

OIE COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE AND BIOETHICAL ANALYSIS

An innovative, multi-centre partnership between the New Zealand and Australian Governments and internationally recognised research institutions to form an OIE Collaborating Centre that:

- » Harnesses the scientific expertise available from five internationally recognised research groups.
- » Meets the full spectrum of animal welfare science and bioethical analytical needs to support the OIE's international animal welfare leadership role.

BACKGROUND

OIE Collaborating Centres are centres of expertise in a specific designated sphere of competence relating to the management of general questions on animal health and welfare issues. The Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre (AWSBC) at Massey University in New Zealand was granted OIE collaborating centre status at the 2007 OIE General Session. The expansion of the centre to include one other New Zealand and three Australian institutions, with the support of the Governments of both countries, was approved at the 2009 OIE General Session.

The OIE animal welfare mandate covers livestock production animals, animals used in research testing and teaching, wild animals, animals used for work, sport, recreational and display purposes and aquatic animals. Given such a broad mandate, the need for animal welfare scientific support will increase progressively, a need that can be met by a well coordinated, regional multi-centre comprising internationally recognised centres of animal welfare science excellence.

In addition to providing support to the OIE Central Bureau, the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region, it is envisaged that the centre will enter into appropriate international "twinning" arrangements in accordance with OIE policy and strategy.

CAPACITY TO DELIVER RESEARCH EXPERTISE

The expanded centre significantly increases the pool of available experience and expertise to approximately 44 internationally recognised professional scientific staff with an annual contribution of between 60 and 70 papers to the scientific literature. Collaboration has always been strong between the five institutions, with joint projects between the agencies and many additional international links.

When combined, the capacity of the five institutions to support the OIE's Global Animal Welfare mandate, demonstrates:

- » Diversity and depth of high quality scientific expertise.
- » Strong bioethical analytical capacity.
- » Wide experience of national and international science issues relevant to regulatory operating frameworks for setting and implementing animal welfare standards.
- » Facility to deliver education and training in the animal welfare arena.

MEMBERS

ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE AND BIOETHICS CENTRE, MASSEY UNIVERSITY, NEW ZEALAND

Technical Competence and Expertise:

- » A multi-discipline, university-wide grouping of seven researchers/scholars, three technical staff and a postgraduate student group (PhD and Masters), plus nine external associates actively participating in Centre projects.
- » Expertise includes: animal welfare science; applied animal behaviour science; animal husbandry, livestock, veterinary and wildlife sciences; alternatives and animal use in research, teaching and testing; animal welfare ethics, bioethics, applied and professional ethics; regulatory management of animal welfare; formulation of welfare codes and welfare legislation.

Contact:

Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre

College of Sciences
Massey University
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Palmerston North 4442
New Zealand

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Email D.J.Mellor@massey.ac.nz, K.J.Stafford@massey.ac.nz
Website <http://animalwelfare.massey.ac.nz>



AgRESEARCH ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE RESEARCH CENTRE, NEW ZEALAND

Technical Competence and Expertise:

- » A New Zealand government-supported research group with five research scientists, five research associates, and graduate students (New Zealand based and internationally-based; PhD and Masters).
- » Collaborating associates within other AgResearch groups and external institutes contribute expertise in social science, modelling, farm systems research, economics, and veterinary and animal science.
- » Expertise includes: livestock and mammalian pest behaviour; stress, nutrition, growth and reproductive physiology; endocrinology; neuroendocrinology; social science applied to animal use; livestock production, welfare and economics; development of welfare codes and good practice in livestock production processes.

Contact:

Animal Behaviour and Welfare Research Centre, New Zealand

AgResearch Ruakura Research Centre
Private Bag 3123
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Telephone (64) 7 838 5569
Email lindsay.matthews@agresearch.co.nz
Website <http://www.agresearch.co.nz/about/campus.asp>



ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE CENTRE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Technical Competence and Expertise:

- » Established in 1997 as a centre of the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Department of Primary Industries (Victoria).
- » The Ohio State University joined as a fourth partner of the Centre in 2009
- » 16 active scientists conduct animal welfare research and teaching in three major program areas: Animal welfare methodology; housing and husbandry effects on animal welfare; attitudes to animals and animal welfare and farmer, consumer and community behaviour.
- » Expertise includes: animal behaviour, stress physiology, veterinary science and psychology.

Contact:

Animal Welfare Science Centre

Department of Agriculture and Food Systems
The Melbourne School of Land and Environment
The University of Melbourne
Parkville Victoria 3010
Australia

Telephone (61) 3 8344 8933
Email awsc-info@unimelb.edu.au
Website <http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/>



ANIMAL WELFARE
SCIENCE CENTRE

CENTRE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICS, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Technical Competence and Expertise:

- » A recent development, the Chair in Animal Welfare being established under a shared funding agreement in 2003 that included the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- » Part of the School of Veterinary Science, but also involves many researchers in the School of Animal Studies.
- » Aims to study the welfare of animals and ethical issues concerned with their management in Queensland, in Australia and overseas through scientific evaluation of animal management practices.

Contact:

Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics

School of Veterinary Science
University of Queensland
Queensland 4343
Australia

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Email c.phillips@uq.edu.au
Website <http://www.uq.edu.au/caewe>



DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES, COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION, AUSTRALIA

Technical Competence and Expertise:

- » CSIRO's Livestock Welfare Research Group was established in 2002. It has significantly expanded and now has a professional complement of seven scientists.
- » It has three research objectives:
 - › To develop improved understanding of the biology of animal welfare and its measurement;
 - › To identify and select animals adapted to their production environment;
 - › To assess and improve the welfare outcomes of animal husbandry practices.

Contact:

CSIRO Livestock Industries

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Australia

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Website <http://www.csiro.au/science/psxj.html>



GOVERNANCE

The Centre is managed by the "Centre Management Committee", with members drawn from each of the National Government Agencies and the five research groups identified. The principal point of contact is through the country Government nominee currently holding the role of Chair on the Centre Management Committee, which alternates between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the Australian National Government (with New Zealand providing the inaugural Chair in 2009).

The New Zealand contact is:

Director Animal Welfare

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Email david.bayvel@maf.govt.nz



New Zealand Government

The Australian Government contact is:

Manager, Animal Welfare

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
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