



## BOND UNIVERSITY ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (BUAREC) POLICY

<b>Policy number</b>	TLR 8.02
<b>Policy name</b>	Bond University Animal Research Ethics Committee (BUAREC) Policy (Issue Three)
<b>Applicability</b>	Bond University Staff, Students & External Committee Members, and Applicants
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)
<b>Contact person</b>	Director of Research, Office of Research Services
<b>Policy status</b>	Approved Policy
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<b>Date of next review</b>	20 February 2023
<b>Related policies and documents</b>	<p>Research Code of Conduct Policy (<a href="#">TLR 5.06</a>)</p> <p>Bond University Human Research Ethics Policy (<a href="#">TLR 8.01</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">University Regulations, Policies, and Procedures</a></p> <p><a href="#">Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)</a></p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council (2013) Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes</p> <p><a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</a></p>

### 1. OVERVIEW

As a registered user of animals for scientific purposes, Bond University must comply with the requirements of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)* (The Act) and the current National Health and Medical Research Council's *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (The Code).

The Code emphasises the responsibilities of all those involved in the care and use of animals. This embraces a duty of care that demands a genuine commitment to the welfare of the animals, a respect for the contribution the animals make to research and teaching and a desire to promote the animals' wellbeing.

Encapsulated in The Code is the need in scientific and teaching activities to consider:

- the Replacement of animals with other methods;
- the Reduction in the number of animals used; and
- the Refinement of techniques used to reduce the adverse impact on animals.

In accordance with the requirements of The Act and The Code, the University has committed to the establishment of a Bond University Animal Research Ethics Committee (BUAREC) to apply the principles that govern the ethical conduct of staff, students, and external applicants whose work involves the use of animals for scientific purposes. The BUAREC must ensure that the use of animals is justified, provides for the welfare of those animals and incorporates the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement.

Until Bond University demand for animal research warrants the establishment of an independent animal ethics committee, Bond University will utilise the services of University of Queensland Molecular Biosciences Animal Ethics Committee. As such, responsibility for review and monitoring of animal ethics research falls to the approving animal ethics committee as indicated in section 1 paragraph 4. However, for reporting purposes, Bond University maintains a monitoring role and the Research Office and the DVC (Academic) (or delegate) must be informed of animal research ethics applications and incidents contemporaneously with the external ethics committee.

This provides for a pathway for training of Bond staff in animal ethics and animal research oversight by the peak body in the State. Until such time as the Bond University Animal Ethics Committee (BUAREC) is formally constituted and registered, the Chair of the Bond University Human Research Ethics Committee (BUHREC) will act as an institutional Ethics Committee. Bond University researchers intending to conduct research involving animals must submit applications to conduct research involving animals to the Research Office for forwarding to the State Government Community Animal Ethics Committee.

## 2. THE POLICY

### 2.1. Terms of Reference for the BUAREC

The following terms of reference for the BUAREC accord with the requirements set out in The Code. This code of practice will inform all activities of the committee and will guide the decision making of this Committee. The Committee is authorised to:

- i. Approve guidelines for the care of animals that are bred, held, and used for scientific purposes on behalf of Bond University;
- ii. Monitor the acquisition, transportation, production, housing, care, use and fate of animals;
- iii. Recommend to the University any measures needed to ensure that the standards of The Code are maintained;
- iv. Describe how members are appointed, re-appointed, or retired, according to procedures developed by the BUAREC;
- v. Require that all members declare any conflict of interest;
- vi. Deal with situations in which a conflict of interest arises (see 2.2.21 of The Code);
- vii. Examine and approve, subject to modification, or reject written proposals relevant to the use of animals for scientific purposes;
- viii. Approve only those studies for which animals are essential and justified and which conform to the requirements of The Code. This should take into consideration factors including ethics, the impact on the animal or animals and the anticipated scientific or educational value;
- ix. Withdraw approval for any project (see 2.3.24 of The Code);
- x. Authorise the emergency treatment or euthanasia of any animal (see 2.1.5 v(d)) of The Code). This authority may be delegated to an individual who is directly responsible for the care of animals;
- xi. Examine and comment on all institutional plans and policies that may affect the welfare of animals used for scientific purposes;
- xii. Maintain a record of proposals and projects (see 2.2.30 of The Code);
- xiii. Comply with the reporting requirements of the institution and The Code (see 2.2.37 of The Code); and
- xiv. Perform all other duties required by The Code.

### 2.2. Revision

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed as necessary in response to changes in legislation and departmental policy. Responsibility to review the Terms of Reference will rest with the Chair of the Committee, who will report annually to the Committee the nature and impact on Bond University of any changes in legislation and policy.

