



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

File Ref: 12-NAE-07

8 April 2011

Update for AEC members from the Chair of NAEAC

AEC member survey

NAEAC is planning to survey AEC members as part of our assessment of the committee's effectiveness. This will be an on-line survey conducted by MAF Communications in the near future. The results of the survey will be made available to any AEC member who wishes to see them.

Review of the Animal Welfare Act 1999

MAF is initiating a review of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 beginning later this year and there are a number of topics which NAEAC plans to include in its submission. One of these relates to research animals that are not legally required to undergo ethical review or to be included in the statistics returned to MAF every year. NAEAC has long been of the opinion that, while euthanasia itself is not a welfare issue if carried out humanely, there should be opportunity for ethical review of the need to use these animals i.e. a cost-benefit analysis, application of the Three Rs etc. We also feel that not including these animals in the statistics results in an underestimation of numbers used. We would see these animals undergoing ethical review (as we know they are in a number of institutions) and being included in the statistics as a separate category.

The other area where numbers are unknown is in the number of animals that are bred but not used - animals that would otherwise not be bred but for their potential use as research animals.

To help us with our submission, NAEAC would very much appreciate your AEC's response to the following questions:

1. Does your institution and AEC currently require ethical oversight of animals that are killed prior to manipulation?
2. If yes, do you keep a record of the numbers of these animals?
3. If yes, how many such animals have been used on an annual basis since you have been keeping records?
4. Does your institution have a breeding programme for research animals?
5. If yes, do you keep a record of the numbers of animals that are culled without being used?
6. If yes, how many such animals have been used on an annual basis since you have been keeping records?
7. If your institution acquires animals externally, how many of these have been culled without being used on an annual basis since you have been keeping records?

Please send responses to these questions to the NAEAC secretary Paula Lemow at NAEAC@maf.govt.nz. A response by Friday 6 May would be appreciated.

AEC Service awards

NAEAC service awards were recently made to Auckland animal ethics committee.

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from the University of

AEC query

An AEC secretary has asked what the requirement is for externally appointed members to report back to their nominating bodies. There is no provision for this within the legislation or in the lay members' guide. NAEAC sees this as very much between the member and their nominating body.

NAEAC member visits

NAEAC members are happy to visit AECs in their region. If you would like to host a NAEAC member at your AEC meeting, contact details are listed below:

NAME	CITY	E-mail
Dr Virginia Williams	CHRISTCHURCH	9(2)(a)
Ms Allison Dodds	DUNEDIN	
Professor Martin Kennedy	CHRISTCHURCH	
Dr Peter Larsen	WELLINGTON	
Mr Peter Mason	WELLINGTON	
Dr Dave Morgan	LINCOLN (CHRISTCHURCH)	
Mr David Peart	TAURANGA	
Dr Justine Stewart	AUCKLAND	

Three Rs award nominations

Please note that nominations for the 2011 NAEAC Three Rs Award are currently being sought! See the below attachment for more detail.

Kind Regards



Virginia Williams
Chair

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) invites applications or nominations for the:

THREE Rs AWARD 2011

To reward and promote implementation of Three Rs principles in research, testing and teaching

The Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) are the cornerstone of the ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching. This award celebrates achievements in the implementation of the Three Rs and promotes the concept within the scientific community and to the wider public. The award is co-ordinated by NAEAC and is made to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand that shows great commitment to, or innovative implementation of, the Three Rs, or whose work will help to promote awareness of Three Rs principles.

The prize will consist of a certificate and a significant financial award, to be presented at an appropriate formal occasion later this year. Receipt of the Award will be publicised in selected media, although specific details of the work involved can be restricted if appropriate.

Applications or nominations (with knowledge of nominee) should be sent to:

NAEAC Secretariat
c/- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6140

There is no application form but you must provide:

- evidence of how the applicant or nominated individual, group or institution qualifies for the Award (maximum of three pages)
- curriculum vitae of the applicant(s) or nominee(s)
- the names and contact details of up to two potential referees (who may, at the committee's discretion, be approached for comment)

Applications close on Friday 6 May, 2011.

Please direct enquiries to the NAEAC Secretariat (email naeac@maf.govt.nz)

NZAVS