

DAF ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

For the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

This publication has been compiled by Lex Turner, Agri-Science Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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Summary

In Queensland, the use of animals for scientific purposes is regulated by both the ***Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*** [the Act] and the ***Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*** [the Code]. The Act requires that prior to the use of an animal for scientific purposes, a person must be registered as a scientific user and must gain the approval of an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) constituted under the Code.

During the reporting period, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) maintained two AECs, the Staff Access (SA) AEC and the Community Access (CA) AEC.

The Staff Access AEC dealt predominantly with applications from departmental staff who sought to conduct activities at departmental sites, co-operator (for example, private landholder) sites and collaborator (for example, university) sites. The Staff Access AEC also considered applications from external applicants wishing to conduct an activity involving the use of animals on a departmental site.

The Community Access AEC dealt predominantly with applications from non-departmental investigators who sought to conduct scientific activities involving the use of animals in Queensland and by departmental staff who sought to conduct fish and pest animal related activities.

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1 AEC Membership as at 1 July 2018

Table 1 – AEC membership summary

Category	Number	Organisation
Category A member (veterinary science)	6	3 x DAF, 3 x External
Category B member (research)	5	1 x DAF, 4 x External
Category C member (animal welfare)	4	All External
Category D member (general community)	5	All External
Animal carer	1	DAF
Total	21	

2 Meetings and inspections

Table 2 – AEC meetings and inspections

AEC	Ordinary meetings	Special meetings	Site inspections
Staff Access	11	2	15
Community Access	11	1	22

In addition to dealing with business during meetings, each AEC has an Executive which may consider minor amendments to approved projects, adverse event reports and other matters out of session. The Executive cannot approve new applications.

All Executive decisions are ratified at the next meeting of the AEC.

3 Applications

DAF AECs consider project applications lodged by DAF staff, staff from other departments, and a range of external entities including local authorities, small companies and individuals whose activities (e.g. teaching, wildlife surveys, product efficacy trials, trials for product registration and workshops to demonstrate techniques) require AEC approval. The external applicants have found it impractical to establish their own AECs and difficult to access other institutions' AECs. The Act requires that all applicants be registered as scientific users or be retained by a registered scientific user. The Register of Scientific Users is maintained by Animal Biosecurity and Welfare [ABW], Biosecurity Queensland.

Table 3 – Applications considered during 2017/18

Applications considered during 2017/18	Total
By AEC Decision	
Approved	38
Approved with Conditions	113
Deferred subject to modification as at 30 June 2018	3
Not approved	0
Other (e.g. withdrawn)	0
TOTAL	154

Table 4 – Project Purpose summary

Project Purpose	Number	Percentage
The understanding of human or animal biology	5	3.2%
The maintenance and improvement of animal or human health and welfare	37	24.0%
The improvement of animal management or production	9	5.8%
The achievement of educational objectives	17	11.0%
Environmental study	83	53.9%
Not allocated	3	1.9%
TOTAL CONSIDERED	154	

Table 5 – Project Category summary

Project Category	Number	Percentage
Observational studies involving minor interference	21	13.6%
Animal unconscious without recovery	5	3.2%
Conscious intervention (minor) without anaesthesia	107	69.5%
Operative procedures (minor) with recovery	5	3.2%
Surgery with recovery	4	2.6%
Minor physiological challenge	6	3.9%
Major physiological challenge	0	0%
Death as an end point (not euthanasia)	3	1.9%
Not allocated	3	1.9%
TOTAL CONSIDERED	154	

In addition to assessing 154 new applications throughout 2017/18, DAF AECs reviewed and assessed 516 reports on animal use from existing applications. This included 291 annual reports, 154 completion reports and 71 adverse event reports which are required by both the Act and Code and comprises the statutory monitoring obligations of the AECs. The DAF AECs also had responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of active projects by inspecting sites and projects and obtaining other information as needed.

DAF AECs are also required to assess amendment requests to approved projects. Amendment requests may range from minor to major alterations to a project's approval. Throughout the reporting period 135 amendment requests were assessed by the DAF AECs.

