

ANIMAL CARE AND USE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The University of Melbourne Animal Care and Use Standards Committee (ACUSC) identifies and develops standards for best practice in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. In doing so the ACUSC works closely with, and provides advice to, the University's Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee (AWEC), Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), and Office for Research Ethics and Integrity (OREI).

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The membership of the Committee comprises:
 - i. Chairperson - a senior member of the University, appointed by the Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee.
 - ii. Chairperson, Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee.
 - iii. Chairpersons of each of the University's Animal Ethics Committees.
 - iv. The University's Animal Welfare Officer.
- 1.2 The Committee must appoint, from amongst its members, a Deputy Chairperson who will have the authority to act for the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence.
- 1.3 The Committee may co-opt, for specified periods, persons with particular expertise.
- 1.4 Members are required to observe any conditions of confidentiality imposed by the University through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

2. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The functions of the Committee are to:
 - i. Receive referrals for potential standards from AECs, AWEC, AWOs, OREI and researchers.
 - ii. On behalf of the University, and in accordance with its Animal Care and Use Standards Procedure, identify and develop best practice standards for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.
 - iii. Where the development of a standard is not appropriate, provide advice back to the referee.
 - iv. Recommend standards for endorsement by AWEC.
 - v. Investigate and provide advice on exemptions to standards referred to it by AECs or researchers.
 - vi. To establish and determine its method of operation.