

The National Animal Welfare Bill 2005
Part 8-Animals used for experimental purposes

Section 101

Does this mean that each individual researcher will need a license or that the University can continue to be the holder of the license?

Section 102

Will publishing of licence information in the paper not incite more animal protestations at universities, with the individual research groups?

Section 108

For experimentation that involves studies of the mechanisms involved in the development of various pain states, it is not possible to administer anaesthetics or analgesics because to do so will fundamentally confound the interpretation of the data. Similarly, for studies involving the evaluation of potentially novel analgesic agents, they must be administered to animals that have not received other analgesics, because this would otherwise confound the results. Clinically it has been shown that the prior administration of analgesics will influence the results of the subsequent analgesic.

Whilst the use of anaesthetics is essential for when an animal undergoes surgery to produce an animal model of the clinical pain state, using anaesthetics during the experiment will influence the measurement of pain responses which are necessary for the study of pain mechanism and the assessment of novel pain treatments.

Therefore those involved in pain research will have to use animals in an experiment without anaesthesia.

The sentences below were removed from the bill but need further clarification.

(1) Every animal used in any experiment that is likely to cause pain to the animal must be anaesthetised

Every animal that undergoes surgery must be anaesthetised

(2) The operator of the research unit must provide analgesics adequate to prevent an animal suffering pain during the period of it's recovery from any procedure used in an experiment-*unless it will interfere with the interpretation of the results.*

Section 110

Is this the annual report of every researcher or of the University? This information may double up information from the supplier and be redundant.

Section 112

Again it is not clear if this is the institution or the individual researchers within the institution.

Part 9- Funding for animal research etc.

Section 117

The Commonwealth must be allowed to provide funding to an organisation that uses animals for Research and Development.

Otherwise this will kill new pharmaceuticals development in Australia. Included in this funding are Commercial ready grants and NHMRC development grants.

How would the Minister show his satisfaction with the organisation?