

Animal Use: Public Enquiry Procedures

Table of Contents

1. Governing Policy
2. Purpose
3. Scope
4. Telephone enquiries (non-media)
5. Written enquiries (non-media) and all media enquiries
6. Restriction on release of information

1. Governing Policy

[Policy on Public Statements](#)

Also see: [Research Integrity Policy](#).

2. Purpose

- a. These procedures are about handling enquiries and requests for information from the media and members of the public about the use of animals in research and teaching.
- b. In accordance with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1985 (SA), Flinders abides by all legal and ethical requirements for the acquisition and use of animals, and is subject to regular scrutiny by the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and the University's Animal Welfare Committee (AWC).
- c. The University is satisfied that this level of scrutiny is sufficient and that any additional public scrutiny should be within the limits of these Procedures.

3. Scope

- a. These procedures apply to all University staff, students and holders of academic status.
- b. Applications for access to information about animal use made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA) are treated in accordance with that Act.
- c. Enquiries from grant funding agencies, about projects involving animal use that they have funded, may be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement.

4. Telephone enquiries (non-media)

Person receiving enquiry of this type

- a. Ask the enquirer to submit a request in writing to the Manager, Research Ethics and Compliance so that a properly considered response can be provided.
- b. Do not attempt to respond to such enquiries or to enter a discussion of the issues.

5. Written enquiries (non-media) and all media enquiries

Any person receiving enquiry of this type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Refer the enquiry directly to the Manager, Research Ethics and Compliance. b. In the case of media enquiries only: if the request relates to an experimenter's own research or teaching activity, the experimenter may deal with it directly, provided they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. consult with Media and Communications, and ii. comply with any confidentiality clauses in a related research agreement, and iii. apply Procedure 6.
Manager, Research Ethics and Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Consider the appropriate action to be taken. d. Consult with any or all of the following, as deemed appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-Chancellor ii. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) iii. Vice-President and Executive Dean of the relevant College iv. Chairperson, AWC v. Chief Research Development Officer vi. Animal Ethics Officer vii. the individual experimenter. e. For media enquiries you must consult with Media and Communications. f. Send a formal response, taking into account Procedure 6, with a blind copy to all the people listed in d., to facilitate University-wide understanding and coordination of any animal experimentation issue.

6. Restriction on release of information

Manager, Research Ethics and Compliance, or experimenter	<p>When answering an enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. do not acknowledge the existence of a particular project unless the consent of the experimenter involved has been obtained, and b. do not release the following information, unless approved in advance by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. names and addresses of experimenters, institutions and Colleges ii. College reports and correspondence iii. names of members of animal ethics committees iv. documents affecting business affairs v. documents communicated in confidence, and vi. documents affecting the conduct of research.
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Approval Authority	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Responsible Officer	Chief Research Development Officer
Approval Date	25 September 2024
Effective Date	25 September 2024
Review Date*	2027
Last amended	
CM file number	CF11/1638

* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy or procedures still apply beyond the review date.

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