POLICY:
ETHICS APPROVAL FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS

Purpose: This document outlines the University’s policy on ethics approval for research involving animals.
Responsible Executive: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Quality
Responsible Office: Research Office
Contact Officer: Ethics Officer
Effective Date: 20 July 2011
Modification History: Approved by Executive Council 20 July 2011
1. Definitions

1.1 "the Code" is the *NHMRC Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* as amended from time to time;

1.2 “Animal Research Act” means the *Animal Research Act (1985)* of New South Wales and any associated regulations as amended from time to time;

1.2 "Animal Welfare Act" means the *Animal Welfare Act (2002)* of Western Australia and any associated regulations as amended from time to time;

1.3 "the University" is The University of Notre Dame Australia.

2. Principles

2.1 The *NHMRC Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* is the foundation document informing research involving animals at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

2.2 The University is committed to fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities under the Code of Practice, the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Research Act.

2.3 The University actively encourages its research and teaching community to pursue alternatives to the use of animals for research. Where such alternatives do not exist or are inadequate, the use of animals must be conducted with care and respect and to the highest ethical standards.

2.4 Research involving animals must meet established ethical, professional and cultural norms.

2.5 Research must demonstrate an appropriate balance between the cost of animal interventions and the value to be achieved in carrying out the research.

2.6 Research that does not directly involve animals but can impact upon them also requires ethics approval.

2.7 If the assistance or agreement of another organisation is required to undertake the research project, written permission is required to access staff, clients or other information. Likewise, permission is required for research involving University staff or students undertaken by external research, irrespective of whether or not approval has been granted by the institution where the research originates.

3. Procedures

3.1 Ethics approval for research involving animals is the prerogative of the University, on the recommendation of the Animal Ethics Committee of Murdoch University (AEC) and the University’s Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).
3.2 The University will carefully consider the recommendations of the AEC and HREC but is not bound to follow the recommendation and the final decision as to whether an application is approved or not is that of the University.

3.3 Any researcher at the University who is proposing to carry out research involving the use of animals must notify the University Ethics Officer who will provide further information and assistance in regard to the process of applying for approval.

3.3 Any costs associated with obtaining animal ethics approval must be borne by the researcher unless otherwise agreed.

3.4 Ethics approval for research involving animals will not be granted unless an appropriate licence and/or authority is held or can be obtained by the University to authorise the research.

3.5 Ethics approval for research involving animals is granted on the following conditions:

(a) that, if an appropriate licence and/or authority has not already been obtained, such licence and/or authority is obtained;
(b) that research does not extend beyond the scope of what is approved by the HREC and what is covered by any relevant licence;
(c) that all research is carried out in accordance with the Code and any relevant legislation, including but not limited to the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Research Act;
(d) that any unforeseen events which might affect the continued ethical acceptability of the research project is reported immediately to the Research Office of the University; and
(e) the HREC must be notified of, and approve, any changes to the original protocol or membership of the research team.

3.6 Funds attracted from successful grants (which involve ethical issues) will not be released until ethics approval has been granted.

Staff and students should read this policy in conjunction with the Policy: Research Integrity, Policy: Code of Conduct for Research, Policy: Monitoring of Approved Research Projects and the Information Booklet: Determining what level of ethical clearance is required.