

Animal Research Review Panel Annual Report 2022-23

NSW Department of Primary Industries

September 2023



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Published by the NSW Department of Primary
Industries Animal Research Review Panel Annual

Report 2022 – 23 ISSN:

More information

Prepared on behalf of the Animal Research Review Panel NSW
Department of Primary Industries

www.animaethics.org.au

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

RDOC23/159728

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1. Framework under the Animal Research Act 1985

1.1 The Animal Research Act 1985

The NSW *Animal Research Act 1985* (the Act) was the first piece of self-contained animal research legislation introduced in Australia. In introducing the legislation in 1985, the Hon. Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, said that it was based on 'the twin tenets of ... enforced self-regulation and public participation in the decision-making process'. The Act received bipartisan support in the Parliament when it was introduced in 1985 and continues to do so.

The primary aim of the legislation is to protect the welfare of animals used in research and teaching by ensuring that their use is justified, humane and considerate of their needs. The Act incorporates a system of enforced self-regulation, with community participation at the institutional and regulatory levels.

The Act establishes a system of accreditation, licensing and authorisation of organisations and individual researchers. The Act also establishes the Animal Research Review Panel (the Panel) to provide a mechanism for representatives of government, scientific and animal welfare groups to participate jointly in monitoring the effectiveness of the legislation.

The Act creates offences for conducting animal research without appropriate authorisation, with substantial custodial and financial penalties.

The Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Western New South Wales (the Minister, previously known as Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) is responsible for administration of the Act.

1.2 The Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes

The Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (the Code) is a nationally accepted document and is included under the Animal Research Regulation 2021 (the Regulation). The Code is reviewed by the Code Advisory Group, under the auspices of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The Code Advisory Group includes representatives from NHMRC, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Australian Research Council, Universities Australia, the state government ministries with responsibility for animal welfare, commonwealth government departments for the sectors of environment, education and primary industries, RSPCA Australia and Animals Australia.

1.3 The Animal Research Review Panel

The Panel has responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of the animal research legislation, investigating complaints, and assisting in evaluating compliance of individuals and establishments with the legislation.

The constitution, membership and mode of operation of the Panel are set out in the Act. The Panel has 12 members with equal representation from industry, government and animal welfare groups. This provides for a range of expertise in regulating the conduct of animal research in New South Wales.

Apart from developing overall policy on animal research issues, the Panel is closely involved in the administration of the legislation. This is achieved through evaluating applications for accreditation and licences of research establishments, conducting site visits to assess compliance, and investigating complaints. The Panel also has a role in considering amendments to the Regulation. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff provide executive support for the Panel.

1.3.1 Panel mission statement

- To protect and enhance the welfare of animals used in scientific research, testing and teaching in New South Wales.
- To promote an understanding within the New South Wales community of the ethical and technical issues involved in the use of animals for scientific purposes.

The strength of the Panel lies in the diversity of expertise, opinions, and ethical perspectives of its members, which has resulted in the development of cohesive and progressive policies. All members are employed in other fields and participate on a largely voluntary basis. Non- government members are paid fees for attending formal meetings and participating in site inspections. Members are not paid for time spent preparing for meetings and inspections, for considering applications for accreditation or licenses, or for drafting discussion papers.

1.3.2 Functions of the Animal Research Review Panel

Section 9 of the Act defines the functions of the Panel as:

- The investigation of matters relating to the conduct of animal research and the supply of animals for use in connection with animal research
- The investigation and evaluation of the efficacy of the Code in regulating the conduct of animal research and the supply of animals for use in connection with animal research
- The investigation of applications and complaints referred to it under the Act
- Such other functions as the Minister may from time to time confer or impose on it.

In November 1998, the then Minister, the Hon. Richard Amery MP, conferred the following additional function on to the Panel, pursuant to section 9 (d) of the Act:

- The consideration and comment on proposals referred to the Animal Research Review Panel which relate to the making, amendment, or review of the regulations under the Act.

There have been no other functions formally conferred on the Panel under section 9 (d) of the Act since it commenced.

1.3.3 Membership

The Panel consists of 12 members appointed by the Minister based on nominations received from industry, government and animal welfare groups. The nominating organisations are:

- New South Wales Vice-Chancellors' Committee: three nominees
- Medicines Australia: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Health: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Education: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for Primary Industries: one nominee
- New South Wales Minister for the Environment: one nominee
- Animal Societies' Federation (New South Wales): two nominees
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, New South Wales (RSPCA NSW): two nominees.

All members of the Panel are part-time and are normally appointed for a term of 3 years.

During the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 23, the membership of the Panel was:

- **Professor Jacqueline Phillips** (Chair) (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; reappointed 28 January 2023)
- **Associate Professor Keiron Rooney** (Deputy Chair from February 2023) (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; reappointed 12 November 2022)
- **Dr Damian O'Brien** (nominated by Medicines Australia; reappointed 1 October 2022)
- **Ms Sally Bannerman** (nominated by the Minister for Education and Training; reappointed 6 March 2023)
- **Associate Professor Sophie Riley** (nominated by the Animal Societies' Federation; reappointed 14 October 2022)
- **Ms Paula Wallace** (nominated by the Animal Societies' Federation; reappointed 14 October 2022)
- **Mr Anthony Croker** (nominated by RSPCA NSW; reappointed 24 October 2021)
- **Dr Alice Marshall** (nominated by the Minister for Primary Industries; appointed 23 September 2020)
- **Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy** (Deputy Chair) (nominated by the Minister for Health; concluded 13 October 2022)
- **Associate Professor Marina Pajic** (nominated by the Minister for Health; appointed 14 October 2022)
- **Mr Scott Meyers** (nominated by RSPCA NSW; concluded 13 October 2022)
- **Dr Gemma Ma** (nominated by RSPCA NSW; appointed 14 October 2022)
- **Emeritus Professor Robert Mulley** (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; concluded 11 November 2022)
- **Professor Tim Karl** (nominated by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; appointed 12 November 2022)
- **Dr Benjamin Russell** (nominated by the Minister for the Environment; concluded 11 November 2022)
- **Dr Marie-Clare Demers** (nominated by the Minister for the Environment; appointed 12 November 2022)

Information on members of the Panel in 2022–23 is as follows:

Professor Jacqueline PHILLIPS BVSc Hons (USyd), PhD (ANU) (Chair)

Professor Phillips was appointed to the Panel in 2010. Professor Phillips is Professor of Neuroscience in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, Macquarie University and is currently Chair of Macquarie Universities Academic Senate. She is a registered veterinarian who has worked in small animal veterinary practice and has extensive experience with laboratory animals. She has served on Animal Ethics Committees as a Category A member at the Australian National University (ACT) and Murdoch University (WA). Professor Phillips has been the Panel Chair since November 2019.

