

Developing Options for National Reporting of Statistics on Animals Used in Research in Australia

Introduction

ANZCCART has commenced a project to develop options for consistent national reporting of statistics on animals used in research or teaching in Australia. Further details of this project were provided in an Issues Paper released in early April. Please email anzccart@adelaide.edu.au if you did not receive a copy or would like another copy.

A wide range of organisations such as regulatory authorities, research institutions and animal protection organisations has been invited to provide input into this project. Although the closing date for formal submissions has now passed, we are still willing to receive comments **provided they can be considered within the scheduled timeframe** of the project.

We are also willing to provide updates to individuals and organisations, even if they have not submitted comments.

Responding to the questions in this document is **optional** – the document is intended simply as a guide to organisations that may wish to provide comment or input into the project. You are therefore welcome to respond to as many or as few of the questions below as you wish, and of course you may offer comment on any other relevant points not covered by this document.

Please **clearly indicate if any content is to be kept confidential**.

If you would like to submit comments or if you simply wish to receive updates, please contact the Project Officer, Dr Malcolm France, at malcolm.p.france@gmail.com with cc to anzccart@adelaide.edu.au and the words 'national statistics' in the subject line.

General questions

Please comment on as many of as few of the following as you wish:

In general terms:

1. Do you agree that research institutions should report statistics on animals used in research?
2. What are your reasons for this?

If your organisation conducts research involving animals:

1. Do you feel change to the current system for reporting and publishing statistics is needed and if so, what change(s) would you like to see?
2. Do you think these changes should be a low, medium or high priority?

In relation to national reporting:

1. Would you support a move towards nationally consistent reporting and publishing of animal use statistics across all Australian state and territory jurisdictions?
2. If so:

- Would you like to see the model used in your home state or territory applied across all jurisdictions or would you propose an amended or a different model (e.g. is there one from another state or overseas you would like to see used instead)?
 - Should a move towards nationally consistent reporting be low, medium or high priority?
3. If you are **not** supportive of nationally consistent reporting, why is this?
 4. For about 10 years now, researchers in EU countries and the UK have been required to publish non-technical summaries of approved projects. The stated aims of this requirement include enhanced transparency, avoiding the spread of misinformation, supporting the sharing of good practice in the 3Rs, and supporting evidence-based policy making. Do you think something like this should be considered for Australia?
 5. Any other comments.

Operational considerations

Please comment on as many of as few of the following as you wish:

- Oversight and governance
- Liaising with state and territory regulators
- Regulatory considerations
- Funding (set-up costs and ongoing operation)
- Implementation (staging?)
- Data management:
 - Hosting, URL and webpage maintenance
 - IT systems
 - Security, backup, privacy and confidentiality
 - Data entry, collating and formatting
- Other administration:
 - Stakeholder liaison
 - Communications, social media, handling enquiries

Content and coverage of reporting

Please comment on as many of as few of the following as you wish:

What species should be covered?

- Mammals
- Fish
- Avian
- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Cephalopods
- Decapod crustaceans
- Stage of development
- Other?

What research areas should be covered?

- Basic biomedical (human and animal)
- Applied biomedical (human and animal/veterinary)
- Diagnostics and biological products
- Wildlife/conservation/environmental
- Agriculture/racing
- Animals in teaching (primary/secondary school, tertiary, professional skills training)
- Other?

Reporting on animal breeding

- Species/number of lines
- In-house breeding vs external supplier
- Wastage including sex ratio
- Other?

Animal welfare impact

- How should this be reported?
- Categories of impact?
- Use of pain management

Other initiatives to be covered

- What other initiatives should be reported on?
- 3Rs initiatives?
- Rehoming?

Reporting cycle

- Calendar year, financial year or other?