### 2.3. References

[Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 \(Qld\)](#)

[Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012 \(Qld\)](#)

[Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition \(2013\) NHMRC](#)

### 2.4. Committee Membership

The Chair of the Committee is appointed by the Bond University Research Committee (BURC), with the approval of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). The Committee is supported by an Ethics Manager, who acts as Secretary to the Committee. As well as the Chair and the Ethics Manager, BUAREC membership must comprise of at least four persons including at least one of the following, in accord with the Code:

**Category A:** A person with qualifications in veterinary science and with experience relevant to the activities of the institution. Veterinarians who lack this experience must familiarise themselves with the biology and clinical characteristics of the species of animals used;

**Category B:** A suitably qualified person with substantial recent experience in the use of animals in scientific or teaching activities. This will usually entail possession of a higher degree in research;

**Category C:** A person with demonstrable commitment to, and established experience in, furthering the welfare of animals, who is not employed by or otherwise associated with the institution, and who is not involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. Veterinarians with specific animal welfare interest and experience may meet the requirements of this Category. While not representing an animal welfare organisation, the person should, where possible, be selected on the basis of active membership of, and nomination by, such an organisation; and

**Category D:** A person who is both independent of the institution and who has never been involved in the use of animals in scientific or teaching activities, either in their employment or beyond their undergraduate education. Category D members should be viewed by the wider community as bringing a completely independent view to the BUAREC and must not fit the requirements of any other Category.

In addition to the prescribed membership Categories A to D, Bond University should appoint to BUAREC a person responsible for the routine care of animals from within Bond University in the event that an animal house is established on campus. Although this membership is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged to ensure the BUAREC has direct communication with this person.

## 2.5. Responsibilities

**2.5.1. Bond University**, through BUAREC, is responsible for ensuring that all animal use conforms to the standards of The Code.

BUAREC is responsible to the University through the Chair of BUAREC, Bond University Research Committee, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). All communication with BUAREC should be through the Ethics Manager (BUAREC) and the Chair. BUAREC must ensure that techniques that totally or partially replace the use of animals for scientific purposes are sought and used wherever possible.

**2.5.2. Principal Investigators and teachers** who use animals for scientific purposes have personal responsibility for all matters relating to the welfare of these animals. They have an obligation to treat the animals with respect and to consider their welfare as an essential factor when planning or conducting projects. Scientific and teaching activities must not commence until written approval has been obtained from BUAREC and the Research Office has been provided with written approval of the activities.

The acquisition, care and use of animals for all scientific purposes in Australia must be in accordance with The Code and with Commonwealth, and State or Territory legislation.

## 2.6. Reporting

**2.6.1. Principal Investigators and teachers** are required to:

1. Immediately notify BUAREC or the external Animal Ethics Committee and the Ethics Manager or the Chair in the event of adverse or unexpected effects impacting on the animal's wellbeing;
2. Notify BUAREC on completion or discontinuance of a project;
3. Allow access to the animal facility and provide information/logs any other time as requested by BUAREC. Logs will be maintained to record the management of animals, in accord with The Act;
4. Report in writing annually to BUAREC, following the guidelines set down by BUAREC.

**2.6.2. BUAREC** is required to provide an annual written report to the University and to the NHMRC Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) through the Vice-Chancellor.

## 2.7. Non-compliance

Investigators and teachers using animals for scientific purposes have personal responsibility for all matters relating to the welfare of the animals. Anyone found to be operating outside The Code, the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, *Animal Care and Protection Regulations 2012*, or Bond University Regulations and Policies will have their project immediately suspended by BUAREC. Animal welfare must be reported to the Department of Primary Industries and Animal Welfare by law.

Bond University, BUAREC, investigators and teachers all have responsibility for compliance with The Code and Bond University Regulations, Policies, and Procedures. Non-compliance could result in fines, possible imprisonment, suspension of all or part of NHMRC funding to Bond University and suspension of registration as a scientific user.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

**The Code:** [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes](#)

**The Act:** [Animal Care and Protection Act 2001](#)

**The 3 R's:**

- the Replacement of animals with other methods;
- the Reduction in the number of animals used; and
- the Refinement of techniques used to reduce the adverse impact on animals.

## 4. RELATED PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND FORMS

BUAREC procedures document (forthcoming)

- [Animal Ethics Committee Members Induction Package](#)
- [QLD Animal Care and Protection Act \(2001\) \(Qld\)](#)
- [Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Best practice methodology in the use of animals for scientific purposes](#)
- [Guidelines to promote the wellbeing of animals used for scientific purposes](#)
- [ANZCCART Standards](#)