Associate Professor Kieron ROONEY BSci Hons (USyd), PhD (USyd) (Deputy Chair)

Associate Professor Rooney was appointed to the Panel on 14 October 2019. A/Professor Rooney is based in the Sydney School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney and co-leads the Bias in Research Node of the Charles Perkins Centre. He is a SYRCLE Ambassador and was a member of the NC3Rs working group revising the ARRIVE guidelines (2018-2020). He is a registered Nutritionist and has utilised small animal models to investigate parameters of metabolic biochemistry since 1998. He has been a Category B member of the University of Sydney Animal Ethics Committee since 2015.

Dr Damian O'BRIEN BVSc (USyd)

Dr O'Brien was appointed to the Panel on 1 October 2019. He is an employee of MSD Animal Health (MSDAH), and a registered veterinary surgeon who has had a career in private veterinary practice and in the pharmaceutical industry. He currently manages Technical Market Development for MSDAH across Australia and New Zealand, involving research and development and post-authorisation stewardship of innovative pharmaceuticals and vaccines for use in farm and companion animals.

Ms Sally BANNERMAN BSAgr (USyd), Grad Dip Ed

Ms Bannerman is the Animal Welfare Coordinator for the NSW Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW. She administers the work of the Schools Animal Ethics Committee for the three school sectors and their 3500 schools. She has extensive experience in agricultural education and has worked in face-to-face delivery, distance education and teacher support for over 35 years. Ms Bannerman was reappointed in March 2023.

Associate Professor Sophie RILEY LL.B (USyd), LL.M (UNSW) PhD(UNSW)

Associate Professor Riley was first appointed to the Panel in 2016. She is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney. She teaches Animal Law and Policy, Environmental Law, Environmental Ethics and Corporate Law. A/Professor Riley's research interests focus on the ethics and treatment of invasive species, farm animals and wildlife welfare. She has also published in the area of legal education, particularly regarding the pedagogy of international students. A/Professor Riley is the editor of an animal law case book, comprising case notes written by students as part of their assessment; and she has also written a book titled "The Commodification of Farm Animals", published by Springer in February 2022. In 2020 she was appointed as one of two review editors for Chapter 6 (policy) of a report on invasive alien species that IPBES, (the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) is preparing for the United Nations. A/Professor Riley was reappointed to the Panel in October 2022.

Ms Paula WALLACE

Ms Wallace was first appointed to the Panel in 2016. She is a communications professional who has operated a consultancy business since 2000. Her writing has been published widely in Australia's business and specialist press with a focus on environmental and sustainability matters. Ms Wallace has a deep interest in the areas of enterprise which involve animals and how related industries can provide leadership from an ethical and practical perspective. She is spearheading the movement for rehoming animals from research and has established the Liberty Foundation to further these aims. Ms Wallace was reappointed to the Panel in October 2022.

Mr Anthony CROKER

Mr Croker was first appointed to the Panel in October 2018. He holds a Diploma of Government Investigations among other certificates. Mr Croker has been an Inspector for the RSPCA NSW since 2001 and Team Leader of the Southern Region since 2005. He has also been a Category C (animal welfare) Animal Ethics Committee member on multiple committees since the early 2000's. Mr Croker was reappointed to the Panel October 2021.

Dr Alice MARSHALL BVSc Hons I (USyd)

Dr Marshall was appointed to the Panel in September 2020 as the nominee of the Minister for Primary Industries. Dr Marshall is Manager Animal Welfare Policy and Programs for the NSW Department of Primary Industries. She reports to the NSW Chief Animal Welfare Officer and leads a team to support positive animal welfare outcomes for NSW. She is a registered veterinarian with experience across mixed veterinary practice, animal pharmaceutical and animal nutrition roles. She has a background in media, communications, and journalism. Dr Marshall is registered to undertake the MANZCVS Animal Welfare Chapter examination at its next sitting date.

Distinguished Professor Annemarie HENNESSY MBBS, FRACP, PhD (Deputy Chair)

Professor Hennessy was previously a member of the Panel from 2008 to 2010. She was re-appointed in January 2014 and again in October 2019. She is the Director of the National Baboon Colony and an active medical teacher and researcher. She is a qualified nephrologist and specialises in general medicine, renal medicine and obstetric medicine. She is the Dean, School of Medicine, at Western Sydney University and Executive Dean of the Joint Program in Medicine at Charles Sturt University. Distinguished Professor Hennessy's membership concluded 13 October 2022.

Associate Professor Marina Pajic PhD (UNSW Sydney)

Associate Professor Pajic was appointed to the Panel in October 2022. She is Head of the Personalised Cancer Therapeutics Lab and Co-Head of the Precision Cancer Medicine Program at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. With over 92 research publications, she is one of Australia's leading experimental biologists for pancreatic cancer. She has over 20 years' experience in the development of animal models of cancer and has utilised small animal models to understand the complex mechanisms behind treatment failure in cancer. From these critical insights, she has developed novel treatment approaches for some of the hardest-to-treat malignancies, including pancreatic cancer.

These new therapies have entered clinical testing (with two clinical trials underway and recruiting patients). She has been a Chair of the Garvan Institute and St Vincent's Hospital animal ethics committee since 2022.

Mr Scott MEYERS

Mr Meyers was appointed to the Panel on 14 October 2019. He is the Chief Inspector of RSPCA NSW and has been with RSPCA NSW for the past 14 years, previously holding the roles of Deputy Chief Inspector, Inspectorate Team Leader and RSPCA NSW Shelter Manager for the Hunter Region. Mr Meyers holds a Diploma in Management and Government Investigation. Mr Meyers has investigated in excess of 4500 animal cruelty complaints across his career and has been involved in complex prosecutions involving aggravated cruelty, puppy factories and matters of significant public interest. Mr Meyers membership concluded 13 October 2022.

