



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) 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 16 May 2017 general meeting included the following:

- **Code of ethical conduct template:** The Act requires that NAEAC make recommendations to the Director-General of MPI concerning the approval, amendment, suspension, or revocation of any code of ethical conduct. In order to facilitate the review process in future, NAEAC approved the final version of the code of ethical conduct template they had been developing over the last few years. The aim of the template is to provide clarity to code holders about what should be contained in a code of ethical conduct.
- **Sentience workshop:** The committee discussed the workshop it is going to co-host with the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) later on in the year. It was anticipated that up to 200 stakeholders including industry, non-government organisations and AEC representatives would be invited to attend. The purpose of the workshop is to understand the implications of including animal sentience within the Act for the work of NAWAC and NAEAC and to understand stakeholder perspectives on how the change in the Act will impact them and their work.
- **Review of NAEAC AEC induction pack and publications list:** 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.

The committee also discussed whether the publication *The Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching – Users Guide to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999* was going to be updated by MPI in light of amendments made to the Act. If not, the publication would be out of date and MPI should consider removing it from the website.

- **NAEAC occasional paper series:** One of the ways in which NAEAC provides information and advice to AECs is by publishing 'occasional papers' on topics of relevance to AECs and their work. The next paper in the series is intended to provide AECs with guidance on matters to be considered when applications involving the attachment of monitoring devices on animals are presented to them. The paper will be high level and focus on wildlife and large animals.
- **NAEAC Three Rs award:** The NAEAC Three Rs award is made 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, an update was provided on arrangements to find sponsors for the 2018 award.