

Biological Resources Imaging Laboratory

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Conditions of Use Relating to Animal Care and Ethics

Investigators are reminded that they have a personal responsibility for all matters related to the welfare of the animals they use and must act in accordance with all requirements of the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th Edition 2013*.

The Biological Resources Imaging Lab is committed to promoting and maintaining the highest standards with respect to the welfare of these animals and will work with investigators, the Director of Animal Care and the UNSW ACEC to ensure that these obligations are met.

BRIL staff will work with investigators at the experimental planning stage and throughout experiments to assist in establishing protocols that will meet the research requirements while working within ethical guidelines. BRIL staff are also able to provide advice to researchers preparing ACEC applications to ensure that the experimental conditions required for imaging the animal and generating the required data are documented accurately.

Investigators are reminded that, if at any stage during an experiment they begin to have concerns for the welfare of the animal, they should immediately consult BR staff, BRIL staff and/or seek advice from the Director of Animal Care.

BRIL staff members are often directly involved in imaging aspects of research projects to provide a high level of technical expertise. Consequent to this requirement, BRIL reserves the right to refuse initiating a procedure or to request a researcher to terminate a procedure should the welfare of an animal be in question.

Conditions under which BRIL staff may refuse to initiate a procedure:

- Prior to procedure, in the judgment of BRIL staff, the condition of the animal is outside the acceptable health standards as assessed and documented in the BRIL health---assessment sheet approved for this purpose by the ACEC. *Note that this sheet will be completed only if required.*
- An aspect of the procedure is outside the parameters covered under the relevant ACEC approval (for example, the required imaging time, required time under anaesthetic, administration of a substance).

Conditions under which BRIL staff may request termination of a procedure:

- Physiological parameters such as heart rate, respiration or temperature are outside the normative range for these functions as determined by visual inspection or through the use of electronic monitoring instruments.
- An aspect of the procedure that is not covered under the relevant ACEC approval (for example, the required imaging time, required time under anaesthetic). If a maximum time of anesthesia is not stated in the relevant ACEC approval, the anesthesia time for a single animal will be limited to 2h.
- It is likely that an anaesthetised animal will wake up before imaging can be completed.
- It is likely that the animal's wellbeing will be compromised if the procedure continues.

If a procedure is terminated, the investigator retains the responsibility for ensuring the welfare of the animal and taking appropriate steps to mitigate animal welfare issues.

In the event of a dispute between the investigator and BRIL staff as to the condition of the animal and its suitability for a procedure, the BRIL staff decision will be final. The reasons for terminating the procedure will be documented and the UNSW Director of Animal Care will be consulted. If necessary the Investigator will be asked to submit an Adverse Event Report to the UNSW ACEC.