Dr Gemma MA BVSc (USyd), PhD (USyd)

Dr Ma was appointed to the Panel in October 2022. Dr Ma is a veterinarian with over 10 years' experience in general small animal practice and shelter medicine. She is currently Project Manager – Keeping Cats Safe at Home and Community Veterinarian at RSPCA NSW. Dr Ma graduated with a PhD from the University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science in 2021. Her thesis explored the role of companion animals in human and environmental health. As a Research Affiliate with the Sydney School of Veterinary Science Dr Ma undertakes research into the human-animal bond, dog and cat population management, human behaviour change, cat ecology and shelter medicine.

Emeritus Professor Robert MULLEY BA (Macquarie), MScAg (USyd), PhD (USyd)

Professor Mulley joined the Panel in 2008. He is a nominee of the NSW Vice Chancellors' Committee. He is Professor of Animal Science at Western Sydney University, and has extensive experience in husbandry and management of farmed livestock, particularly pigs, deer and cattle. More recently he has engaged in research on a range of wildlife species. Emeritus Professor Mulley's membership concluded on 11 November 2022.

Professor Tim KARL MSc-equivalent (University of Muenster, Germany), PhD (Leipniz University Hannover, Germany)

Professor Karl was appointed to the panel in October 2022. He is a Professor for Behavioral Neuroscience in the School of Medicine, Western Sydney University (WSU), and is currently the Chair of the WSU Animal Care and Ethics Committee. Prof Karl's team carries out preclinical research into brain disorders with a particular focus on mental health and neurodegenerative diseases. The research also aims to enhance the validity of animal models and the well-being of test animals in medical research by improving laboratory test conditions and establishing more natural test paradigms. Prof Karl has been a category B member of Animal Ethics Committees at WSU and the University of New South Wales and is also a volunteer for wildlife organisations such as WIRES.

Dr Benjamin Gallard RUSSELL

Dr Russell was appointed to the Panel on 12 November 2019. He is the Manager of the Feral Animal and Weeds Unit for the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). He has worked on pest and weed management with NPWS for over 16 years and before that spent six years at the University of New South Wales, teaching a wide range of biological and ecological subjects while completing his PhD. Dr Russell represents NSW on the National Environment and Invasives Committee as well as being a member of their Terrestrial Vertebrate Pest Working Group and is a member of the NSW State Pest Animal Committee. He is involved in a range of research projects on the impacts and management of the terrestrial vertebrate pests which threaten our native species and agricultural production, with colleagues in both government departments and academic institutions across Australia. He is also a proud Aboriginal man of Darug descent. Dr Russell's membership concluded 11 November 2022.

Dr Marie-Claire DEMERS BEnvSc Hons (UoW), PhD (UoW)

Dr Demers was appointed to the Panel in November 2022. She is a Project Officer in the Threatened Species Unit for NPWS and has been actively engaged in applied research for more than 15 years. Dr Demers PhD thesis from the University of Wollongong entitled "Pattern and process in a threatened seagrass community: Dynamics and habitat use by sessile epifaunal invertebrates in *Posidonia australis*" involved applied research of native plants and animals.

Dr Demers' previous experience includes operational coordination of the Ecological Research Centre at the University of Wollongong and contributing to the enhancement of animal welfare in research projects through her role as a member of the Animal Ethics Committee. She has extensive knowledge of research projects associated with threatened species management and is currently a species

coordinator for an endangered orchid in NSW.

1.4 Animal Ethics Committees

At the establishment level, Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) provide avenues for public participation in the regulation of animal research.

AECs are responsible for approving and monitoring research within establishments, including inspections of animals and facilities. No animal research may be carried out without AEC approval. AECs must consider and evaluate applications to conduct research based on the researchers' responses to a comprehensive set of questions, including their justification for the research, its likely impact on the animals, and procedures for preventing or alleviating pain or distress.

On behalf of the establishment, AECs have the power to stop inappropriate research and to discipline researchers by withdrawing their research approvals. They can require that adequate care, including emergency care, is provided for animals. They also provide guidance and support to researchers on matters relevant to animal welfare, through means such as the preparation of guidelines and dissemination of relevant scientific literature. AECs are responsible for advising institutions on the changes to physical facilities that should be made to provide for the needs of the animals used.

The membership and duties of AECs are set out in the NSW legislation and in the Code, which also provides guidance on how AECs should operate.

AEC membership must include members as follows:

- Category A: a veterinarian
- Category B: an animal researcher
- Category C: a person with a demonstrated commitment to animal welfare who is not associated with the establishment, and not currently involved in the care and use of animals for research.
- Category D: an independent person who does not fit the requirements of the other categories, is not associated with the establishment and who has never been involved in the use of animals for research.

The Code states that more than one person may be appointed to each category and, if an AEC has more than four members, categories C and D must represent no less than one-third of the members.

1.5 Accreditation and licensing

The legislation requires that all applications for Accreditation and Animal Supply Licences be referred to the Panel for consideration. The Panel has established procedures to deal with the considerable workload this entails and has regularly reviewed and updated these procedures to take account of changes in needs and resources.

There are two components in the assessment of applicants by the Panel:

- consideration of a written application to determine whether the applicant is complying with the fundamental requirements of the legislation
- evaluation of the applicant at a site inspection, when a much broader approach is taken.

The recommendations of the Panel are referred to the delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Regional NSW (the Secretary), who has statutory authority for the issue of accreditation and licences and for imposing conditions of accreditation or licence.

Accreditation and licences are issued subject to standard conditions. Other conditions may also be stipulated, as relevant, to the operation of each establishment. The standard conditions applied were revised in 2018 with the move of the accreditation and licensing functions to the NSW DPI Compliance Unit (see Appendix H for standard conditions on Accreditation and Licences). New Animal Research Establishment Accreditations are issued for a one-year period, with renewing accreditations being issued for a 3-year period.

1.5.1 Evaluation of written applications

New and renewal applications for accreditations or licences are assessed firstly by NSW DPI staff,

according to criteria developed by the Panel, who then make recommendations on the applications to the Panel.

