Welcome

The Animal Welfare Matters newsletter provides information relating to animal welfare at UWA. In this issue read about refinements to the Animal Ethics application process, the new on-line PAWES module and other training opportunities.

Launch of PAWES Ethics and Regulations online
Renewal of PUAs now easier

PAWES Ethics and Regulations ON-LINE has been launched. For researchers who need to complete the Regulations component of PAWES to renew their PUA, there is now an on-line module - PAWES Ethics and Regulations - which they can use.

This on-line module consists of an informative audiovisual presentation and a test component. On average, the module takes 1-1½ hours to complete. The presentation section can be paused and restarted at any time. The test section can only be entered a maximum of three times and must be completed within one hour. The pass mark is 80%. It is anticipated that other lectures from the current PAWES course and some new modules will be presented on-line in the near future.

The PAWES Ethics and Regulations ON-LINE module can be accessed at: http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/pawes.

Faster ‘submission to approval’ time with School Technical Review

The recent External Triennial Review of animal ethics processes at UWA recommended that a review of Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) applications at the school level would help to facilitate the timeliness of the approval process. In keeping with this recommendation, School Technical Review was initially trialled in the School of Animal Biology and has now been extended to other Schools at UWA.

“Following school review, applications have demonstrated a 70% reduction in the number of queries from the AEC and a significantly faster turn-around time.”

To date, this scheme has been readily embraced and supported by these Schools.

Under the School Technical Review scheme, a senior animal user and an administrative staff member of the School are available to help review draft applications and offer advice on technical and administrative aspects of the form, prior to submission to the AEC.

Following School Technical Review, applications have demonstrated a 70% reduction in the number of queries from the AEC and a significantly faster turn-around time for full approval.

In this issue

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NEWSFLASH
Just announced

Next Low Stress Pkg Handling Course
14th & 28th October 2011
To attend contact: melissa.lindeman@uwa.edu.au
Hints and Tips for improving AEC applications

The regular HINTS AND TIPS workshops are proving popular, with 6 to 12 participants at each session. These monthly workshops provide useful tips on completing Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) applications. They also provide an opportunity for animal users to discuss the animal ethics process. At these workshops, the Animal Welfare & Veterinary Advisors (AWVAs), Deirdre Bourke and Melissa Lindeman, and acting Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), Julie Bellamy, discuss the key information the AEC requires and expects in each section of the application form. In addition, they help with developing project specific MONITORING SHEETS and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

These workshops can be tailored to the requirements of specific research groups or schools. The AWVAs are also available to provide individual advice on the development of projects and completing the forms. For more information: vets-research@uwa.edu.au

Revised PAWES process for new staff & students

Please note that the PAWES Ethics and Regulations ON-LINE module must now be completed (and passed) prior to attending the other PAWES Course sessions. These sessions will remain in lectures and workshops format but will be compressed into a one day course. The prerequisite on-line module can be accessed at: http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/pawes

The first ‘new style’ PAWES Course will be held on 20th October 2011. For further details: julie.bellamy@uwa.edu.au

Next steps......

There are future plans to incorporate more of the PAWES content into on-line modules and further reduce the attendance component of the PAWES course.

We are also developing more species specific practical training modules (see below).

PAWES PARTners – New Training Initiative

Special training courses for specific animal husbandry, handling and animal-based techniques are being developed. These programmes will be called PAWES PARTners.

Low Stress Pig Handling Course

This course has been developed in collaboration with Dr. Barbara Frey from Consistent Pork. The first course ran over two days in August 2011. It included on-line training, lectures and a practical session at a piggery. This was followed by more applied practical sessions at UWA facilities.

This course will be run again on Friday 14th & 28th October 2011. All staff and students involved in pig projects are encouraged to attend. Contact: melissa.lindeman@uwa.edu.au

Basic surgical techniques

A short course offering an introduction to basic surgical techniques is planned for later in 2011. This course will cover aseptic techniques, selection of suture materials and suturing patterns. If you are interested in attending this course, contact: vets-research@uwa.edu.au

DID YOU KNOW?

If you need general help or advice with animal welfare or ethics matters just send an email to vets-research@uwa.edu.au. This is a generic e-mail address that automatically populates the email accounts of the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisors and the Animal Welfare Officer......ensuring a prompt reply from one of the vets.

