



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). NAEAC's role is to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on welfare issues arising from the use of live animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). Its other functions include giving advice on the codes of ethical conduct that govern live animal use in RTT and providing information to the bodies that administer the codes (animal ethics committees). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 17 November 2015 general meeting included the following:

- **New NAEAC Chairperson:** Grant Shackell attended his first meeting as Chair of the committee. Three new members (Craig Gillies, Leasa Carlyon and Bronwen Connor) have been appointed to the committee and also attended their first meeting.
- **NAEAC survey questions:** NAEAC's statutory role includes providing information and advice to the animal ethics committees (AECs) that approve and monitor projects using animals in RTT. To ascertain how well NAEAC is performing this function, a set of survey questions were discussed and agreed upon at the meeting. It is anticipated that the survey will be conducted during the first half of 2016 and the information gained, used to improve committee function in this area.
- **Code of ethical conduct template:** Rather than reviewing the code template in the NAEAC publication *Guide to the Preparation of Codes of Ethical Conduct* the subcommittee responsible for this piece of work decided to draft a new document. Feedback from the last three years of code reviews will be incorporated into the document. The new guidance material will assist persons wishing to apply for, or renew, a code of ethical conduct and ensure consistency of code content. This in turn will streamline the review process for NAEAC.
- **NAEAC Three Rs Award:** The NAEAC Three Rs Award is made annually to an individual or organisation who/which has excelled in the implementation of the principles of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction, and refinement) in the use of animals in RTT. The award recipient, Mr Neil Ward from Massey University, attended the meeting to update the committee on his work (developing and sharing computer-aided learning resources which replace animal use in teaching).
- **Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) Service Award:** A post-graduate student from Victoria University of Wellington was presented with an award for her work in developing a training module for research students working in animal laboratories on campus.