The Panel considers the recommendations and applications, then advises the Secretary (or their delegate) as to whether applications should be approved and under what conditions.

The delegate of the Secretary considers the Panel's recommendation and makes a determination on the applications. Applicants are advised in writing of the outcome, including any conditions that apply.

The criteria against which the Panel assesses written applications are drawn from the legislation. Considerations include whether the AEC is properly constituted, whether its procedures are adequate, whether it meets frequently enough to deal with the volume of work, and whether it is conducting inspections of the animals and facilities it supervises. The types and numbers of animals held, and their accommodation are also checked, and likely problem areas are flagged for follow-up at site inspections. Similarly, numbers and qualifications of animal care staff are assessed for adequacy, as is the training provided for animal care staff and researchers.

Monitoring of animal care and use by the AEC is another area of assessment. Numbers of AEC inspections carried out must be provided. Questions on the source and destination of animals allow a double-check on compliance with the Act's provisions relating to animal supply.

Form R- application for accreditation as an animal research establishment and licence as an animal supplier, and the criteria for application assessment are published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

1.5.2 Conduct of site inspections

Inspections are conducted by an authorised veterinary inspector under the Act. Members of the Panel can also accompany an inspector during inspections, in accordance with section 10 of the Act.

During inspections, establishments are assessed for compliance with the Code, the Act, the Regulation and any licensing conditions. The range of items assessed can include the membership, procedures and activities of the AEC; animal care procedures; animal research procedures; physical facilities for housing and using animals; and the wellbeing of the animals held.

This assessment typically occurs through a review of written material and a site visit. Routine inspections are arranged in advance and usually require one to four days on site.

Initially implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many AEC meetings continue to be held via videoconferencing. Therefore, videoconferencing was utilised by the inspector and Panel members for some inspections to facilitate attendance at AEC meetings. This method was reported to work well for both AECs and the Department.

Assessment of written material

Assessment typically begins before a site visit through an examination of documents provided by the establishment. Examples of documents assessed include records of research applications approved by the AEC, AEC meeting minutes, records of AEC inspections, operational procedures of the AEC and standard operating procedures.

This assessment is carried out by an authorised veterinary inspector appointed under the Act. Panel members who have been nominated to accompany the inspector may also participate in this aspect of the inspection. This evaluation allows potential problem areas to be identified prior to a site visit.

Site Inspection

During the site inspection, the inspector and any accompanying Panel members may examine animal housing and facilities, speak to researchers and animal care staff, review records of animal monitoring, and attend an AEC meeting. Issues identified by the inspection team are discussed with the AEC and representatives of the establishment during the inspection.

Inspection report

After the inspection, a report is prepared by the inspector with input from any Panel members that participated in the inspection. The report outlines issues identified and any additional recommendations from the inspection team. Reports are provided to the establishment as soon as possible following the inspection. Reports are also referred to a full meeting of the Panel for consideration, and any additional feedback from the Panel is then provided to the establishment.

Response to inspection reports

Establishments are asked to respond in writing to the inspection report. This response should address any recommendations and non-compliances identified from the inspection, and actions that have been taken in response to these. Responses are typically considered at meetings of the Panel, and an assessment is made of whether the responses are satisfactory. If necessary, further follow up with the establishment can be carried out, such as additional inspections.

1.6 The Animal Research Act in schools and TAFE NSW

The Act allows the use of animals for educational purposes when there is a demonstrated educational benefit, when there is no suitable alternative, and when the least number of animals is used, with the least impact on their wellbeing. Their use also presents opportunities to promote in students an understanding of the ethical and technical issues involved with the use of animals.

Although animals are used for educational purposes in many situations, their use in schools and TAFE colleges presents special issues, such as mechanisms for approval and monitoring of animal use across the State. Oversight of animals used in teaching under the Act is provided by the relevant Animal Ethics Committee of each establishment.

1.7 Administration

Executive support for the Panel and administration of the Act is provided by the NSW DPI Animal Welfare and Compliance Units.

2. Report on work and activities

2.1 Administration and planning

Administrative functions have varied from activities such as assessments of Accreditation and Licensing, to formulating the Panel's strategic plan for 2022–24. The appendices to this annual report contain details of the operational and strategic functions of the Panel. These include:

- the dates of, and Panel member attendance at Panel meetings (Appendixes A and B) and site inspections (Appendix C);
- the Animal Research Review Panel Strategic Plan 2022–24 (Appendix D) and
- Panel operating expenses (Appendix E).

Additionally, the Panel has also developed a working Annual Agenda Plan to assist with aligning activities of the Panel with its function, mission and Strategic Plan items cross the year, as well as standard agenda items, to assist with the Panel's workload.

2.1.1 Strategic plan July 2022 – June 2024

The Panel's two-year strategic plan for 2022-24 identifies the primary goals of the Panel and strategies for achieving these goals (Appendix D).

2.1.2 Liaison with establishments and individuals

The Panel liaises with establishments and individuals to offer advice and to facilitate the implementation of legislative requirements and adherence to replacement, reduction and refinement principles.

During the 2022-23 financial year, liaison was conducted via discussions during, and feedback after, site inspections. The Panel provided recommendations to establishments during the assessment of Accreditation and Licence applications and AEC Annual Reports (see section 2.4 for more information).

Additionally, as part of the 2022-24 Strategic Plan, the Panel facilitated a webinar series for AEC members, research animal carers, researchers, animal science students, and interested members of the public (see Appendix D or visit [Animal Ethics Infolink](#) for further information).

2.2 Assessment of applications

During 2022-23, the Department maintained 213 animal research accreditations and animal supply licences. This number includes 99 animal research establishments which undertake surveys and/or fauna surveys and do not house animals and 36 holders of Animal Supply Licences.

During 2022–23, the Panel considered and made recommendations to the Secretary on:

- 25 new applications for Accreditation
- 62 renewal applications for Accreditation
- 0 new applications for Animal Supply Licences
- 8 renewal applications for Animal Supply Licences.
- 24 extensions to existing Accreditation and/or Animal Supply Licences

2.2.1 Lethality testing

Accredited research establishments must keep figures on lethality testing and submit these to the Panel. Lethality testing is defined as *'any animal research procedure in which any material or substance is administered to animals for the purpose of determining whether any animals will die or how many animals will die'*. Lethality tests include, but are not limited to, LD50 tests (see item 2.2.2).

