

Governance

Advisory/Management Committees



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Establishment

When and by what authority: 1973 by The University Council
1986 by State Legislation
2015 Ministerial committee abolished; established as sub-committee of University Research Committee

For what period: Continuing need

Role/Terms of Reference

Nature: Regulatory, decision making

Terms of Reference: The use of animals for teaching, research or experimentation is regulated by State legislation - the South Australian *Animal Welfare Act 1985*. The University of Adelaide is licensed under the Act to acquire and use animals only when approval has been granted by its Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). No animal may be held or used for any purpose until written approval has been obtained from the AEC. All University personnel who wish to use animals for teaching, research or experimentation must obtain ethical approval from the University of Adelaide AEC prior to any use or involvement with animals, irrespective of where they are located, where animals may be housed or used, or of the source of funding. All student projects must receive University of Adelaide ethical clearance. The AEC must ensure that all animal care and use is conducted in compliance with the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes - 8th Edition 2013* - (the Code) and that it incorporates the principle of the three R's - Replacement, Reduction and Refinement.

Reporting line: Annual reporting is a requirement, both to the Minister as specified in the Act, and to the University as specified in the Code.

The Committee reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) and to the University Research Committee.

Quorum: The meeting must include at least one member from each of five specified categories; Categories C plus D should represent no less than one third of the members.

Procedures prescribed/determined itself: The Committee's functions are prescribed:

1. In Section 25 of the Act, as:
 - (a) to determine matters required under the Act to be referred to an animal ethics committee by the holder of a licence; and
 - (b) to approve the use of animals for the purposes of

teaching, research or experimentation proposed to be undertaken by the holder of a licence; and

(c) to approve the acquisition, by the holder of a licence, of animals for the purposes of teaching, research or experimentation; and

(d) to ensure that animals involved in teaching, research or experimentation are treated humanely, and that the regulations relating to such activities are complied with; and

(e) to furnish the Minister with annual reports in accordance with the regulations; and

(f) such other functions as are prescribed by the Code or the regulations.

(1a) In performing its functions, an animal ethics committee must comply with the Code.

(2) An animal ethics committee may, subject to and in accordance with the Code, approve the use of an animal for the purposes of teaching, research or experimentation, or the acquisition of animals for such purposes, unconditionally, or subject to such conditions as the committee thinks fit.

(3) An animal ethics committee may not approve the use of an animal for the purposes of research or experimentation, or the acquisition of an animal for such purposes, unless it is satisfied that--

(a) the use of the animal is essential for the particular purpose; and

(b) the person who proposes to use the animal has appropriate experience and qualifications.

2. In the Australian Code, which stipulates that the AEC must:

- Ensure, on behalf of the institution for which it acts, that all activities relating to the care and use of animals are conducted in compliance with the Code;
- Approve guidelines for the care and management of animals that are bred, held and used for scientific purposes on behalf of the institution;
- Monitor the acquisition, transportation, production, housing, care, use and fate of animals;
- Provide advice and recommend to the institution any measures needed to ensure that the standards of the Code are maintained;
- Describe how members are appointed, re-appointed, or retired, according to procedures developed by the institution in consultation with the AEC;
- Require that all members declare any conflict of interest;
- Deal with situations in which a conflict of interest arises;
- Examine and approve with or without conditions, approve subject to modification, or reject written proposals for new projects and ongoing activities

relevant to the use of animals for scientific purposes;

- Approve only those studies for which animals are essential and justified and which conform to the requirements of the Code. This should take into consideration factors including ethics, the impact on the animal or animals and the anticipated scientific or educational value;
- Withdraw approval for any project;
- Authorise the emergency treatment or euthanasia of any animal;
- Take action regarding unexpected adverse events;
- Take action regarding non-compliance when projects or activities that are in breach of the Code are detected;
- Examine and comment on all institutional plans and policies that may affect the welfare of animals used for scientific purposes;
- Maintain a record of proposals and projects as specified in the Code;
- Comply with the reporting requirements of the institution and the Code as specified;
- Perform all other duties required by the Code.

Frequency of meetings:

A minimum frequency for meetings is prescribed: not less than quarterly.

The University of Adelaide Animal Ethics Committee is formed into two discipline-based Committees. Meeting dates are published on the University's Animal Ethics website of the Office of Research Ethics, Compliance and Integrity, Research Branch. In addition the University of Adelaide Animal Ethics Policy Committee meets as required (it has separate terms of reference).

Membership

Size:

Prescribed and consisting of at least five members. Category C and D members must together represent at least one third of the AEC membership.

Any categories prescribed:

Prescribed composition (as follows) - must reflect requirements of both the State Act (Section 23) and the national Code.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (<i>short description</i>)
CONVENOR
CATEGORY A Veterinary Surgeon
CATEGORY B Persons experienced in use of animals in scientific or teaching activities

CATEGORY C

Persons with an established commitment to the welfare of animals, not employees, and not involved in use of animals

CATEGORY D

Independent persons who do not conduct scientific or teaching activities using animals

CATEGORY E

Person responsible for the daily care of animals within the University

Term of Office:

Two years with the option of extending the term.

Members are nominated through the AEC Convenors, and are appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research). Nominations are made to fill vacancies as required.

The Code specifies that a Convenor should hold a senior position in the institution. It also specifies required attributes and responsibilities of the role. The University's practice is to nominate a Convenor who does not belong to an area that is involved in animal use. The appointment is made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research).

Contact person and phone/email

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RMO File Number

1993/2504