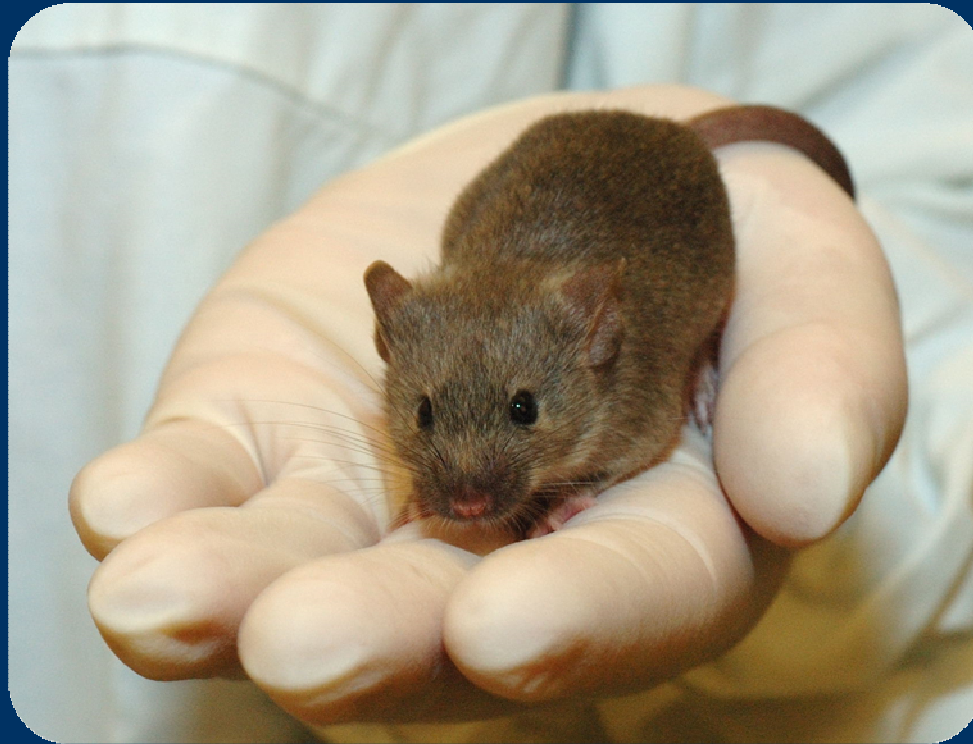


Identifying the Role of Animal Welfare Officers

Current Structure at the Garvan Institute



Dr Lucie Nedved

Garvan Institute of Medical Research, 384 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, NSW