Figures on lethality testing are included in the Form L Animal use static returns and are published in the annual [Animal Use Statistics reports](#) on the Animal Ethics Infolink website

2.2.2 LD50 testing

LD50 is a toxicity test used to determine the dose or concentration of a test substance – that is, the lethal dose – that is expected to kill 50% of the animals to which it is administered. For the purposes of the Act the definition of LD50 has been broadened.

Included are all tests in which a potentially lethal dose of a substance will be administered and is expected to kill a proportion of the individuals in any group of animals to which it is given. In NSW such tests may be undertaken only under the approval of a properly constituted AEC with the concurrence of the Minister.

Applications for permission to conduct LD50 tests are evaluated by a Panel subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee in 2022–23 were A/Professor Riley, A/Professor Rooney, Professor Karl, Ms Bannerman and Professor Phillips. The subcommittee makes recommendations to the Panel, which in turn advises the Minister.

In 2022–23 the subcommittee considered one application (five tests) from an Accredited Animal Research Establishment.

The testing is used in quality control during the manufacturing of vaccines and in the development of new vaccine formulations. Most of the tests are related to the manufacture of clostridial vaccines, used to protect livestock and companion animals against tetanus, enterotoxaemia, black leg and black disease that are rapidly fatal if contracted by unvaccinated animals.

The Panel recommended the Minister grant concurrence between 30 April 2022 to 30 April 2023 in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Data is provided in graphical form by 31 January 2023 with figures comparing 2020, 2021 and 2022 calendar years on the following:
 - a) The number of animals used for each quality control test in relation to a relevant measure to be determined by the establishment. The measure should provide information on the trends in numbers of animals used over time.
 - b) The number of animals used for development and research over time, with an explanation of the purpose – for example replacement of a test, refinement of a procedure.
 - c) The total number of animals produced in relation to numbers of animals actually used in tests.
 - d) The number of animals that die in tests and the number euthanased as an early endpoint in tests.
2. Any application for Ministerial concurrence to conduct LD50 tests between April 2022 and April 2023 must be presented by the establishment to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by 31 January 2022.
3. The establishment must continue, in consultation with the AEC, to identify and implement refinements to lessen the impact of existing approved tests on animals and methods of reducing the numbers of animals used in existing approved tests or replacing animal tests with alternatives and reports upon these to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by 31 January 2023.

2.2.3 Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Act 2022

The Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Act was assented, and came into effect, on 25 November 2022.

The Panel established a subcommittee to facilitate the development of procedures and guidance material to assist industry in meeting the new regulatory requirements.

Section 54C(4)(a) of the Act allows for applications to be made to the Panel to keep a dog or cat for research for longer than 3 years. The Panel is required to report on numbers of these applications that

have been made, approved and refused.

No applications were made during the 2022-23 reporting period.

2.3 Assessment of changes to AEC membership

All establishments are required to advise the Department of changes to AEC membership. The Panel assesses and makes recommendations to the Department on the suitability of the qualifications of the new members for the categories of membership to which they are nominated.

The qualifications of AEC members are assessed in accordance with the requirements set out in the Code and Panel Policy 9: Criteria for Assessment of Animal Ethics Committee Membership.

When examining applications from establishments for animal research accreditation, the membership of AECs is assessed by the Panel to ensure they are of acceptable composition. The Panel also reviews, and makes recommendations to NSW DPI, on the suitability of all new appointments to AECs. During site inspections, the Panel also assesses the operation of the AECs.

In the 2022–23 year the Panel assessed and made recommendations to the NSW DPI on the appointment of 62 members of AECs.

2.4 Assessment of Animal Research Establishment AEC Annual Reports

The Panel provides advice to the NSW Government on the use of animals in research and teaching in NSW. Each year as part of their annual Form L animal use statistics returns all Accredited Animal Research Establishments and holders of Animal Research Authorities must submit a copy of their AEC Annual Report to NSW DPI.

AEC annual reports are written to inform the heads of the establishment of the activities of the AEC and to identify problems that need to be addressed. The reports also provide a means for self-assessment of the establishment's compliance with the animal research legislation and help identify measures needed to ensure ongoing compliance. This self-assessment is a central component of an establishment's responsibilities under NSW animal research legislation. Additionally, the preparation of a report also provides an opportunity for the AEC to reflect on its activities and self-assess its operations.

Each year, the Panel provides feedback on the annual reports to establishments and their AECs.

For the 2022 reporting year, Panel members reviewed 57 AEC Annual Reports.

2.5 Subcommittees

The Panel appoints subcommittees to deal with particular issues. They explore issues in depth and have discussions with relevant members of the scientific and broader communities.

Subcommittees provide reports, recommendations, and draft guidelines/industry material to the full Panel for consideration.

Focus areas of subcommittees in the 2022–23 year included:

- Evaluation of applications for LD50 testing (A/Professor Riley, A/Professor Rooney, Professor Karl, Ms Bannerman and Professor Phillips)
- Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Act 2022 (Ms Wallace, Professor Karl, Dr Ma, Dr O'Brien, Ms Bannerman and A/Professor Riley)
- Animal Ethics Committee education and training (A/Professor Riley, Professor Phillips, A/Professor Rooney, Dr Marshall and Ms Bannerman)
- Scent Conservation Dogs (Professor Phillips, Dr Marshall, Ms Bannerman, and Dr Demers)

2.6 Statistics on animal use

The Animal Research Regulation 2021 requires accredited research establishments (other than schools) and animal research authority holders to record and submit information on the number of animals used in research each year.

The requirements for reporting on animal use provide data on the numbers of animals used in all research projects in NSW, reported against the purpose of the research and the types of procedures in which they were involved. The aim of collecting these statistics is to give some indication of the level of invasiveness of the procedures on the animals and to provide data on the use of animals in research. Aspects of the system include the recording of:

- an animal in all projects in which the animal is used
- animals for each year in which they are held in long-term projects
- the types of procedures used (giving an indication of the impact of procedures) combined with the recording of the purpose of the research

Categories used are based on those used on a national basis. Figures collected cover a calendar year, rather than financial year. The information is collated into an annual Animal Use Statistics report by NSW DPI staff. This report is approved by the Panel and published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

In addition to information on numbers of animals used, information is collected on initiatives in the 3R areas relating to reduction, replacement, and refinement of animal use. A summary of this information is included in the annual Animal Use Statistic reports on the Animal Ethics Infolink website.

