



November 2022 Animal Ethics in Schools - Newsletter

The NZASE Schools' Animal Ethics committee has had a busy year learning about interesting studies involving mudcrabs to chickens by taurira and kaiako from throughout New Zealand. The committee now has:

- a new logo
- an exciting website: [Schools' Animal Ethics Committee](#)
- resources for project planning: [Animal Ethics Resources](#)
- revamped application forms for project approval: [Apply for Animal Ethics Approval](#)
- a Facebook page: [Animal Ethics Facebook Page](#)

We hope these will help both you and your taurira to be informed of current animal ethics requirements in a timely and user-friendly manner.

The NZASE NZ School's Animal Ethics committee was set up in 2005 to help students and teachers to gain an understanding of the three R's (replacing, reducing, and refining) as they applied to the use of animals in research and teaching. This then would enable them to apply for ethics approval for investigations involving animals that they might be planning.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the term 'animal' means any live member of the animal kingdom that is a mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish (bony or cartilaginous), octopus, squid, crab (including half crab), lobster or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish), and includes any marsupial pouch young or mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development.

Note: If a 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. Local iwi may also need to be involved in the permitting process.

The committee meeting dates for 2023 have been set: [Committee Meeting Dates](#)
Retrospective approvals **will not be given** under any circumstances, so if you or your students are unsure if a project requires ethics approval, please contact us before you begin your project: animalethicscommittee@nzase.org.nz



Teacher Applications

There are two parts to the process - application for approval before the investigation occurs and reporting after the research has been completed. **One change to note** is that videos of students carrying out the research must be submitted in this report.

For projects such as AS91601 Bio 3.1, where the projects are repeated annually e.g. mudcrab study, approval can be gained for three years. [Apply for Animal Ethics Approval](#)

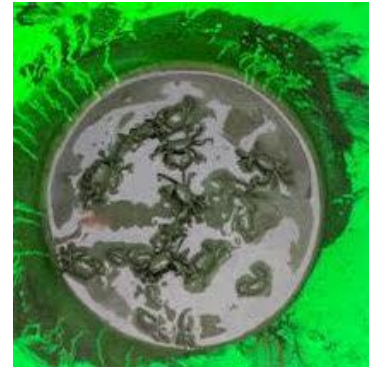
- However, each trip and the trip dates must be confirmed on an **annual** basis.
- As teachers frequently change schools, including several teachers (where possible) in the initial application, will help the approval to remain valid.

● Applications should outline how/when students will be taught safe animal handling methods. e.g. mud crab collection.

For all projects, If there are changes to the approved project, then a revised application must be re-submitted for re-approval before starting.

Reporting

- The animal use statistics form must be submitted as soon as possible after the research e.g. one month.
- If the research did not take place in the current year, then please let us know.
- **Videos** of the students carrying out the research also need to be submitted at the same time.



Student Applications

Students need to be encouraged to consider animal ethics approval as they start to plan their investigations.

The AEC poster provides an overview of the process: [Animal Ethics Poster](#)



In their application, students need to consider:

- Application deadlines - applications will be considered at the committee meeting, these are set for the year

https://animaethics.org.nz/?page_id=39

In the student's application, the committee needs to see a **detailed** written description of the project including:

- **what** they will be doing with the animals
- **where** this will take place
- **who** will be supervising the study: [Apply for Animal Ethics Approval](#)
- The more information that is provided, the more efficiently the committee can review the application
- Students **must** make a short video that shows the animals and how these are being used in the research.

This must be submitted after their project has been completed along with the student statistics research form. [Apply for Animal Ethics Approval](#)

- Diagrams/plans of any equipment or devices that the student intends to use with the animals must be included in their application. If the device is commercially available, then a weblink would also be useful.
- If approval is given but the project changes, then the student must contact the committee for re-approval.
- Once a project has been approved, students will receive a letter and two stickers to confirm the approval.



Reporting after the study

- Students need to complete a student statistics return form.
- They must also include a short video of the study being conducted as above.
- The information must be sent as soon as possible after the investigation has been completed e.g. 1 month.

Not all use of animals in classrooms require animal ethics approval, however it is always **wise** to check before using animals in a teaching situation with a quick email to the

committee: animaethicscommittee@nzase.org.nz

The committee appreciates the support and mahi that you, the kaiako give their students as they undertake research using animals. We are here to support this learning so please contact us if you need further assistance.