

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

USE OF ANIMALS IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

General principles and responsibilities of teachers are set out in the [Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes- 7th Edition 2004](#) - (the Code).

Your attention is drawn to the following extract from: Section 6 The use of animals in teaching

Teachers should note that all parts of the Code, including the principles of the 3Rs, are applicable to teaching activities in schools, colleges and tertiary institutions.

This section refers to the special ethical considerations and issues of responsibilities that must be addressed when animals are used for teaching activities. It should be read in conjunction with the rest of the Code

Animals are not to be used for teaching activities unless there are no suitable alternatives for achieving all of the educational objectives. (see Appendices 4 and 5)

Section 6 Use of Animals in Teaching

The Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) has established procedures which aim to promote the development and use of techniques which replace the use of animals in undergraduate teaching wherever this is possible, as required by the Code. In doing so the AEC acknowledges (as the Code does) that there will be a continued need for use of animals in the teaching of some undergraduate subjects.

Teaching staff are to inform students about the role of the AEC.

The General Principles for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, set out in Section 1 of the Code, should be prominently displayed and ethical guidelines information (such as the [ANZCCART](#) one page sheet for students in laboratory classes) is to be distributed to staff and students.

Departments are encouraged to inform the AEC if they have ideas on development of teaching methods, which in particular minimise or replace use of animals.

Application requirements

1. Approval for use of animals in undergraduate teaching cannot be expected where practicable alternatives to animals could be used effectively. All applications for use of animals in undergraduate teaching are to include references to any alternatives available.
2. Departments using animals in undergraduate teaching are expected to either trial alternative teaching methods, which do not involve the use of animals, or, to demonstrate why the use of animals is sufficiently superior to warrant exemption from this requirement.
3. Departments are to discuss proposed trials with the AEC at the time of submitting teaching applications.
4. Honours projects will not be subject to this process.

5. Approval for undergraduate teaching programmes may be granted for a period of up to three years (rather than annually) provided that where alternatives exist the programmes include suitable plans for the trial of these alternative methods.
6. Applications for undergraduate teaching involving use of animals to commence at the beginning of Semester I must be made not later than September of the previous year. For other teaching programmes application must be made at least six months in advance.
7. Alternatives to the use of animals are listed in the [Code](#), Appendix 5.

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