



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 responsible for animal welfare on welfare issues arising from the use of 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 11 May 2018 general meeting included the following:

- **NAEAC guidance material:** One of NAEAC's statutory functions is to provide information and advice AECs. One of the ways NAEAC does this is by drafting policies, guidance material and publications relevant to AECs and their work. At its meeting, NAEAC reviewed a document which sought to highlight a number of resources on analgesic best practice, targeting different levels of anaesthesia and analgesia knowledge. The document called *Best Practice Resources for Laboratory Animal Anaesthesia and Analgesia* replaced the paper called *A review of analgesic best practice for animals* and is available for viewing on the MPI website at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1484/loggedIn>
- **Zebra fish:** NAEAC wrote to experts asking for their opinion on whether zebra fish should be defined as animals earlier than 30 days post-fertilisation. A summary of the feedback received so far was tabled at the meeting and it was agreed to wait until all the responses were received before deciding on next steps.
- **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, the committee discussed the terms of reference for both the individual prize and research grant. It was the intention of the committee to award the new prizes at the end of 2018.
- **2017 NAEAC annual report:** NAEAC is required by law to provide the Minister responsible for animal welfare with a report on its operations each calendar year. The report which covered membership, fees, interactions with AECs, and issues dealt with during the year, was approved at the meeting, subject to some minor editorial changes. NAEAC's annual reports are publically available on the MPI website at: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29597/loggedIn>