

Schools' Animal Ethics Committee 2022 Student Form

Application for Ethical Approval for an Investigation/Project Involving Live Animals

Project Title: Feeding Hierarchy in Sparrows.....

Student (Principal Investigator) Name: Tui Smith.....

School: Bellbird High School.....

Year Level: Eight.....

Date of application: 1/5/2019.....

In your project, when will the animals be involved:

Start date: 25/05/2019.....**Finish date:** 03/06/2019.....

Home	School
Name of Responsible Caregiver: Kaka Greentail	Name of Responsible Teacher: Ms. Maureen Goodfinch
Address: 123 Forestglen Road Bushington Wellington, 6035	Address: Bellbird High School 567 Ferndale Drive Mountainview Wellington, 6034
Phone: 027000000	Phone: 02100000
Email: kaka.greentail@birdpress.com	Email: Maureen.goodfinch@BellbirdHS.com

You must apply before beginning your work with animals

Please tick which of the 2022 Animal Ethics Committee meetings you would like your application to be considered at and ensure your application is submitted at least 2 weeks before that date:

18 Feb
 11 April
 16 May
 7 June
 27 June
 22 August

Note: in urgent circumstances the Committee may consider applications outside these dates.

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

You **must** answer all the following questions 1 - 9 or attach a copy of your project plan ensuring it includes all the requested information. If needed, please write your answers on extra pages.

Diagrams or photographs of any caging or devices used or planned for development will be a help to the Committee to understand and approve your project.

For information on how to look after the animals in your project see the booklet "Caring for Animals" <http://scienceonline.tki.org.nz/Teaching-science/Ethics/Caring-for-Animals>

1. Does your project involve live animals?

Yes (go to Q 2)

No (approval not required)

A live animal is a: mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish (bony or cartilaginous), octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); mammalian foetus, avian or reptilian pre-hatched young that is in the last half of gestation or development; or any marsupial pouch young.

2. List the type and total number of animals that you will use:

Animal type: **Sparrows**

Number in your project: **Approximately 20 - 50**

If you plan to use large numbers of animals, you should consider whether a smaller number would be enough.

If your project involves catching, killing, or obtaining the eggs, dead bodies or parts, of any native mammals, birds (except game birds), reptiles or amphibians, or bush and ground wetas, ground or carab beetles, Nelson cave spiders, snails, black and red coral, or spotted black groper, you need to also get a permit from the Department of Conservation (www.doc.govt.nz/). A permit may also be required to remove native species from National Parks or Reserves.

3. Aim – briefly explain what are you trying to find out or what are you trying to develop?

- I want to find out if sparrows have a hierarchy in feeding.

4. Outline your project or investigation, what you are you going to do and how you will do it. Include in your description:

1/ How are animals involved in the project?

- I will be observing wild sparrows in my backyard. I will have two birdfeeders set up. One which is a coconut feeder and contains just coconut and the other containing the wild bird seed.

Here are the photos of the feeders that I will be using.



2/ What will you do with/to the animals in your project?

- I will not be touching them, just watching them from a distance.

3/ For how long will the animals be used?

- Six weeks

4/ What will you measure, observe or record to report your findings?

- I will begin feeding and then record my observations.
- I will place a morning feed in the feeders at 8:00am and then take them down at 9:00am.
- I will then put an afternoon feed in the feeders at 4:00pm and remove the feeders at 5:00pm. I will use two bird feeders. One that I think will be preferred and the more dominant sparrows will use, is the coconut feeder. The second is the feeder that will have Feathered Friends Wild Bird feed mix in it and should be used by the less dominant birds. I think that I may not just have sparrows feeding from the feeders, but other birds too.
- I will attempt to record any other hierarchies that I observe but will mainly focus on the sparrows.
- Using photography and personally watching the birds I am going to record the order of feeding or male, female, and juvenile (smaller) birds.

5. Where will you obtain the animals from?

pet from home

animal from a farm

Please give the address of the farm, if different from your own address:

Elsewhere (please explain where)

- I will be observing wild birds in their natural habitat.

6. Where will you keep the animals (please tick one):

at school

at home

Elsewhere (please explain where)

- These birds live in the wild.

7. If your project involves caging or housing an animal(s) briefly describe

- how will they be caged or housed?

n/a

- how and when will you provide food and water?

n/a

- how will you keep the housing clean?

n/a

- how will you care for them in the weekends?

n/a

- how you will care for any animals that become unwell:

n/a

8. Risks to animals:

Identify any risks to the health or well-being of the animal(s) as a result of the procedures.

- The birds could fight with each other and become injured.
- The less dominant birds may not get as much to eat from the feeders at the more dominant birds.
- The bird seed could get wet and become mouldy making the birds sick.
- My cats might try to get the birds, or the neighbours cats could try catch them too. The feeders will be put in locations that would be difficult for cats and also dogs to access. The feeders are only up when observation is occurring. I will be watching all the time and can intervene if required.

You are required to talk with some-one who has experience or is qualified in this area to make sure that you identify all actual and potential risks to the animal and/or to yourself.

Who is the experienced or qualified person you have discussed these risks and how to minimize them with (e.g., your teacher, a farmer, animal breeder, or a vet)?

- **Name:** Janet Gulley.....
Experience or qualifications: She is the local bird lady and also a Veterinary Nurse who has a bird sanctuary on her small farm. She cares for local birdlife in conjunction with her local Veterinary clinic that is injured or needs rehabilitation.
- **What advice or answers were you given?**
Make sure the birds do not become tangled in the string that I will use to hang up the bird feeders. Keep the bird feeders clean and check that the bird seed does not rot or get mouldy if it gets wet. Watch for cats that may learn birds will be flocking to the feeders and may try to hunt and eat them.

Should any of these risks occur and cause irritation or harm to the animal(s), then what will you do?

- Take the bird/s to Janet or a Veterinarian.

9. At the end of your project what will happen to the animals (please tick one):

kept in, or returned to, their original environment

returned to a similar environment (please explain where)

kept elsewhere (please explain where)

- These birds live in the wild and will not be taken from their environment at any stage.

if the animals need to be killed at the end of the project, explain why this is necessary, and how and who will do this humanely?

DURING YOUR PROJECT

After your project has been approved, if you need to change the design including the source, type, and numbers of animals or what you do to them, and any materials, housing or foods used, you must seek approval first from the Animal Ethics Committee.

It is important to monitor your project as it is happening and ensure that the animals are well.

You should be mindful of the risks that you identified (see question 8), and carefully watch the animals so that you can stop your project if any of these risks do happen.

AFTER YOUR PROJECT

After your project has been approved and completed, you need to fill out a simple Statistics Form about what animals were used, how many, and what happened to them after the project. This information is required by the Ministry of Primary Industries.

As part of the Statistics Form you will be asked to provide evidence about how your project went.

This self-monitoring evidence can include:

A short-written description of the project, including how the animals responded

A series of photos or a short video taken during your project

A video recording of you explaining how your project went

A photo of your Science Fair board.

Please email this completed form to animalethicscommittee@nzase.org.nz

For NZASE Schools' AEC use only

File Number

Approval Granted / Pending / Declined

Signature

Designation

Date of Approval: / /

Project monitored Y/N **Grade**.....

Additional changes Withdrawn / Modified / Revoked / /

Animal Statistics Return Form Completed..... / /