Season’s Greetings

This Christmas edition of the Animal Welfare Matters newsletter provides information for the Christmas period and the start of the New Year. In addition there are important updates on the latest Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) policies and guidance and key dates for 2015.

Important Notices

The Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) is available over the festive period. If you require assistance call and text 0428 021 529.

Christmas Shutdown

The Animal Ethics Office (AEO) will be closed for the standard university closure period.

A new Animal Welfare Officer for UWA

Welcome to Dr Annie Tarala. Annie’s main professional focus is animal welfare education and training. Her aim is to support research and teaching by working to facilitate the highest standards of animal welfare, care and use.

Annie graduated from Murdoch University Veterinary School in 1999 and worked in private veterinary practice in Australia and England before undertaking a Clinical Training Scholarship in Preventive Medicine at the University of Bristol Veterinary School, UK, in 2006. During this residency, she achieved a UK Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons’ Certificate (2007) and then a Diploma in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law (2010); the latter was awarded in recognition of a high level of expertise in the field.

As well as participating in veterinary undergraduate teaching at Murdoch University, Annie recently submitted her PhD thesis on animal welfare education within the veterinary course.

Annie will work full time during school term time whilst Dr Chris Mayberry will work as Animal Welfare Officer throughout the school holidays.

To Chief Investigators

Prepare now for annual reporting for 2014

The deadline is 18 January 2015!

For the 2014 reporting year we are using an electronic form associated with the InfoEd Research Management package. The form has been updated to reflect the ‘Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes’ (‘the Code’). www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ea28

Instructions for completing and submitting the annual report forms will be emailed to you in early December. Please complete the forms as soon as possible.

Common misconceptions:

“We have not done any animal work this year”.

You are still required to complete and submit both forms indicating that animals have not been used i.e. a NIL return.

“Our project has expired or was completed during the year”.

You are still required to complete and submit both forms in order for the file to be closed.

In this issue

P2 3Rs Award Winner 2014
P3 News from the AEO
P4 Applying for animal ethics approval
Congratulations to Associate Professor Bruno Meloni who has won a $5000 boost to research funds with the 3Rs Award for 2014. This award was made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Robyn Owens, on the recommendation of the University of Western Australia (UWA) AEC.

The 3Rs Animal Ethics Award was established to recognise an individual or group who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use in research or teaching at UWA.

www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/animal-ethics-award-2013

Associate Professor Bruno Meloni is a senior research scientist and Head of Laboratory Research with the Stroke Research Group at the Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders (CNND) and the Western Australian Neuroscience Research Institute (WANRI).

Bruno Meloni described his innovative techniques and demonstrated significant outcomes in term of replacement and reduction of animal use as well as pioneering refinement strategies to develop high-throughput, reproducible and cost effective in vitro systems for undertaking stroke research. These techniques have already had widespread impact within the international research community and the strategies have been widely disseminated in peer reviewed publications.

For more information see page 14 of the November issue of UWA News.


Zebrafish facility

This is currently in final stages of the design phase with the renovations due to commence in early March 2015. The equipment is ordered and on schedule, with the facility expected to be commissioned and holding sentinel fish in May 2015. The equipment will include a robotic feeding system, which can deliver both live and pellet feed.

For more information, please contact Simone Chapple. Email. simone.chapple@uwa.edu.au

Getting started in research or teaching involving animals at UWA

Permission to Use Animals

Have you applied for Permission to Use Animals (PUA)? This is a requirement before you commence any animal work at UWA. In addition, you will need to complete the online module ‘Working with Animals’. You may also be required to attend ‘Programme in Animal Ethics, Welfare and Science (PAWES)’. Please note that you must attain a minimum 80% pass mark in the online module quiz prior to attending PAWES.

For more information and links to forms, all the dates for 2015, and the online module visit the PUA and PAWES webpage.

www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/pawes

Programme in Animal Ethics, Welfare and Science (PAWES)

Dates for the start of 2015
19 February 2015: (Venue to be advised) UWA Crawley campus Closing date 3pm on 11 February 2015
5 March 2015: Biomedical Research Facility, Shenton Park Closing date 3pm on 25 February 2015
7 May 2015: Biomedical Research Facility, Shenton Park Closing date 3pm on 29 April 2015

Useful links:
Biohazards
www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/biological/non-gm-bo

Genetically Modified Organisms
www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/biological/gmo
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for researcher use – new template:
The AEC strongly encourages the development of researcher-initiated SOPs. To facilitate this, a new AEC Researchers SOP Register has been established. When an Animal Care Services (ACS) SOP is unsuitable or unavailable for your project, you can submit a draft SOP to suit your purposes on the new “SOP Researcher Use – template”. It can be downloaded from the Animal Ethics forms webpage.

www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/forms/animals#SOP

Note: ACS SOPs are regularly revised and updated so when you are using these SOPs please check with Ms Geraldine Stewart (geraldine.stewart@uwa.edu.au) to ensure that you are using the current version.

Requirements for decapods and cephalopods
In June 2005, the AEC made the resolution that “the following higher-order invertebrates be included in the list of animals covered by the Code: Adult decapods (Phylum Crustacea) Adult cephalopods (Phylum Mollusca)”.

