

The role of the school focus person

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Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources





The Animal Welfare Act 1985

The *Animal Welfare Act 1985* provides the legal framework for the use of animals in research and teaching using animals.

Licences

Conditions of licence

Agents of licensees

Animal ethics committees

The role of the Minister (and thus the DEWNR in supporting him)





Conditions of licence

The acquisition and use of animals for teaching, research or experimentation must not commence before approval by an Animal Ethics Committee.

The licensee must provide an Animal Ethics Committee with information regarding teaching involving animals as it may request.

The licensee must answer questions regarding teaching involving animals as may be put by an Animal Ethics Committee.

Adequate care, housing and handling of animals must be maintained at all times.

Proper and adequate post-procedural care, including appropriate veterinary attention must be provided for animals at all times.

Animals must be treated humanely and in accordance with the Act and *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*.

The acquisition, use (including all procedures) and care of animals for teaching is compliant with Parts 1 - 6 of the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, 2013*, (or as amended).





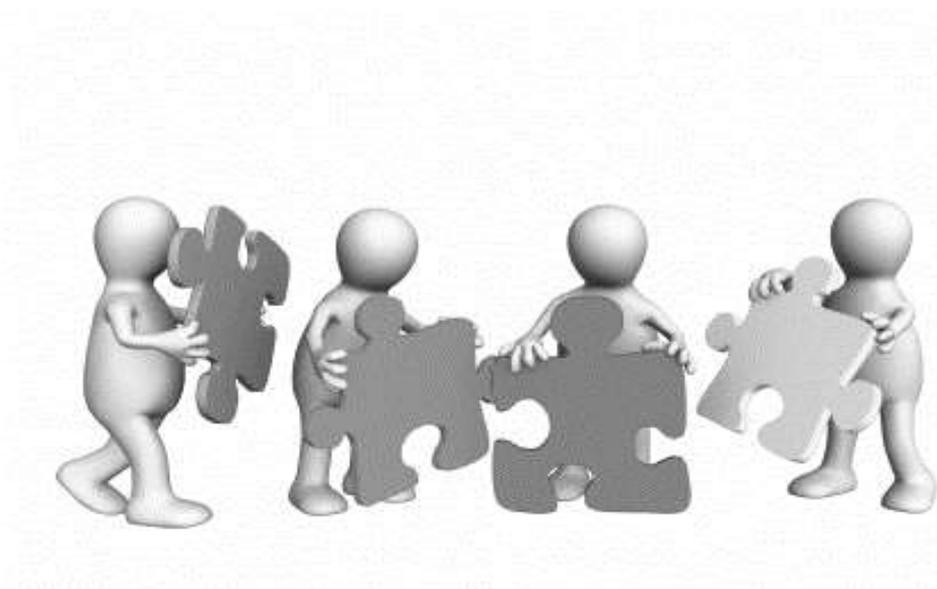
The Australian Code

The Code provides the detail of how animals are to be managed – it is the final piece in the jigsaw linking legislation, licences, focus persons and animal ethics committees.

The three R's

Obligations of:

- teachers
- AEC's
- focus persons
- institutions
- animal housing
- animal managers



The focus person makes all the pieces fit





A chain of responsibility

Who has a responsibility?

- Students
- Teachers
- Focus persons
- Animal ethics committees (and their Chairs and Executive Officers)
- Licence holders
- Funding bodies or recipients
- Animal Welfare Unit, DEWNR
- The Minister

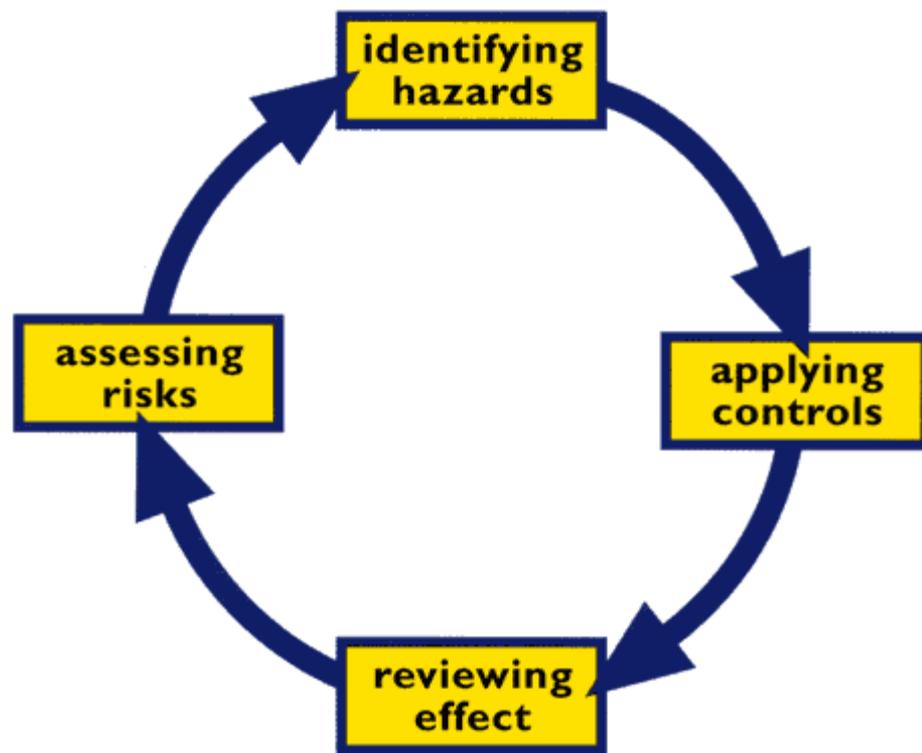




So what does the focus person do?

Manage risk – up and down the chain

- Students
- Teachers
- Themselves
- Their school
- Their animal ethics committee
- Their central office
- DEWNR
- The Minister





Linking down - Monitoring

Requires Knowledge

The Code

The three R's

Teaching protocols and curriculum

The system

Institutional policies and procedures

Requires Skills

Juggling balls

Technical skills

Communication

Requires Attitude

Listening and providing advice

Work ethic

Compassion

Sound judgement





Linking up - Reporting

Link to Animal ethics committee:

- Adverse events
- Annual report
- Coordinate applications
- Respond to requests

Link to licence holder:

- Compliance with licence conditions
- Compliance with Code
- Compliance with SOP's and institutional policies

Link to Community

- School community
- External reviews
- Visitors
- Open days etc





Why bother?

Animals are of huge value in schools:

- Ag courses
- Royal Show
- Nature studies

Teach students not only curriculum but:

- Interpersonal skills
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- The cycle of life
- Taking responsibility
- Appreciation of nature

The focus person makes it possible to have them.





...and of course to protect the animals

Both the cute

and

the not so cute



Thank you to the focus persons!





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