In 2019, a mandatory category for reporting on the fate of domestic cats and dogs was introduced with voluntary reporting for other species.

As an additional means of monitoring Accredited Animal Research Establishments, the annual reports of AECs are required to be attached to and submitted with the return of annual animal use statistics. The Code requires that each AEC must submit a written report on its activities at least annually to the governing body of the institution for which it acts.

2.7 Support for Animal Ethics Committees

The Panel and the NSW DPI continue to provide ongoing support to assist AECs in performing their duties. This includes the conducting of site inspections; the development of webinars, writing of policies, guidelines and fact sheets where a need is identified; the maintenance of a website dedicated to animal research issues (Animal Ethics Infolink) and the supply of advice.

The Panel is used as a reference source by the State's AECs, for example as a source of information on successful policies developed at other institutions.

Several deliverables of the Strategic Plan July 2022 – June 2024 are related to the development of supporting material for AECs to assist with their education and training. Topics identified, and supporting material produced or updated, and published on Animal Ethics Infolink are listed in section 2.10.

The Panel also hosted a 'webinar series' during 2022, with another 'webinar series' scheduled for 2023. Webinars held during the 2022-23 period included:

- 9 August 2022 – research animal statistics
- 8 November 2022 – Ethical Decision Making for AEC's
- 6 June 2023 – the 3R's of animal research

2.8 Website: Animal Ethics Infolink

Development and maintenance of a website by the Panel and NSW DPI - 'Animal Ethics Infolink' - is

aimed at assisting researchers, teachers and members of Animal Ethics Committees to access information about the operation of the animal research legislation in NSW.

In addition to specific information about the legislation, including Panel policies and guidelines, this site provides general information about legislation in other states and countries and links to many sites from which useful information promoting the humane care and use of animals for scientific purposes can be sourced. The website also gives the broader community access to information about animal use for research and teaching in NSW.

The Animal Ethics Infolink site is accessible at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/animals/animal-ethics-infolink>.

2.9 Site inspections

In the 2022-2023 year, ten site inspections were conducted by an authorised veterinary inspector appointed under the Act. Panel members accompanied the inspector during nine of the ten site inspections (Appendix C). Reports from all ten inspections were presented to the full Panel for review and any additional feedback.

2.10 Policies and Guidelines

The Panel and NSW DPI produce policies and guidelines to aid researchers, AECs, research establishments, animal suppliers and members of the broader community to understand and comply with the requirements of the animal research legislation. These documents can be found by following the links from the, [Animal Ethics Infolink](#) website (see Appendix G for a list of guidelines and policies).

Policies and guidelines are developed or revised to fill needs identified by the Panel.

In 2022-23 two guidelines were revised:

- Guideline 24 – Consideration of high impact projects by AEC’s (updated – Feb 2023)
- Guideline 12 – Animal Research Application Form (Model) (updated – Feb 2023)

In 2022-23, 19 new guidelines were published:

- Guideline 31 – Ethical decision making in Animal Ethics Committees (Feb 2023)
- Guideline 28 – Smoke inhalation procedures in rodents (July 2022)
- Guideline 30 – The Forced Swim Test in rats and mice (November 2022)
- Guideline 29 - Daily checking of research animals (September 2022)
- 15 species-specific guidelines were finalised and published (January 2023).

2.11 Initiatives in replacement, reduction and refinement

Information submitted by each establishment on Form L ‘Animal use statistics’ includes information on techniques developed or used by the establishment to replace, reduce, and refine animal use in research and teaching. The adoption of such techniques is actively encouraged by the Panel. Lists of the initiatives submitted are collated and published to facilitate information sharing and industry development in the annual [Animal Use Statistics Reports](#) on Animal Ethics Infolink website.

2.12 Complaints

A statutory process for making complaints about animal research is set out in sections 22, 28 and 42 of the Act.

Complaints must be made in writing to the Secretary, who refers the complaint to the Panel for investigation. The Panel is bound by the Act to investigate complaints made in this manner, and to furnish the Secretary with a report. The Secretary then makes a determination as per section 24, 28B

or 44 of the Act. Both the complainant and the individual or establishment being investigated have a right to apply to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for administrative review of the determination.

In the 2022-23 reporting period, no statutory complaints were made. One statutory complaint from the 2021-2022 reporting period was investigated and determined.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Dates of Animal Research Review Panel meetings

Meeting number	Date of meeting
249	14 July 2022
250	29 September 2022
251	1 December 2022
251a	16 December 2022 (Out of Session)
252	23 February 2023
253	4 May 2023

Appendix B: Attendance of members at Panel meetings

MEMBER	Meeting number					
	249	250	251	251a	252	253
Professor Jacqueline Phillips (Chair)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professor Annemarie Hennessy (Deputy Chair)	*	*				
A/Professor Kieron Rooney (Deputy Chair from 252)	*	*	*	A	*	*
Professor Robert Mulley	*	*				
Mr Anthony Croker	*	*	A	*	*	*
Mr Scott Meyers	A	*				
A/Professor Sophie Riley	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ms Paula Wallace	A	*	*	*	*	*
Ms Sally Bannerman	*	A	*	*	A	*
Dr Damian O'Brien	*	*	A	*	*	*
Dr Benjamin Russell	A	A				
Dr Alice Marshall	*	*	*	*	A	*
Professor Tim Karl			*	*	*	*
Dr Marie-Claire Demers			A	*	A	*
Dr Gemma Ma			*	*	*	A
A/Professor Marina Pajic			*	A	*	A

* = Present

A = Absent

Appendix C: Dates of Inspections attended by Panel members July 2022– June 2023

Inspection number	Inspection date/s	Category of Panel member/s in attendance (section 6(2) of the Act)
1	26 August 2022	s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW
2	29 November 2022	s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW
3	6 December 2022	s6(2)(g) - Minister for Primary Industries.
4	8 March 2023	s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW
5	9 March 2023	s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW
6	15 March 2023	s6(2)(g) - Minister for Primary Industries
7	16 March 2023	s6(2)(a) - NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; s6(2)(g) - Minister for Primary Industries
8	13 April 2023	s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW
9	26 April 2023	s6(2)(a) - NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW; S6(2)(d)- Animal Societies' Federation
10	19 June 2023	s6(2)(a) - NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee; s6(2) (c)- RSPCA NSW S6(2)(d)- Animal Societies' Federation

Appendix D: Animal Research Review Panel Strategic Plan July 2022 – June 2024

Objective: Protect and promote the welfare of animals used in research and teaching
(What are we seeking to achieve?)