In response to a recent request from a researcher, the current AEC has reviewed this resolution and unanimously agreed that a full ethics application and approval is still required for the scientific use of adult decapods and cephalopods.

Short term volunteers on AEC approved projects
A new process has been set up to simplify the use of volunteers on animal projects!

Volunteers provide valuable assistance to UWA researchers and their participation is encouraged by the AEC providing that the AEC’s high animal welfare standards are maintained. However, it is essential that volunteers appreciate the regulatory and ethical requirements and the role of the AEC.

Section 2.1.8 of the code states, “Institutions must ensure that all people involved in the care and use of animals understand their responsibilities and the requirements of the Code, are competent for the procedures they perform or are under the direct supervision of a person who is competent to perform the procedures, and have access to appropriate education programs and resources”.

The AEC has this guidance for the use of short term volunteers:

“Who are short-term volunteers?”
Volunteers who are undertaking a maximum, cumulative two months active volunteering in a twelve month period.

“How do I satisfy the AEC requirements?”
• Complete the “Volunteer on AEC Protocols” application form available at the Animals and Research webpage. www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/forms/animals#Miscellaneous
• Complete the online Ethics and Regulation module “Working with Animals” and attain a minimum 80% pass mark before the approval becomes active. www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/pawes

“What does this volunteer approval mean?”
• This is a 12 month approval.
• The volunteer is permitted to work only under the direct supervision of a nominated investigator named on the project.
• The volunteers approved through this process will not be listed as co-investigators on the AEC protocol.

AEC dates for start of 2015

Blue AEC Agenda deadlines for submitting applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, 30 January 2015</th>
<th>Thursday, 19 February 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 27 February 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 19 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 3 April 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 23 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 1 May 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 21 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 19 June 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 9 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 31 July 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 20 August 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Green AEC Agenda deadlines for submitting applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, 6 February 2015</th>
<th>Thursday, 26 February 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 6 March 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 26 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 10 April 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 30 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 8 May 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 30 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 7 August 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 27 August 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Green AEC Meeting dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, 30 January 2015</th>
<th>Thursday, 19 February 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 27 February 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 19 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 3 April 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 23 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 1 May 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 21 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 19 June 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 9 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 31 July 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 20 August 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blue AEC Meeting dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, 30 January 2015</th>
<th>Thursday, 19 February 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 27 February 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 19 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 3 April 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 23 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 1 May 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 21 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 19 June 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 9 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 31 July 2015</td>
<td>Thursday, 20 August 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which Animal Ethics Committee should I use?

Go to the AEC webpage.
www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/ethics-committee
Applying for animal ethics approval

Writing an application

Need help completing your AEC application?

Workshop Notice:
Hints and Tips on completing an AEC application.

Available every Wednesday from 12.30 to 1.30pm commencing 21 January 2015. It is held in the Veterinary Services Office (Room 2.09), Administration Building (northwest wing), adjacent to the Sunken Garden.

If you would like to attend please email the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisors (AWVAs) at vets-research@uwa.edu.au

First time applications by new principal authors

An application prepared by a principal author (this need not be the chief investigator) who has not previously engaged with the UWA animal ethics system must undergo preparatory review by an AWVA prior to submission to the AEC.

The ‘Hints and Tips’ workshops (see above) are considered the first step in this process and first time authors should attend prior to drafting their application. Email vets-research@uwa.edu.au

www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/

veterinary-advisors

Application forms

The AEO has recently updated the AEC application forms. Applications will only be accepted if they are on the latest form. Forms are available for download from the Animal Ethics forms webpage. www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/forms/

animals#appforms

AEC guidelines available

For animal work involving subcutaneous tumours or weight loss, the AEC has developed some useful guidelines, Guidelines on body weight deficit and monitoring of animal welfare and Guidelines on the induction of tumours and monitoring of animal welfare. These documents are available on the ‘forms’ webpage. www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/forms/animals#appforms

What GROUP SIZES do I require and why?

The Code (Section 1.1.21) states that the “number of animals used in a project must be the minimum necessary to achieve the proposed aim(s) and to satisfy good statistical design. The use of too few animals may invalidate the experimental result and result in wastage of animals.”

The AEC has produced a guideline on Approaches to Evaluating Numbers which is located on the ‘forms’ page (under the heading ‘Applications’).

In addition, for students, statistical justification advice is available from the Centre for Applied Statistics. You can access assistance via the webpage www.cas.maths.uwa.edu.au or by emailing consulting-cas@uwa.edu.au.

New guidelines for native mammals

The NHMRC are pleased to release A guide to the care and the use of Australian native mammals in research and teaching. The guide is available on the NHMRC website.

guidelines/publications/ea29

Research Integrity, Office of Research Enterprise

Location: Administration Building (North West Wing), 2nd Floor, adjacent the Sunken Garden.

Car Park: Adjacent Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Contact information

Animal Ethics Room 2.05
aeo@uwa.edu.au
6488 2516/3033/7887

Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisors Room 2.09
vets-research@uwa.edu.au
6488 4549/4700

Biosafety Room 2.14
biosafety@uwa.edu.au
6488 4701

Animal Welfare Officers Room 2.07
awo@uwa.edu.au
6488 7882
0428 021 529