



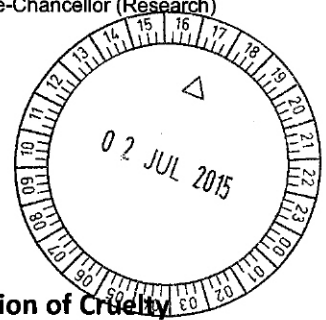
THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Professor Robyn Owens

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

2 July 2015

SUBMISSION



Select Committee into the operations of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc)

The University of Western Australian is a top-100 internationally regarded medical, biomedical and science research and research training institution with a long and distinguished tradition in research excellence. This history and tradition has in part been attributable to the use of animals in a research and teaching context and with UWA committed to best practice and conscientious welfare regard for the animals at all times. UWA continues to uphold the NH&MRC Code of Practice in the use of animals in research and teaching and thereby the State Animal Welfare Act (2003). Since UWA is committed to the care and wellbeing of all the animals under its care, their use is constituted under UWA policy and under the terms of the NH&MRC in that an effective Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) is chartered and comprised of members from various determined categories as described within the Code. One of these categories is of animal welfare advocacy and in which the UWA AEC has been well served by senior representatives from the Western Australian RSPCA. These representatives have made invaluable contributions to the effectiveness of the AEC, to the pursuit of best practice standards of animal care and well-being and in the due diligence of determining outcomes in reportable matters of compliance under the Code.

In recognition of the UWA high standards of animal care and welfare, the proper, effective functioning of the UWA AEC, its RSPCA WA representatives on the AEC and the commitment UWA continues to make in the care and wellbeing of its animals, the University was recently accredited as the first Australian institution to be recognised by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) as meeting the standards required for their accreditation process. While the AAALAC process is one in which there needs to be a voluntary disclosure of all its activities regarding the use and care of animals used in research and teaching, the RSPCA representation on the UWA AEC is an important consideration leading to UWA's accreditation. Since both UWA and the RSPCA are community spirited and represented institutions, it is important in a local, national and international sense that the RSPCA WA is well supported, can continue in their contributions to Western Australian animal welfare and towards concerns raised in the care and well-being of animals in research and teaching at UWA.

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