



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 (AECs)). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 20 May 2016 general meeting included the following:

- **Review of AEC induction pack:** The induction pack consists of a number of publications and web links which aim to help new AEC members understand the statutory context of their committee. At its meeting NAEAC conducted their annual review of the AEC induction pack and concluded that no amendments were required to it for the current time.
- **Feedback from survey of AEC members:** One of NAEAC's statutory functions is to provide information and advice to AECs. A survey of AECs was conducted in April 2016 in order to evaluate how NAEAC was performing its role in relation to this function. Preliminary results were reported back at the meeting. While a couple of individuals rated NAEAC's advice as poor, most people were happy with the service provided to them by the committee. It was agreed that a summary of the feedback should be prepared and made available on the MPI website.
- **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. At the meeting it was confirmed that the Royal New Zealand SPCA had agreed to sponsor the award again to the value of \$2,000.
- **Three Rs initiatives:** MPI and the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) have been working on developing booklets that describe real life examples of the Three Rs. At the meeting, it was noted that the first two Three Rs booklets which had been drafted, were nearing completion for publication.
- **Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences:** NAEAC Chair, Mr Grant Shackell advised committee members of his recent attendance at the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee (ABWCC) meeting (a forum for the exchange of information between New Zealand animal industry sector representatives, government department representatives, NGOs, researchers, research funders and other groups with an interest in animal behaviour and welfare and related issues).