Performance measurement:
(How are we going to measure success?)

Success	KPI/Evaluation	Basis for Comparison	Status at 30 June 2023
ARRP actions shape continual improvement by research establishments regarding their compliance with the Animal Research Act, Regulation and the <i>Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes</i> .	ARRP initiates and monitors follow up on all reports of non-compliance.	Performance over time.	Ongoing
	Effective engagement in and review of DPI inspections.	Performance over time.	Ongoing
	Effective oversight of independent external reviews	Performance over time.	Ongoing
	Satisfactory response to Q8 of AEC annual report assessment	Performance over time.	Ongoing
	Accreditation applications and renewals reviewed thoroughly and consistently	Performance over time.	Ongoing
High proportion of complaints satisfactorily resolved (i.e. completed and closed) in accordance with the Animal Research Act.	Complaints resolved according to procedure and in a timely fashion	Performance over time.	Ongoing
High proportion of establishments are well informed and have access to information to enable them to improve animal welfare in research	% and number of establishments that report ease and adequate access to information provided in webinars and other surveys.	Performance over time.	Ongoing
	% and number of establishments that report ease and adequate access to information from a satisfactory	Performance over time.	Ongoing

response to Q6 of AEC Annual

Report assessment

Infolink page view statistics

Performance
over time.

Ongoing

Strategies:

(How are we going to get there?)

Strategy/Deliverable	Who	When	Output/Level of activity	Status at 30 June 2023
Education/Training				
1.1 Develop guideline for AECs on improved decision making with respect to research/teaching applications	Panel/Animal Welfare	November 2022	Guideline Published/Updated	Guidelines 12, 24 and 31 published on Animal Ethics Infolink
1.2 Develop an implementation plan for ongoing Establishment and AEC education/training	Panel/ Animal Welfare/ Compliance	December 2023	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.3.1 Development of annual webinar series	Panel/Animal Welfare	Ongoing	Webinars presented	3 webinars completed '22-23; Ongoing for '23-24
1.3.2 Follow- up surveys after each webinar to assess the ongoing education/training needs and delivery methods for Establishments and AECs		March 2024	Surveys completed and analysed	Ongoing
1.4 Develop and publish Statistics guideline for use by AEC members	Panel/Compliance	March 2023	Guideline developed and published	In progress
1.5 Develop and publish supporting material to accompany rehoming guideline	Panel/Animal Welfare	October 2022	Supporting fact sheets developed and published.	15 species-specific rehoming guidelines published on

				Animal Ethics Infolink
1.6 Develop and publish a guideline for housing of cats and other animals not already available	Panel/ Animal Welfare/ Compliance	May 2023	Guideline developed and published	Ongoing
1.7.1 Publication of Smoke inhalation procedures guideline (ARRP Guideline 28)	Panel/Animal Welfare	August 2022	Guideline published	Published on Animal Ethics Infolink
1.7.2 12-month Review of Smoke inhalation procedures guideline		July 2023	Review of annual reports and institutional reporting re use of Smoke inhalation procedures	In progress
1.8. Publication of Forced Swim Test and other swimming procedures guideline	Panel / Animal Welfare	October 2022	Guideline published	Published on Animal Ethics Infolink
1.9. Review and update of the Animal Ethics Infolink including webpage design and content (particularly policies and guidelines)	Panel / Animal Welfare	June 2023	Animal Ethics Infolink updated with new webpage design, and review and update of policies and guidelines as appropriate	In progress
Industry liaison and communication				
2.1 Provide timely response to media enquiries	Panel / Animal Welfare / Compliance	Ongoing as required	Provision of timely responses as requested	Ongoing
2.2 Provide timely review and feedback on independent external review reports	Panel / Compliance	Ongoing as required	Provision timely feedback on independent external review reports to establishments as required	Ongoing
2.3 Review of data collection and collation for Annual Animal Use Statistics 2021 report (Form L)	Panel / Animal Welfare / Compliance	December 2022	Review complete and process updated as applicable	Completed

2.4 Review of information requested to be provided in AEC Annual Reports	Panel / Animal Welfare / Compliance	December 2022	Review complete and information request updated as applicable	Completed
Legislation				
3.1 Participate in NSW Animal Welfare Reform through comment and advice	Panel	Ongoing as required	Provision of timely advice throughout reform program, as requested.	Ongoing
3.2 Participate in Parliamentary Inquiries and processes	Panel	Ongoing as required	Provision of timely advice and participation as required.	Ongoing
3.3 Review Use of primates and other animals in medical research in New South Wales Inquiry report recommendations and explore options for the Panel to respond	Panel / Compliance / Animal Welfare	When report is released	Response provided to Inquiry Committee	Completed

Appendix E: Animal Research Review Panel expenses

Note: The following figures do not include the time and costs incurred by individual Panel members— and met at their own expense— for work such as planning for the AEC members meeting, and input into the development of guidelines. In addition, support provided to members by their employing establishments (for example: salaries paid by government departments for their employees’ time spent on Panel business) is not included in the figures.

