



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
**Faculty of Health Sciences**  
**Animal Ethics Committee**



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18 November 2020

Dear UCT FHS Animal Strain Owners

**Faculty of Health Sciences Animal Ethics Committee: Reminder to decrease animal numbers bred over December-January period**

The Faculty of Health Sciences Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) Office wishes to remind all owners of animal strains to please reduce the amount of breeding of animals over the December 2020 to January 2021 period as animal research historically slows down during this time. Strain Owners are urged to communicate their plans with the rodent production unit in order to avoid unnecessary overbreeding of animals. The AEC notes that a significant overbreeding occurred during this period last year and wants to ensure that this does not reoccur. The AEC will review animal breeding statistics in early 2021.

Furthermore, this is a friendly reminder that the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please note that no electronic queries or submissions to the AEC will be responded to over this annual closure period; however, the incident reporting system via the Submittable platform remains open at the following web address: <https://universityofcapetown.submittable.com/submit/166836/fhs031-animal-incident-protocol-deviations-unanticipated-problems>. Researchers are reminded to submit all incidents via this platform even during this period of closure of the office.

Please note that the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Office will re-open on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The AEC appreciates your cooperation and understanding in this regard.

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR G. LOUW**  
**CHAIR: FHS ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE**