This edition of *Animal Welfare Matters* provides important information for the festive period and start of the New Year. This newsletter also provides important updates from the Animal Ethics Office on changes to Annual Reporting Process and key dates for 2013.

**ANNUAL REPORTS AND STATE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR 2012**

The 2012 annual reports will be due by **18 January 2013**.

As a licensed scientific establishment, which applies for licenses to use and supply animals for scientific purposes, UWA is legally required to monitor and report on the establishment’s animal use statistics to the State Government, each calendar year. **The 2012 annual reports will be due by 18 January 2013.** It is the responsibility of the Chief Investigator to complete and submit:

1) A UWA Annual Report form for research, teaching or breeding **and**

**NOTE-- NEW ANNUAL REPORTING PROCESS**

For the 2012 reporting year, UWA is using an electronic form associated with the InfoEd Research Management package; this also includes the State Government Animal Use Statistics. We expect this initiative will make the annual report process more efficient. You will have received an email from the Research Systems Unit (RSU) regarding your requirement to complete both UWA and the State Government reports. The RSU staff will support you with completing the electronic forms. They can be contacted by phone on 6488 7606 or email: ithelp-research@uwa.edu.au.

Please note: The new way in which the State Government will be collecting the information on animal use statistics has significantly changed from previous years. Please allow adequate time to complete this new format.
IMPORTANT NOTICE from the Animal Ethics Committee

Modification of the Animal Ethics Research Application

Please ensure that Section 8 of the Research Application form is completed as described on the form (see new section header below).

The applicant must:
- Address items a, b, c, and d.
- Use lay language.
- Submit NO more than one A4 page for this section.

Applications that do not comply will be returned until they are correct.

New section 8 header

8. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT. Please provide: a) hypothesis, b) aims, c) research design and methods, d) anticipated outcomes. It is important to use lay language to ensure that all AEC members understand the proposed project i.e. as if it was a press release.

THIS SECTION MUST NOT BE MORE THAN ONE A4 PAGE.

To ensure you download the latest version of the AEC application forms, please follow the link below.

http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/forms/animals

AEC submission and meeting dates for 2013

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<th>SUBMISSION CLOSING DATES</th>
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These dates are also available at:
http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/ethics-committee
Internationally important sheep model saved and residing at UWA

By Kristen Nowak & Nigel Laing

“We have been studying an internationally unique sheep model of muscular dystrophy for many years. The flock was residing at Murdoch University and, in early 2011, we had only one 6-year old affected ewe to breed from to try to maintain the flock into the future. This was starting to look ‘touch and go’, with this ewe being near the end of her viable reproductive abilities. Was she going to get pregnant, maintain that pregnancy and produce a viable lamb?

On the advice of UWA’s veterinary staff, we decided to use assisted reproduction rather than rely on the old fashioned method. In vitro fertilization, embryo harvest and subsequent embryo transfer to donor ewes was arranged and performed at Genstock Pty Ltd in Kojonup, WA.

UWA veterinary staff greatly assisted us in working out the logistics and the animal welfare implications of transporting these sheep, assisted reproduction and the subsequent management and care of these precious animals at the Sheep Research Facility at Shenton Park.

We were delighted when we had seven healthy lambs born earlier this year.

Thank you to the animal care staff, veterinarians and animal welfare officers who looked after our sheep so well and continue to do so.”

For advice on completing your AEC application, please contact: vets-research@uwa.edu.au

The Animal Welfare & Veterinary Advisors generally hold Hints and Tips workshops 2 weeks before each AEC submission deadline.

WORKSHOP NOTICE

“Hints & Tips on completing an AEC application”

Tuesday 12th Feb 2013 @ 12.15 to 2pm

Geology and Geography Seminar Room 1

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Gabby is a veterinary graduate from Murdoch University (1995) and after 6 years in small animal and mixed private practice in South Australia and the U.K. she undertook a clinical training residency program in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia at the University of Glasgow. She became a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia in 2005 and returned to Western Australia in 2006. She was recently awarded her PhD from UWA and splits her working week between the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Science at Murdoch University, in her role as a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Anaesthesia, and UWA as a Veterinary Officer.

In her role as a Veterinary Officer at UWA she is available to give advice about anaesthesia and analgesia for animals used in research and teaching. She often trains researchers in anaesthesia in the context of a specific project and oversees the anaesthesia of teaching workshops that are held at the Large Animal Facility. She has designed anaesthetic and analgesic protocols for a range of procedures including laparoscopic renal transplant in pigs, fetal surgery in sheep, trauma workshops in sheep, dental implants in rats, micro-imaging of mice, one lung ventilation in goats and orthopaedic surgery in rabbits. She is especially interested in post-operative care of animals undergoing anaesthesia and surgery from which they will recover.

If you would like to review your anaesthetic and analgesic protocol, please contact Gabby on gabrielle.musk@uwa.edu.au.

The 2013 PAWES Course dates are:

- February 21
- March 14
- May 9
- July 4
- August 22
- October 17

For more information please contact geraldine.stewart@uwa.edu.au
This year’s conference was a great success thanks to the local organising committee (Deirdre Bourke, Julie Bellamy, Kim Gifkins, Sarah Wickham, Joanne Davis and Chair, Eric von Dietze) whose efforts were greatly appreciated and universally praised by conference delegates as well as the staff and Board of ANZCCART. The magnitude of the success was measured in two key areas. The first and most obvious was the outstanding caliber of the speakers and the second measure was the number of local people who were able to come along to either their first ANZCCART Conference or their first in a long time.

This year we tried something a little bit different and started the conference with a series of informal meetings over coffee by AEC member category group. Most delegates felt that this was a good start to the conference but would like to see some refinements for next year. Once the formal presentations began, it quickly became apparent that we were in for a spectacular range of speakers that started with the Chief Scientist of Western Australia, Lyn Beazley and then progressed to a Nobel Laureate with Barry Marshall.

The presentations explored a range of topics including:

- Practical and ethical issues associated with the study of dementia – both in patients and animal models.
- Measures taken to protect populations of native animals on the fringes of our cities.
- Importance of researcher training, experimental design, establishing humane endpoints and perhaps most important of all – ensuring that there are mechanisms in place that allow everyone to respond to unexpected events.
- Minimising over breeding of animals in breeding facilities.
- Problems that can and do result from trying to cut corners during the establishment of a new animal facility.

The conference was shaping up to be relevant and appealing to a wide audience including researchers, teachers, animal care staff, members of AECs and the wider community. A presentation from Stuart Hodggets and Ionat Zurr about the use of animals in artistic endeavours, challenged a lot of delegates with respect to the boundaries of research and the AECs role in applying the Code and even legislation to this area.

Former Australian of the Year, Fiona Wood outlining her journey in developing and patenting spray-on skin cells for treating a range of patients. Fiona's presentation highlighted the extent to which research involving animals underpins the expectations of reviewers for research grants, publications and even regulatory bodies such as the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). There are circumstances were even though human clinical work has been done, these entities may require work to be repeated in an animal model. This also emphasized the importance of maintaining a relevant link between animal research and clinical practice.

Jane Pillow continued this theme with a discussion of the sheep models used for research into improving morbidity and mortality of pre-term infants. International speakers from Singapore and South Africa touched on their experiences with animal welfare in these countries.
There was information presented on the impact of housing on the welfare of laboratory mice and capture and marking techniques for native animals in field work. The hot topic was euthanasia methods. The speakers discussed the principles of humane euthanasia using examples as far ranging as beached whales, large zoo animals (with a public profile), sting rays, reptiles and pigs. Based on these examples a discussion drew out the principles that underpin the choice of the most appropriate euthanasia method:

- Trained and competent operatives
- Minimal animal handling and restraint
- Reliable and irreversible methods
- Ensuring animals are not caused pain or distress
- Rapid loss of consciousness and timely progression to death
- Death compatible with experimental outcomes
- Safe for operator
- Cost-effective

On a lighter note the conference finished up with a series of papers focusing on the importance of adaptation of animals to the research environment and how this can be achieved for the mutual benefit of the animal and researcher. The pictures below demonstrate positive reinforcement training and targeting techniques to improve tractability and enrichment in pigs. Proceedings will soon be available at http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/publications/event.html

Many thanks to the UWA staff who presented at this conference; Barry Marshall, Stuart Hodgetts, Ionat Zurr, Fiona Wood, Jane Pillow, Miriam Sullivan, Samantha Bickell and Melissa Lindeman.

**Reminder:**
Are you interested in using zebrafish as part of your research or teaching?
Your chance to express your interest!

Veterinary Services are conducting a survey to gauge level of interest in establishing zebrafish facilities at UWA.

Please give us 10 minutes of your time and complete the zebrafish survey by Friday 14th December 2012.

See http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/veterinary-advisors (under “Important Notices”)