewing of Introductory Videos. Prior to commencement of the practical session for Module 4, participants must have viewed the introductory videos on the "Principles of aseptic surgery", and "Laparotomy in the rat". Information about access to these videos is provided once you have enrolled in the module.

**Delivery type:** Online via iLearn, plus a practical session.

**Additional information:**
- This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.

MODULE 5: Developing and using a monitoring checklist

**Description:** Online and seminar session on how to develop and use an effective tool for monitoring the health and well-being of research animals.

**Prerequisite:** Working or planning to work with research animals.

**Delivery type:** Face to face seminar and online via iLearn.

**Additional information:**
- This module is administered and run through Macquarie Animal Research Services (MARS).

**Registration**

1. A Macquarie One ID number is required to access to the RACE course.
2. In the event that you do not have a Macquarie One ID number, a number will need to be assigned for each new researcher to be given access to this course via iLearn.
3. The Supervisor/Primary Investigator must email Macquarie University Informatics at onehelp@mq.edu.au in order to apply for a MQG or MQX One ID number for these new researchers.
4. **Register** for Module 1 of the course (entirely online) via the Animal Welfare Officer: Please forward your One ID number, as well as your full name and email address to the AWO, Dr Justin Clarke at animal.ethics@mq.edu.au.
5. **Register** for Practical Modules - 2015 "RACE Training" via Registration Form.

Please contact the AWO for any further training requirements.

Animal Ethics Calendar

**Next Application submission deadline date 2017**

Thursday 29 June 2017

**Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2017**

Thursday 22 June 2017

Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines

All Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines can be found on our Animal Ethics Wiki page.
### Animal Ethics Meeting Dates

**2017**

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<tr>
<th>CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS</th>
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<td>Wednesday 25 January 2017</td>
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* The closing date for submissions is approximately two to three weeks before each meeting. This is essential to allow adequate time for processing and review of submissions by the AEC prior to meetings. It also provides opportunity for researchers to respond to questions or comments from the Committee prior to meetings, thereby potentially reducing the time to approval. Questions and comments are distributed to applicants on the Monday of the week of the meeting.

** An inspection of animal facilities will be held on the day of the AEC meeting on the dates highlighted above (unless otherwise stated). It is a requirement under the NHMRC Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition (2013) that inspections of facilities used for animal research, housing and teaching are carried out on a regular basis. Under the Macquarie University AEC Terms of Reference the AEC will carry out facility inspections twice per year.

See the [Animal Ethics Website](http://research.mq.edu.au/current_research_staff/animal_research_ethics) or the [Animal Ethics Wiki Page](http://research.mq.edu.au/current_research_staff/animal_research_ethics).

### Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the Animal Ethics monthly newsletter, kindly email that content for the next month’s newsletter to animal.ethics@mq.edu.au.

Should you have any queries regarding your research, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Animal Ethics Team**

Animal.ethics@mq.edu.au, +61 (0) 2 9850 7758 / +61 (0) 439 497 383

Alternatively, for more information about AEC policies, procedures, forms and ethical clearance requirements, please go to our webpage at [http://research.mq.edu.au/current_research_staff/animal_research_ethics](http://research.mq.edu.au/current_research_staff/animal_research_ethics)