

Schools' Animal Ethics Committee 2022 Student Form

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

Project Title: Can Guinea Pigs remember a trail?

Student (Principal Investigator) Name: Ethan Smith

School: Windermere School

Year Level: 8

Date of application: 5th March 2021

During your project, when will the animals be involved?

Start date: 20th April **Finish date:** 22nd April

Home	School
Name of Responsible Caregiver: Harry Smith	Name of Responsible Teacher: James Cavey
Address: 10 Cavia porcellus drive Rodentia Wellington, 6037	Address: Windemere school 363 Himalayan Road Wellington, 5022
Phone: (04) 123 4567	Phone: (04) 135 2468
Email: Harry.smith@windschool.co.nz	Email: James.cavey@windschool.co.nz

You must apply before beginning your work with animals. The committee will not give retrospective approval for applications.

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” [Caring-for-animals-in-the-classroom](#)

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: Guinea Pig **Number in your project:** 3

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 would like to explore whether guinea pigs have good memories. Can they learn how to get to their food at the end of the maze and then remember this 20 minutes later.

4. Outline your project or investigation. Think about what you are going to do and how you will do it.

Include in your description:

- **How are animals involved in your project?** I plan to use three guinea pigs. Each guinea pig will go into the maze at separate times. I will wipe down the maze with a non-toxic cleaner so that the smell from the previous guinea pig won't be in the maze and give away any clues as to where the guinea pig should go. It is a very simple wide access maze made from cardboard. Two diagrams of the maze prototype ideas are provided below. Mine will be very similar to these. The sides are quite high so that the guinea pigs cannot jump out and injure themselves.
- **What will you do with/to the animals in your project?** I am going to test to see if the guinea pigs can figure out how to get to their food at the end of the maze and how long it takes.

- **For how long will the animals be used?** Each guinea pig will be in the maze no longer than 10 minutes. Guinea Pigs are quite timid so I may need to extend this time if the guinea pig is doing okay and just exploring the maze very slowly. I may also put two guinea pigs in the maze at the same time so that they feel happier with a friend.
- **What will you measure, observe or record to report your findings?** I will time the guinea pigs to see how long it takes for them to figure out the maze. Once they have figured it out, I will give them a 20-minute break then put them in the maze again to see if they remember the route. If the guinea pigs become stressed or have not figured out the maze after 10 minutes, I will take the guinea pig out, give it a rest, food, and water, and then try again in 20 minutes. I will take photos and videos of the guinea pigs in the maze.



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)

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

at school

at home

elsewhere (please explain where)

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

➤ **how will they be caged or housed?**

The guinea pigs are my pets and live at my home. They have a large outdoor cage where they all live together.

➤ **how and when will you provide food and water?**

I will follow my normal routine for their feeding requirements. I have had these guinea pigs for two years.

➤ **how will you keep the housing clean?**

I will follow my normal cleaning routine

➤ **how will you care for them in the weekends?**

I will keep to my normal routine

➤ **how will you care for any animals that become unwell?**

I will take an unwell guinea pig to my veterinarian.

8. **Risks to animals:**

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

The Guinea pigs might become stressed from being in the maze. If they refuse to move or sit hunched over or start to aggressively jump up the sides of the maze. I will take them out of the maze for a rest and try the experiment after another 20 minutes. If it happens again, I will stop using the guinea pig for that day and try the next day.

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.

9. **Who is the experienced or qualified person you have discussed these risks with and how will you minimise them?**

Name: Christine Abyssinian

Experience or qualifications: Veterinarian

What advice or answers were you given?

To watch the guinea pigs and make sure that they do not get stressed or injure themselves. Give them plenty of breaks and that I may need to stop the experiment and try again the next day if the guinea pigs were not enjoying the maze. It is a new environment so they might take some time to get used to it and to not expect them to master the maze straight away. I need to be patient. My guinea pigs like cuddles, so I will give them some when I take them out of the maze.

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

I will stop the experiment and take the guinea pigs to my veterinarian.

10. **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)

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 in 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 **Statistics Form** about:

- what animals were used
- how many were used
- what happened to them after the project.

The Animal Ethics Committee will send you this form and the 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..... / /