



# National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 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). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 11 February 2015 general meeting included the following:

**Election of Deputy Chair:** The Animal Welfare Act requires NAEAC to elect one of its members as its deputy chairperson, as its first meeting each year. Professor Craig Johnson, from Massey University, who is the New Zealand Veterinary Association nominee on the committee, was elected to the role of deputy chairperson for 2015.

**Discussion and approval of updated strategic and operational plans:** The committee adopted an updated Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, and Operational Plan for 2015. The operational plan details how the committee will progress its objectives for the current year.

**NAEAC guidelines on the formation and use of subcommittees by AECs:** At its meeting, NAEAC adopted new guidelines on the formation and use of subcommittees to assist AECs with their decision-making between meetings, and their role in monitoring.

**NAEAC occasional paper series:** NAEAC's statutory role includes providing information and advice to the animal ethics committees (AECs) that approve and monitor projects using animals in RTT. One of the ways in which NAEAC does this is by publishing 'occasional papers' on topics of relevance to AECs and their work. The committee resolved that the paper titled *Use of animals for registration of veterinary medicines in New Zealand*, drafted by NAEAC member Karen Booth, will be published as the 11<sup>th</sup> paper in this series.

**NAEAC Three Rs Award:** The NAEAC Three Rs Award is made annually 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. The committee agreed a close off date for nominations of 24 July 2015 so the award could be presented at an appropriate occasion later in the year.