

## **AUSTIN HEALTH AEC (2017) GUIDELINE FOR USE OF ANIMALS IN A SEVERE DISEASE OUTBREAK IN ANIMALS OR PEOPLE**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure animals are available for diagnosis purposes in the case of an unexplained and severe outbreak of disease in humans and/or animals. This is in compliance with *The Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8<sup>th</sup> edition 2013 (the Code)*.

The relevant sections of the Code are:

*2.1.5 Institutions must promote compliance with the Code by:*

*(v) ensuring that guidelines for animal care and use are developed in consultation with the AEC, approved by the AEC, and implemented and promoted within the institution. Guidelines must include:*

*(e) approval, in advance, for the immediate use of animals, if required, for the diagnosis of unexplained and severe disease outbreaks, or morbidity/mortality, in animals or people.*

### **2. GENERAL**

In instances of an unexplained and severe disease outbreak the relevant regulator may request immediate use of animals from Austin Health for diagnostic purposes of the disease.

In this situation, any animals requested must be made immediately available to the appropriate authority, regardless of their current status within Austin Health. This use may require procedures to be performed at Austin Health or transport of animals to another facility. If transport of animals from Austin Health to another facility occurs, this must be done in compliance with *The Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits* and 'Housing for Laboratory Rats, Mice, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits', A.L. Hargreaves ANZCCART 2000.

It is not the purpose of this guideline to determine costing allocation and/or resourcing of such a request by the regulator.

### **3. PROCEDURE**

In the event of such a request from the regulator, appropriate animals will be issued as soon as practicably by the BRF. This usage will take priority over other protocols these animals have been assigned to.

If animals are requested by the regulator for this purpose, then a record of the animal/s must accompany them and a copy maintained at the BRF for Austin Health.

The records should contain the following:

- Date of issue and transport.

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- Animal species, age, sex, strain and phenotype.
- Procedures already performed on the animal up to the time of request.
- Protocol number from which the animal has been issued.
- Origin of animal prior protocol admission.
- Location to which animals are being transported.
- Notification of arrival at destination.

Animals may only be returned to Austin Health if the facility which they are returning from complies with the Austin Health BRF animal health policy. It is anticipated that it would be unlikely for animals to be returned to the BRF after use for this purpose.

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