

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE USE OF ANIMALS IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH AT AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES



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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Australian society places a high regard on human health and provides substantial funding to support medical research, much of which is animal-based; is heavily dependent economically on animal products and therefore on the productivity, health and well-being of its wide range of food and fibre producing animals; derives benefit from a wide variety of companion animals; and is enriched by the diversity of other animals, many of which are unique to this country.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 These principles apply to all CQUniversity staff and students.

3 PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 CQUniversity is committed to:
- maintaining and improving the health, well-being and productivity of animals at all stages of their use for the production of food, fibre and other products
 - maintaining and improving the health and well-being of animals which provide companionship and are used in sporting, recreational and other shared activities
 - preserving, protecting and managing a fauna which is ecologically stable and adapted to the Australian environment, especially the conservation of animals native to Australia
 - maintaining and improving the health and well-being of humans by controlling diseases shared with animals, by exploring parallels between animal and human disease, by the study of normal function and by developing the therapeutic potential of animals as companions
 - broadening the foundations of biological sciences, including knowledge and understanding of life processes in all animal species.
- 3.2 The University considers working with animals to be essential to the University's objectives of teaching, research and involvement of community issues, and it therefore supports the controlled use of animals in these activities.
- 3.3 The University is committed to the following principles concerning such use of animals:
- alternatives to using animals must be considered and animals must only be used when no practical alternatives can be found for the purposes proposed
 - the expected benefits must outweigh the harm to the animals and active steps must be taken to minimise the harm and maximise the benefits

- the proposals to use animals for teaching and research must first have been submitted to and approved by the University's Animal Ethics Committee
- the work must be carried out in accordance with the [Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition \(2013\)](#)
- such animal usage must be strictly in accordance with the legal requirements set down in the relevant State or Territory legislation.

- 3.4 The University supports restraint in the use of animals for teaching and research by keeping numbers of animals to a minimum to achieve the desired purpose; and replacing animals by other models or systems wherever appropriate and encouraging the further development of such alternative models or systems.
- 3.5 The University, by providing individuals and Faculties with resources for working with animals is committed to public support of its staff and students so engaged, provided that the work conforms to the requirements of the Code and to the rules and regulations laid down by the University to control such activity.
- 3.6 The University recognises and respects the reservations held by some members of society regarding the use of animals in teaching and research. The University will continue to take note of and respond to public attitudes on ethical questions as formulated by informed, constructive discussion and national consensus. Moreover, it will seek to encourage the analysis of current perspectives, and the development of new perspectives, on this matter.
- 3.7 The University's accountability for its use of animals includes the presence on the University's Animal Ethics Committee of non-University persons as designated by the Code and State or Territory legislation.
- 3.8 The University's responsible operation of these guiding principles ensures that it will maintain its national importance as a major source of well-trained biological scientists and will continue to be a major contributor to progress in biological sciences and in animal welfare into the foreseeable future.

4 COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

- 4.1 CQUniversity's Animal Ethics Committee is responsible for monitoring teaching and research involving the use of animals by its staff and students on both university sites and other sites as approved from time to time.

5 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Terms not defined in this document may be in the University [glossary](#).

6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

[Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition \(2013\)](#)

7 FEEDBACK

- 7.1 University staff and students may provide feedback about this document by emailing policy@cqu.edu.au.

8 APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

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