



Australian Government

ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee

Release: 1

ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to analyse and assess the ethical components of a research proposal against the requirements of the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC), relevant legislation and the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (the Code).

The unit applies to individuals who contribute perspectives to the optimal and ethical design of experiments and research via inputs and feedback to the AEC.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Animal Technology (ATE)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Access and review animal research proposal	1.1 Access research proposal using organisational systems and/or committee structures 1.2 Clarify own role and requirements relating to contributing feedback on the research proposal within the organisation 1.3 Apply knowledge of relevant industry codes, regulations and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	requirements of the organisation's AEC 1.4 Review the ethical use and treatment of animals in a research proposal using organisational procedures or tools
2. Interpret proposal justification and proposed operations	2.1 Assess potential benefit of proposal against the expected impact on the animals 2.2 Review proposal and identify how the replacement, reduction and refinement (3Rs) have been addressed, and make suggestions for improvements 2.3 Review timelines, staff roles and expertise, and other operational procedures 2.4 Examine experimental and humane endpoints against current animal welfare regulations and organisational expectations
3. Evaluate risk to animals and organisation	3.1 Review the welfare impact of the proposed research on the animals 3.2 Assess organisational and operational risk in the research proposal
4. Report on findings	4.1 Consolidate information and make recommendations on key aspects of the research proposal against industry standard ethics criteria 4.2 Present a summary of findings to relevant personnel in the required organisational format
5. Monitor approved animal research	5.1 Review amendments to research protocol against original aims 5.2 Review records or reports relating to adverse events 5.3 Analyse the annual report against original approved protocol 5.4 Inspect the animal holding and experimental areas used for the approved research 5.5 Report non-compliance, research misconduct or concerns relating to record keeping and animal welfare according to organisational and AEC procedures 5.6 Contribute feedback on ethics and animal welfare to improve processes according to organisational and AEC procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Identify and analyse text with complex requirements and scientific terminology in research project documentation
Interact with others	Work as an effective member of a team as well as independently
Navigate the world of work	Maintain an understanding of organisational procedures so they are followed according to relevant legislation and industry standards
Get the work done	- Plan, organise and prioritise tasks to achieve work outcomes - Use problem-solving processes to analyse issues and make recommendations

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>

Assessment Requirements for ACMATE510 Review and monitor research proposals for an Animal Ethics Committee

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- reviewed, assessed and monitored two animal research proposals, including one high impact project proposal
- contributed written and/or verbal feedback on ethics and animal welfare for each animal research proposal reviewed.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- role, structure and membership of the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)
- AEC operating procedures, including:
 - process for submitting, providing feedback and approving research proposals
 - grievance procedures
- ethical considerations in animal research proposals, including:
 - application of the 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement)
 - harm-benefit analysis of adverse effects to animals against potential benefits of research project
 - monitoring animal welfare
- factors to consider in animal research proposals, including:
 - purpose of research – scientific or educational aims
 - role of statistical components in research proposals, including to support research justification
 - extent of wastage and potential for animal suffering
 - potential for animal pain or distress and the proposed anaesthetic/analgesic regimen

- animal husbandry holding and experimental space requirements for the intended purpose, considering species-specific needs
- methods of animal handling, restraint and transport
- humane endpoints and approved methods of euthanasia or humane killing
- special health, safety or biosecurity risks, including mental health and physical risks
- resources/infrastructure necessary to support the proposed work
- experience and technical expertise of the scientific and technical staff involved
- training requirements for staff
- duration of project and monitoring, review and renewal mechanisms
- protocols, legal and ethical considerations in documenting observations, measurements, treatments and decisions relating to animal research
- site visits or inspections of animal holding and experimental space relevant to research, including temperature, alarms, humidity, physical space, separation of species/procedures
- working knowledge of current regulations and codes governing animal research for scientific purposes, including:
 - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines
 - Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (or its successor)
 - relevant state or territory legislation and regulations
- organisation and AEC reporting procedures
- potential areas of improvement in ethical animal research, including:
 - animal welfare, care and husbandry
 - environmental enrichment
 - health and safety
 - hygiene/cleanliness
 - procedural efficiencies.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - research proposals
 - organisation's AEC guidelines or procedures
 - Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

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