

ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE



Murdoch University is licensed as a user of animals for scientific purposes under the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, 8th Edition, 2013* (the *Animal Code*) and the *Animal Welfare Act, 2002* (WA) (the *Act*).

The Murdoch University Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) is established to ensure that all activities relating to the care and use of animals are conducted in accordance with the *Act* and the *Animal Code* (*Animal Code* 2.3.1), and with the following Membership and Terms of Reference, as approved by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development).

MEMBERSHIP

The Murdoch University AEC has at least two members in each of the four categories of membership who are usually appointed for three years:

Category A: Veterinary surgeon, in accordance with *Animal Code* 2.2.4 (i).

Category B: Researcher with experience using animals, in accordance with *Animal Code* 2.2.4 (ii).

Category C: Animal welfare advocate, in accordance with *Animal Code* 2.2.4 (iii).

Category D: Community member, in accordance with *Animal Code* 2.2.4 (iv).

Categories C and D together represent at least one-third of the AEC membership (*Animal Code* 2.2.8).

In addition to the above members, the AEC at Murdoch University also includes a Chair (*Animal Code* 2.2.2 and 2.2.3), who does not represent any particular category, and a researcher with experience utilising techniques where animals are not required e.g. a mathematician or statistician.

The name of the AEC Chair is published on the Animal Ethics website. The approved membership categories are published but the members of the AEC shall remain confidential and their names are not published.

On appointment, members must declare any conflicts of interest and how these may be managed (*Animal Code* 2.2.10); acknowledge in writing their acceptance of the AEC's Terms of Reference and any confidentiality requirements by Murdoch University (*Animal Code* 2.2.11); and undergo appropriate induction as well as have access to appropriate education programs and resources (*Animal Code* 2.2.12). All AEC members and its Chair must fulfil their responsibilities (*Animal Code* 2.2.13-17).

The procedures for the appointment, reappointment, induction and retirement of members are managed through Research Ethics and Integrity (*Animal Code* 2.2.9).

Experts may be invited to provide advice, as required. Advice is also provided by people responsible for the routine care of animals (Animal House Manager and Animal Farm Manager) and Research Ethics and Integrity (Animal Ethics Advisor, Animal Welfare Officer, and the Manager Research Ethics and Integrity).

Executive Committee

The Murdoch University AEC has an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair and at least one representative from each of the membership categories (Animal Code 2.2.23 (i)).

The Executive Committee can approve minor amendments to approved projects or activities for ratification at the next meeting (Animal Code 2.2.23 (ii)). The Executive Committee does not approve new applications (Animal Code 2.2.23 (iii)).

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the AEC, which are published on the Animal Ethics website, are that the AEC must (*Animal Code 2.3.2*):

- (i) review applications for projects and approve only those projects that are ethically acceptable and conform to the requirements of the *Animal Code* (*Animal Code 2.3.3-16; 2.7*);
- (ii) review applications for activities associated with the care and management of animals in facilities, including procedures applicable to breeding programs integral to the maintenance of an animal line, and approve only those activities that are ethically acceptable and conform to the requirements of the *Animal Code* (*Animal Code 2.3.3-16*);
- (iii) conduct follow-up review of approved projects and activities and allow the continuation of approval for only those projects and activities that are ethically acceptable and conform to the requirements of the *Animal Code* (*Animal Code 2.3.3-16; 2.2.32 (ii)*);
- (iv) monitor the care and use of animals, including housing conditions, practices and procedures involved in the care and use of animals in facilities (*Animal Code 2.3.17-23*);
- (v) take appropriate actions regarding unexpected adverse events (*Animal Code 2.3.24*);
- (vi) take appropriate actions regarding non-compliance (*Animal Code 2.3.25*);
- (vii) approve guidelines for the care and use of animals on behalf of Murdoch University (*Animal Code 2.3.26*);
- (viii) provide advice and recommendations to Murdoch University (*Animal Code 2.3.27*);
and
- (ix) report on its operations at least annually to Murdoch University through the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development), and to the Commonwealth and State government authorities, as required (*Animal Code 2.3.28-29*).