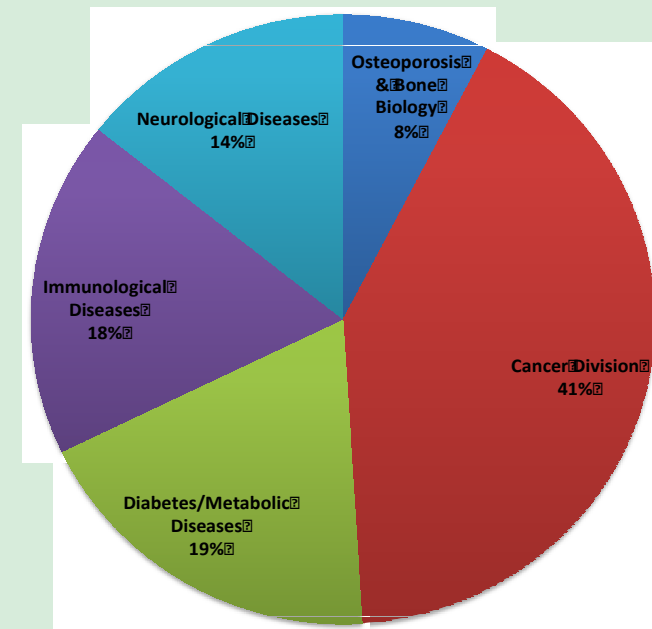




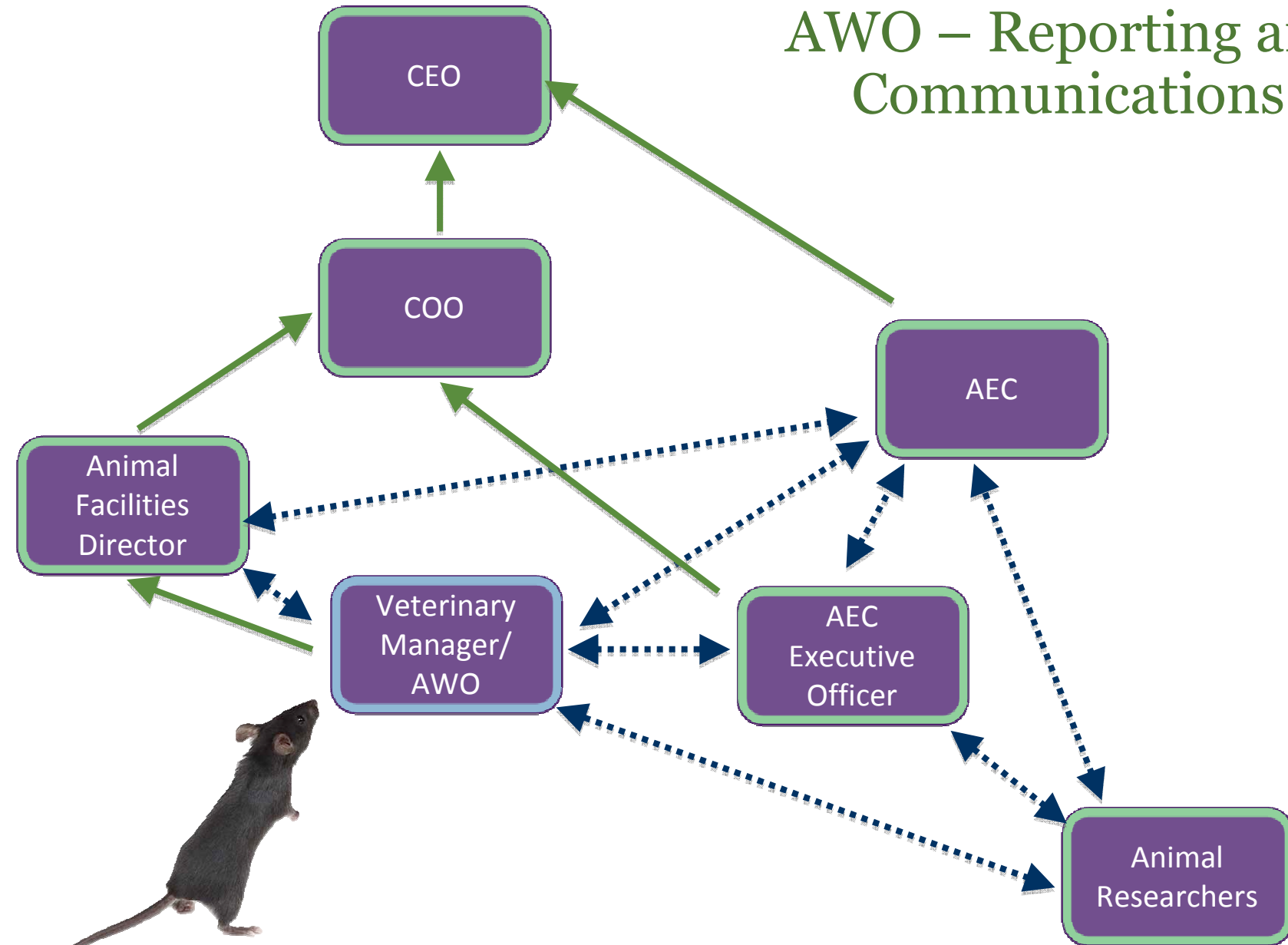
Overview of Research at Garvan



- Researchers: 510
- Medical Research areas: 5
- Animal Researchers: 220
- Active protocols: 118
- AEC protocols reviewed last year: 46
- Laboratory Species: mice, rats and zebrafish



AWO – Reporting and Communications



Role of AWO/Veterinary Manager at the Garvan



- Combined role: AWO and veterinary manager
- Researcher training
- All matters relating to animal welfare:
 - ✦ Clinical veterinarian = animal health
 - ✦ Inspections of new projects/techniques for AEC
- Ex officio member of AEC
- Respond to animal welfare emergencies