Fees and retainers	\$6455.00
Travel and subsistence	\$855.00
Stores (including catering)	\$513.00
TOTAL	\$7823.00

Appendix F: Animal Research Review Panel policies and guidelines

(Available from <http://www.animaethics.org.au>)

Policies

1. Payment of External Members of Animal Ethics Committees (revised May 2017)
2. Activities prohibited under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (revised Dec 2017)
3. Non-Research Animals at Accredited Animal Research Establishments (revised Dec 2017)
4. Annual Reporting by Animal Ethics Committees to Accredited Animal Research Establishments (revised Jan 2020)
5. Accredited Animal Research Establishment Support for Animal Ethics Committees (revised May 2014)
6. Differentiation between animal research and veterinary treatment (revised May 2014)
7. Establishment of Protocols for Grievance Procedures (revised Dec 2014)
8. Criteria for Assessment of Animal Ethics Committee Membership (revised Feb 2022)
9. 1Emergency Procedures
10. Formal Agreements between Accredited Research Establishments sharing Animal Ethics Committees
11. Frequency of Animal Ethics Committee Meetings (revised Jan 2020)
12. Inspections by Animal Ethics Committees
13. The use of restricted drugs and the conduct of restricted acts of veterinary science in animal research (revised Feb 2014)
14. Orientation of New Members of Animal Ethics Committees
15. Conflict of Interest with Membership of Animal Ethics Committees (revised Mar 2020)

Guidelines

- G3. Collaborative Research between Accredited Animal Research Establishments (May 2018)
- G4. Use of Animals undergoing surgical procedures for educational purposes (revised Aug 2020)
- G5. Collection of Voucher Specimens (revised January 2020)
- G6. Use of Pitfall Traps (revised January 2020)
- G7. The use of non-indigenous vertebrate pest species in research (revised March 2020)
- G8. Teaching Artificial Insemination and Pregnancy Testing in Cattle
- G9. Radio Tracking and GPS Tracking (revised January 2020)
- G10. Wildlife Surveys (revised January 2020)
- G11. Guidelines for Tick Serum Producers
- G12. Animal Research Application Form (Model) (updated February 2023)
- G14. Guidelines for the Care and Housing of Dogs in Scientific Institutions (March 1999)

- G15. Blood Collection
- G16. Animal Ethics Committee supervision of obtaining, breeding, keeping and supplying animals for use in research (revised June 2021)
- G16a. Supply of dogs and cats for use in research (revised August 2020)
- G17. Training Personnel
- G18. Guidelines for the Housing of Rabbits in Scientific Institutions (August 2003)
- G19. Teaching Cervical or Vaginal Artificial Insemination of Sheep (draft)
- G20. Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Institutions (December 2007)
- G21. Guidelines for the Housing of Guinea Pigs in Scientific Institutions (May 2006)
- G22. Guidelines for the Housing of Mice in Scientific Institutions (April 2012)
- G23. Guidelines for the Housing of Sheep in Scientific Institutions (June 2010)
- G24. Consideration of high impact projects by Animal Ethics Committees (updated February 2023)
- G25. Common issues encountered during inspections of animal research establishments (May 2018)
- G26. Animal Ethics Committee reporting and amendment application templates (March 2018)
- G27. Research Animal Rehoming Guidelines (December 2020)
- G28. Smoke inhalation procedures in rodents (July 2022)
- G29. Daily checking of research animals (September 2022)
- G30. The forced swim test in rats and mice (November 2022)
- G31. Ethical decision-making in Animal Ethics Committees (February 2023)

In January 2023, 15 species-specific rehoming guides were published to support the implementation of Guideline 27 - Research Animal Rehoming Guidelines

Appendix G: Standard conditions for Accreditation and Animal Supply Licence

The following are standard conditions that were placed on establishments Accredited as Animal Research Establishments and Licensed as Animal Suppliers, if relevant to their activities. Additional conditions are added on a case-by-case basis.

Accreditation

The holder of the accreditation must comply with the following conditions:

- Animals (other than exempt animals) must only be obtained from a licensed animal supplier.
- Failure to comply with the terms, conditions, limitations or restrictions of this licence may result in the suspension or cancellation of the accreditation.
- Must notify the Department of Primary Industries within 7 days of any changes unless otherwise specified in the Act or Regulation.
- The accreditation holder ensures that the provisions of the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (the Code) are complied with in relation to carrying on of any activity authorised by the accreditation.
- The accreditation holder must ensure that the provisions of the *Animal Research Act 1985* and *Animal Research Regulation 2021* are complied with in relation to the carrying on of any activity authorised by the accreditation.
- The accreditation holder must ensure, unless otherwise approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, animals should be housed in accordance with the ARRP guidelines on animal housing for specific species found at www.animaethics.org.au.
- The accreditation only relates to the designated land described on it.
- This accreditation is not transferable.

Animal Supply Licence

The holder of the licence must comply with the following conditions:

- Failure to comply with the terms, conditions, limitations or restrictions of this licence may result in the suspension or cancellation of the licence.
- Must notify the Department of Primary Industries within 7 days of any changes unless otherwise specified in the Act or Regulation.
- The accreditation holder must ensure, unless otherwise approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, animals should be housed in accordance with the ARRP guidelines on animal housing for specific species found at www.animaethics.org.au.
- The business must ensure that the provisions of the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (the Code) are complied with in relation to carrying on of any activity authorised by the licence.
- The licence holder must ensure that the provisions of the *Animal Research Act 1985* and *Animal Research Regulation 2021* are complied with in relation to the carrying on of any activity authorised by the licence.
- The licence only relates to the designated land described on it.
- This licence is not transferable to another person.

Special conditions

These conditions are applied to accreditations and licenses based on the animals that will be used or housed for research purposes and supply.

Wildlife studies

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, wildlife studies should be carried out in accordance with the ARRP guidelines on wildlife research found at www.animaethics.org.au.

Chickens

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, chickens must be provided with housing that meets their behavioural needs including straw or suitable bedding to cover the floors of cages, perches and dust bathing substrate.

Ducks

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, ducks should be housed in enclosures in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals (Appendix A) used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes.

Primates

The establishment must comply with NHMRC Principles and guidelines for the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes found at www.nhmrc.gov.au.

Secretary's AEC

Must obtain prior approval from the Secretary's Animal Ethics Committee before any project has commenced.

Pigs

Unless approved by the Animal Ethics Committee, pigs should be housed in enclosures in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes - Appendix A (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list>)

Cats

Unless otherwise approved by the Animal Ethics Committee on the basis of compelling evidence for the requirements of projects, housing for cats must include:

- A minimum floor area (not including shelves) of 1.5m² per cat and a minimum height of 2.0m.
- Shelves to enable cats to sit at varying heights must be provided.

In addition to these requirements, facilities for cats must at least meet the guidelines of the Council of Europe (2006) Appendix A (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list>)"