FAQ—When do I need to list individual UQBR Technicians on my application?

Summary

Definitions of experimental procedures vs. animal care and husbandry procedures are provided below.

Any person (including UQBR employees) undertaking experimental procedures must be individual named on the AEC Application or modification along with their experience/qualifications in performing the specific procedure.

No UQBR employees can be individually named on an AEC Application without the prior consent of the UQBR Facility Manager and the individual named.

Where UQBR employees are only undertaking animal care and husbandry procedures as described below, it is sufficient to nominate the facility manager only.

Please note the conditions for feeding specialized diets and breeding approval.

Background

Dear all, The release of the revised code and the transition to an electronic form which does not require a UQBR Facility managers signature before lodgement may have lead to some confusion as to who and what must be included in your AEC Application regarding UQBR Technical services.

In conjunction with the animal welfare office we would like to clarify the roles of UQBR employees and the situations under which they must be specifically identified and their roles described in an AEC Application as it currently applies. We would also like to stress at the outset the importance of consulting with the Facility manager before lodging applications.

Part A: Specific individual identification—Experimental techniques.

Where a UQBR employee will be carrying out a procedure on animals that is solely related to the experimental aims of the project (rather than basic care, husbandry and welfare —to be defined shortly) then that person must be listed on the project application along with the specific procedures they will be undertaking and their experience. Please note that “procedures” include experimental monitoring, surgical assistance, anaesthesia etc. This has always been the case and is even more explicit in the new code. (Code 2.1.8(ii), (iv), 2.7.4 (xvii) (xviii) as examples)

A UQBR employee cannot be individually listed on an AEC Application without the prior approval of the Facility manager (or Director of UQBR if manager unavailable) and the person/s to be listed.

Part B: Non specific identification

Where UQBR employees are providing basic animal care/ husbandry, individual identification is not required on the AEC Application other than nominating the Facility and Facility Manager. However, the Facility Manager will be responsible for ensuring that facility staff who undertake any of the following techniques must be competent or under the supervision of a UQBR staff member who is competent in the procedure. The Facility Manager will also ensure that the employee is aware that they are to be involved in the project and have agreed to the same.
What constitutes basic animal care?

- Provision of food and water (see note 1 below)
- Cage changing and cleaning
- Identification (this may include techniques for determining genotype/phenotype) including
  - AHT 31 Tail Bleed in the Mouse
  - AHT 32 Tail Bleed in the Rat,
  - AHT 27a Toe Clipping in Rodents
  - AHT 27b Ear Tagging in Rodents
  - AHT 27c Tattooing in Rodents
  - AHT 27d Ear Notching in Rodents
  - AHT 27e Microchipping in Rodents
  - AHT 43 Tail Tipping in Mice

- Husbandry i.e. Breeding (see note :2) – this may include injections to enhance ovulation or to synchronise breeding
  - AHP 67 Superovulation of Laboratory Mice

- Health and welfare monitoring (other than experimental treatment monitoring) for example blood collection for pathogen screening, weighing/handling animals to assess health etc.

  
  AHP 61 Small Animal Health Monitoring (Sentinel mice)

- Euthanasia
  
  - AHT 35 Euthanasia of Mice (Cervical Dislocation)
  - AHT 36 Euthanasia of Rats or Mice (Carbon Dioxide)
  - AHT 37 Euthanasia of Mice (Neonates < 10 days)
  - AHT 37b Euthanasia of Rodent Embryos
  - AHT 38 Euthanasia of Rats (Decapitation)
  - AHT 39 Euthanasia of Rodents (Lethobarb)
  - Cervical Dislocation of Rats has no SOP as the technician must be individually assessed by the CVO

- Activities conducted under the UQBR Veterinary care program (see attached program)

The above techniques are more fully described in AEC approved SOP’s on the animal welfare website

Note 1: We have taken the view that while feeding anything other than standard rodent feed obviously requires specific AEC approval, the actual act of feeding itself constitutes basic animal care. In the situation where non standard feeding is to take place, it must be pre-determined with the Facility manager and made clear in the application whether it is to be the responsibility of the research group or Facility management.

Note 2: The intention to and method of breeding must still be covered either in the project application or separate breeding application but does not require identifying individual technicians. The exception to this note will be where the work is to create new or novel genetically modified strain of animal at which time a staff member must be indicated as a participant.

UQBR and the animal welfare unit also wish to advise staff and researchers that this document is current at the time of implementation however due to changes in the code requiring all persons using animals for scientific purposes to be assessed and deemed competent to the AEC’s satisfaction (code 2.1.8 (iii)) changes will be required in the future to a more comprehensive system but this will be a longer term initiative.