



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
Faculty of Health Sciences Animal Ethics Committee



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Dear Heads of Departments, Department Research Committee Chairs, Researchers, Postgraduate Students and Members of the Research Community

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE (FHS AEC) UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH DURING COVID-19

The FHS AEC has been receiving numerous enquiries regarding the recommencement of research activities. The Faculty of Health Sciences Research Task Team has been finalising the details regarding return to research plans for staff and postgraduate students and the FHS AEC is not directly involved in this planning. Researchers and postgraduate students are reminded that no research involving animals may occur unless the AEC has authorised the study, and this remains so even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FHS AEC requests that researchers and postgraduate students take note of the following:

1. Researchers do not need to reapply for authorisation to conduct animal experimentation if authorisation has already been granted by the AEC.
2. All researchers are to adhere to the SOP's and requirements of the Faculty of Health Sciences Occupational Health and Safety Committee and Biosafety Committee, as appropriate, when they return to Campus.
3. Amendments will be accepted for extensions of deadlines for studies due to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown.
4. Amendments will be accepted for additional animals if euthanasia of animals was performed as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The AEC will continue to accept new applications electronically via email to fhsanimalresearch@uct.ac.za. Please submit a signed pdf-copy (not scanned) or MS Word copy of your application. Please use the Submittable online platform to submit amendments, and applications to use animal material for scientific purposes. For reporting of incidents, violations, deviations, unanticipated problems and adverse events, please use FHS031 on Submittable.

Yours sincerely,

PROF. G. LOUW
CHAIR, FHS AEC