

## DETERMINATION NO. 44 OF 1993

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 22 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare.

The Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes was prepared by a joint working party of the National Health and Medical Research Council, the CSIRO and the Australian Agricultural Council with representatives of the State governments of NSW, South Australia and Victoria.

The 5th Edition of the Code of Practice was printed in 1990.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in the ACT in April 1993.

Section 2 of the Code of Practice is omitted from adoption in the ACT because the Animal Welfare Regulations 1993 specify the establishment and operation of Animal Experimentation Ethics Committees.

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment.

## Attachment

The purpose of the Code is to ensure the humane care of animals used for scientific purposes.

The Code encompasses all aspects of the care and use of animals for scientific purposes in medicine, biology, agriculture, veterinary and other animal sciences, industry and teaching. It includes their use in research, field trials, product testing, diagnosis, and the production of biological products.

The Code provides general principles for the care and use of animals and specifies the responsibilities of investigators and institutions. It also provides guidelines for the humane conduct of experiments, and for the acquisition of animals and their care.

Section 1 discusses general principles for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

Section 3 explains the responsibilities of investigators including planning projects and conduct of experiments.

Section 4 details procedures for the acquisition and care of animals in breeding and holding areas, including animals collected from their natural habitats, transport of animals, holding and production facilities, husbandry procedures, management and staff and disposal of animal carcasses and waste.

Section 5 discusses the responsibilities of teachers in tertiary institutions and in secondary and primary schools.

An appendix provides information on animal technician courses.

An extensive bibliography is included in the Code.