If you have an urgent animal welfare matter you can contact the Animal Welfare Officer any time (day, night or weekends) on mobile telephone number 0428 021 529
ANZCCART Conference, New Zealand, 2011

In spite of the threat from ash clouds, three delegates from UWA joined 96 others from around Australia and New Zealand at the recent ANZCCART meeting in Rotorua, NZ.

Delegates included researchers, teachers, Animal Ethics Committee members, veterinarians, animal care facilities staff and managers. They represented teaching institutions, research establishments and the government departments. In addition, the conference was attended by administrators and officials involved in developing and enforcing animal welfare policy and legislation, members of the public and representatives of animal welfare organisations.

The conference covered a wide variety of topics including pain perception and management in ruminants, rodents, birds, fish, invertebrates and the fetus. There were also presentations on compassion fatigue in animal carers and researchers. Some presenters discussed AEC processes or relayed their personal experiences of serving on an Animal Ethics Committee.


ANZCCART Conference comes to Perth in 2012 (yes, actually in Perth!)

The next ANZCCART conference is due to be held in Perth in 2012. It has been over a decade since ANZCCART came to Western Australia.

It is a great opportunity for WA to host this event and for the WA research and teaching community to participate. If you are interested in attending please let us know and we will add you to our UWA mailing list and keep you updated with conference information. Contact: vets-research@uwa.edu.au

ANZCCART Conference, Perth, WA, 24th – 26th July 2012

What is ANZCCART?

The Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching Ltd (ANZCCART) was established in 1987. It was formed in response to the concerns of the scientific and wider community, and the recognition that issues associated with the use of animals in science needed to be addressed in a considered and balanced way. The main role of ANZCCART is to “provide leadership in developing community consensus on ethical, social and scientific issues relating to the use and wellbeing of animals in research and teaching.”

As an independent body that consults widely, ANZCCART provides “well-researched and objective information that helps to ensure that research and teaching using animals is conducted in a careful, considered and humane way”.

ANZCCART publishes and distributes a regular newsletter and fact sheets that are designed to assist researchers and teachers by providing concise and practical information on a wide variety of subjects. Visit their website at: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART

ANZCCART’s objectives are to promote:

- excellence in the care of animals supplied for or used in research and teaching
- responsible scientific use of animals
- the 3Rs policy of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement as they apply to the use of animals for scientific purposes
- informed discussion and debate within the community regarding these matters and
- strategic partnerships to contribute to the education and training of scientists, students and the broader community
2011 is World Veterinary Year

2011 is the 250th anniversary of veterinary education and the veterinary profession which commenced with the world’s first veterinary school, founded by Claude Bourgelat in Lyon, France, in 1761.

As a result of his fruitful collaboration with surgeons in Lyon, Bourgelat was also the first scientist who dared to suggest that studying animal biology and pathology would help to improve our understanding of human biology and pathology.

Modern veterinarians are not only animal doctors and animal welfare advocates, they are also key public health stakeholders because of their crucial role in:

- reducing global hunger
- controlling zoonoses
- biomedical research
- promoting animal welfare
- protecting the environment and biodiversity
- promoting food security and monitoring food quality and safety by supervising animal production hygiene

Calling All Vets at UWA

Although UWA does not have a Veterinary School, it does employ many veterinarians to perform a variety of functions across the university. These include vets working as researchers and co-investigators or serving as members of the UWA Animal Ethics Committee. Also, some vets at UWA provide key skills for projects e.g. surgical and anaesthesia expertise. To provide further support and advice to animal users, the university has recently employed several more veterinarians with a range of relevant experience and expertise.

As 2011 is ‘World Veterinary Year’, we would like to invite all veterinarians working at UWA to join us for a coffee morning at 11am on Wednesday 9th November in the Animal Ethics Office. You are also welcome to bring along a friend or colleague.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to vets-research@uwa.edu.au

Scientific Inspector - new location

The Scientific Inspector’s office (which manages the university’s license) has moved from the Department of Local Government to DAFWA.

Revision of the NHMRC Code of Practice … draft to be released soon

The Code is currently being revised and a draft version is expected to be circulated for comment in the near future. As this document has a significant impact on animal work, it is important that the UWA Research and Teaching Community reads and provides feedback on this document. Take this important opportunity to have your say!