4 Number of animals used for scientific purposes*

Table 6 – Number of animals by key groups and in order of number

Key groups listed alphabetically		Key groups listed according to number of animals used	
Key group	Number of animals	Key group	Number of animals
Amphibians:Amphibians	7,857	Birds:Poultry (stock animals)	12,094,107
Birds:Exotic captive	15	Other native mammals:Native Mammals	456,690
Birds:Exotic wild	313	Fish:Aquatic Animals	307,674
Birds:Native captive	108	Birds:Native wild	285,963
Birds:Native wild	285,963	Turtles and tortoises:Reptiles	67,179
Birds:Poultry (stock animals)	12,094,107	Cattle:Domestic Mammals	34,214
Camels:Exotic Feral Mammals	7	Macropods:Native Mammals	10,127
Cats:Domestic Mammals	642	Rabbits:Exotic Feral Mammals	8,993
Cats:Exotic Feral Mammals	333	Amphibians:Amphibians	7,857

Key groups listed alphabetically		Key groups listed according to number of animals used	
Key group	Number of animals	Key group	Number of animals
Cattle:Domestic Mammals	34,214	Sheep:Domestic Mammals	5,439
Cattle:Exotic Feral Mammals	130	Lizards:Reptiles	5,405
Cephalopods:Aquatic Animals	4	Dogs:Domestic Mammals	1,986
Dasyurids:Native Mammals	722	Whales and dolphins:Native Mammals	1,939
Dogs:Domestic Mammals	1,986	Wild dogs and foxes:Exotic Feral Mammals	1,361
Fish:Aquatic Animals	307,674	Native rats and mice:Native Mammals	1,289
Goats:Domestic Mammals	971	Goats:Domestic Mammals	971
Goats:Exotic Feral Mammals	416	Possums and gliders:Native Mammals	971
Hares:Exotic Feral Mammals	65	Snakes:Reptiles	751
Horses:Domestic Mammals	585	Dasyurids:Native Mammals	722
Horses:Exotic Feral Mammals	39	Pigs:Domestic Mammals	678
Koalas:Native Mammals	257	Cats:Domestic Mammals	642
Lizards:Reptiles	5,405	Horses:Domestic Mammals	585
Macropods:Native Mammals	10,127	Pigs:Exotic Feral Mammals	562
Mice:Exotic Feral Mammals	222	Goats:Exotic Feral Mammals	416
Mice:Lab Mammals	25	Cats:Exotic Feral Mammals	333
Monotremes:Native Mammals	161	Birds:Exotic wild	313

Key groups listed alphabetically		Key groups listed according to number of animals used	
Key group	Number of animals	Key group	Number of animals
Native rats and mice:Native Mammals	1,289	Other exotic feral mammals:Exotic Feral Mammals	310
Other domestic mammals:Domestic Mammals	1	Koalas:Native Mammals	257
Other exotic feral mammals:Exotic Feral Mammals	310	Mice:Exotic Feral Mammals	222
Other native mammals:Native Mammals	456,690	Monotremes:Native Mammals	161
Other reptiles:Reptiles	139	Other reptiles:Reptiles	139
Pigs:Domestic Mammals	678	Cattle:Exotic Feral Mammals	130
Pigs:Exotic Feral Mammals	562	Birds:Native captive	108
Possums and gliders:Native Mammals	971	Rats:Exotic Feral Mammals	88
Rabbits:Exotic Feral Mammals	8,993	Hares:Exotic Feral Mammals	65
Rats:Exotic Feral Mammals	88	Horses:Exotic Feral Mammals	39
Sheep:Domestic Mammals	5,439	Mice:Lab Mammals	25
Snakes:Reptiles	751	Birds:Exotic captive	15
Turtles and tortoises:Reptiles	67,179	Camels:Exotic Feral Mammals	7
Whales and dolphins:Native Mammals	1,939	Cephalopods:Aquatic Animals	4
Wild dogs and foxes:Exotic Feral Mammals	1,361	Wombats:Native Mammals	3
Wombats:Native Mammals	3	Other domestic mammals:Domestic Mammals	1

Key groups listed alphabetically		Key groups listed according to number of animals used	
Key group	Number of animals	Key group	Number of animals
Total	13,298,741	Total	13,298,741

*Animal use figures relate to the 2017 animal use statistic report

5 Other AEC compliance requirements

Comments from the AEC members regarding any administrative or other difficulties experienced and any comments regarding matters that may affect the DAF ability to maintain compliance with the Code were collated and reported to the DAF Director General.

Three cases of possible non-compliance by applicants were reported to the Animal Ethics regulators during the reporting period.

No emergencies or grievances were recorded in the reporting period. A complaint regarding animals used in an AEC approved project was received but the complaint was withdrawn.

The DAF AEC maintained its membership in compliance with the Code during the reporting period.

Two training opportunities were provided to DAF AEC members with four members attending at least one opportunity.

This report has been prepared for the Director-General, DAF in accordance with Section 2.3.28 of the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*.



Staff Access AEC Chair:

Lex Turner



Community Access AEC Chair:

Lex Turner

Principal Animal Ethics Officer:



Lex Turner

Date: 28 September 2018

