

**MASSEY UNIVERSITY CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR
RESEARCH, TESTING AND TEACHING
ABBREVIATED CODE**

Note 1: *This form is to be used for additional names and/or signatures not on the original application. Please return to the Research Ethics Administrator, Research and Enterprise, Courtyard Complex, Turitea, Palmerston North.*

Note 2: *Terms of reference, definitions and procedural matters are dealt with in other sections of the full Code.*

1. All individuals using animals for research, testing or teaching are to be familiar with the University's Code of Ethical Conduct for the Use of Animals for Research, Testing or Teaching and so signify on their application to the Animal Ethics Committee.
2. Manipulations should be proposed only after due consideration of the relationship between the ethical cost and the potential benefit to be obtained and where those responsible for the research, testing or teaching are thoroughly conversant with the literature and background information on the subject in question.
3. In making decisions on whether to approve an application, the Animal Ethics Committee will subscribe to the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (section 80).
4. Before an application is submitted, careful attention should be given to the following:
 - (a) that the manipulation is necessary as part of an education curriculum, or
 - (b) that there is good reason to believe the findings will add to the scientific understanding of biological functions and behaviour or will extend the body of knowledge aimed at the improvement of the health and welfare of humans and animals or the productivity of animals or the protection of the environment, and
 - (c) that alternative methods such as mathematical models, audio-visual means, computer simulation and *in vitro* biological systems cannot provide the required result or fulfil the purpose.
5. Animals selected for an experiment should be of an appropriate species and quality. Endangered or threatened species must not be used unless the appropriate permits are obtained and the findings are expected to assist the survival of that species. Research, testing or teaching should be of an appropriate design and performed on the minimum number required to obtain scientifically valid results or meet teaching objectives. 6. All applications involving native fauna (captive or wild) must indicate evidence of approval by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and separate iwi consultation from appropriate representatives. Copies of DOC permits must be forwarded to the Secretary prior to the commencement of any research.
7. Iwi consultation must be undertaken separately to DOC processes and may be written or verbal. In the latter case, the chief applicant is required to document the consultation and forward this to the Secretary.
8. Manipulations must be undertaken by trained individuals or under the direct supervision of trained individuals. This includes euthanasia of animals.
9. While the primary responsibility lies with the chief applicant, all co-applicants and other persons involved are also responsible for the well-being of the animals and must have due regard to avoiding or minimising discomfort, distress or pain.
10. Paralysing agents will be permitted only under exceptional circumstances, in the hands of experienced personnel and, normally, under general anaesthesia.
11. Procedures with animals that may cause more than momentary or minimal pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia or anaesthesia, including post-surgical analgesia, in accordance with best veterinary practice. Surgery or other painful procedures must not be performed on un-anaesthetised animals or those paralysed by chemical agents without sufficient justification. In the absence of information to the contrary, investigators should assume that any procedures that would cause pain in human beings will cause pain in other vertebrate species.
12. To minimise distress, no animal should be subjected to more procedures than are necessary to achieve the objectives of the research, testing or teaching. The fact that procedures are multiple in regard to individual animals must be brought to the attention of the Animal Ethics Committee at the time approval for a procedure is requested. Multiple procedures may be carried out on a single animal only if the applicant can justify that they are necessary and do not cause avoidable harm to the animal. The

applicant must also show that, by repeatedly using the same animal, the results from the research, testing or teaching are not compromised.

13. Animals that suffer severe or chronic pain, distress, discomfort or disablement that cannot be relieved should be euthanased.
14. No animals will be used for research, testing and teaching without prior approval of the Animal Ethics Committee (with the exceptions described in section 4.1.9).
15. Animals should be acquired from specialised breeding programmes wherever possible. Other non-specifically bred animals should be used only if they meet research requirements for health and quality and are acquired legally from a suitable source. Animal shelters, pet shops or other retailer traders of companion species should not be used to source animals without the prior written consent of the Committee.
16. Animals must be transported under safe, humane and hygienic conditions appropriate to the species. The Animal Ethics Committee refers applicants to MPI's Codes of Welfare for guidance.
17. Animals must be housed so as to ensure that their general health is safeguarded and that undue stress is avoided. Sufficient space, according to the species, should be allocated for each animal. Environmental needs such as temperature, humidity, ventilation, lighting and social interaction should also be consistent with the needs of the species concerned. Animals must receive a supply of foodstuffs appropriate to their requirements and of the quality and quantity adequate to preserve their health, with free access to water, unless the object of the experiment is to study the effects of variation in these nutritional requirements. The Codes of Welfare published by MPI may contain relevant information.
18. Sick or injured animals should immediately, according to circumstances, either receive appropriate veterinary care or be euthanased. When untoward outcomes occur or unplanned euthanasia of animals is required or unplanned deaths of animals occur as a direct result of

research, testing or teaching procedures (or of conditions under which animals are maintained for such procedures), these outcomes, including appropriate necropsy reports, must be reported in writing to the Committee as soon as practicable. The report should also advise the steps being taken to avoid further outcomes of this type.

19. Any event during research, testing or teaching that impacts adversely on animal welfare beyond the approved manipulation(s) will be notified to the Secretary as soon as practicable.
20. Animals that die unexpectedly or are euthanased prior to their completion of the study (with the exception of 'loss due to normal mortality' as defined below) require a necropsy to be carried out, wherever possible, by either a pathologist or a registered veterinarian. Where a veterinarian carries out the necropsy, the Committee reserves the right to have the report reviewed by a pathologist.
21. No necropsy is required when animals die or are euthanased as part of normal animal management practices. As these losses are considered 'normal', they must be stated in the animal ethics application. Where it has not been indicated that losses are expected or losses exceed expectations, necropsy examination is required.
22. Applicants named on animal ethics applications may, themselves, perform necropsies, but, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest, the Committee recommends that independent expertise be sought wherever possible.
23. At the conclusion of a manipulation as defined in the Code, the person undertaking the manipulation, or a senior person responsible for the research, testing or teaching, must make appropriate arrangements for the final disposal of animals either to non-experimental circumstances or by euthanasia. Dead animals must be disposed of in a manner that is compliant with all relevant regulations.
24. All Acts of Parliament, regulations or bylaws pertaining to the obtaining, holding possession, care and treatment of animals are to be complied with.

I, _____, having read this Code,
(please print name clearly)

hereby agree to act in accordance with all the terms and conditions herein contained.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

School/Inst/Unit: _____

Protocol No: _____