AWO + AEC + Animal Researchers



- Good Cop = Good animal welfare
 - ✦ Not strictly a compliance role
- Supportive role for researchers to ensure animal welfare
 - ✦ Investigating problems during protocols
 - ✦ Inspections and refinement of new techniques/procedures
- Report to AEC



Aspects That Work Well in This Role

- Researcher training
 - ✦ 10 hours intensive training
 - ✦ Ongoing support
- Clinical role: detection of animal health issues
- Veterinary manager role:
 - ✦ Technician support
 - ✦ Direct input into running of facility
- AEC inspects independently



Challenges for the AWO Role

- Separating compliance from animal welfare
- Associate with AEC while still collaborating with researchers
- Finding the correct balance between facility management and AWO role
- Influencing positive attitudes toward animal welfare



Future Improvements/Plans for the Role



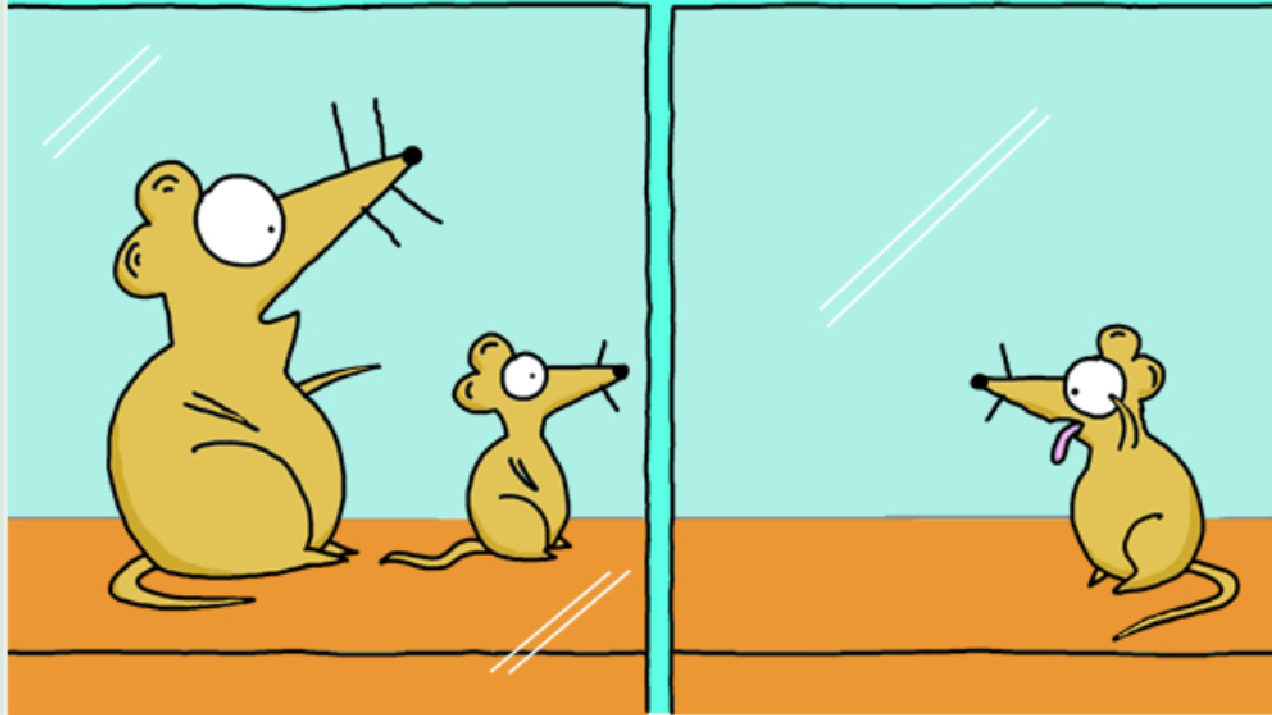
- Busy role – never give up
- Competency assessment for researchers
- Ongoing training for researchers
- Participating in developing researcher SOPs
- Continue to build good relationships with researchers= promote good animal welfare



Thank you!



www.VADLO.com



“Don’t play with him, he is **Wild Type**.”

