

School Animal Care and Ethics Committee school visit information sheet

On the day that the Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee (SACEC) members visit your school the following structure is suggested:

- initial discussion between the Principal, Animal Welfare Liaison Officer (AWLO) and any other key school staff and SACEC members on the general requirements of the Act and how the school has responded to its responsibilities in the use of animals (approx. half an hour)
- a site inspection of the facilities where animals are housed and the animals used in teaching programs. The records kept for these animals will also be viewed (approx. one hour)
- a preliminary summation of the findings of the SACEC members to the Principal and suggestions to maximise educational benefits for students and welfare benefits for animals (half an hour).

Please have the following documents available during the school visit:

- Completed current Animal Research Authority
- Any licences related to specific animal activities, e.g. scientific licence
- Copy of your animal care records.

During the visit the visiting members will view the facilities where the animals are held.

Features of the facilities that may be discussed include:

- Available space
- Fencing
- Shelter

- Particular requirements relating to physical and behavioural needs for the species held at the school, e.g. perches for poultry
- Feeders
- Watering points/systems
- Climate modification/control systems
- Pest/vermin control
- Bedding
- Storage of feed
- Security.

Aspects of animal care and issues related to the use of animals at your school that may be discussed during the visit include:

- Educational justification for using live animals
- Alternatives to the use of live animals
- Animal breeding programs
- Appropriate number of animals maintained by your school
- Disposal methods for animals
- Disease control programs, e.g. worm testing, drenching, vaccination.

Please complete the school visit form and return to the Schools Animal Welfare Officer, Private Bag 3, Ryde 2112 at least one week prior to the visit.

For more information about the visit contact the Schools Animal Welfare Officer on (02) 9886 7426 or by email on sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au