



## National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) and supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). NAEAC's role is to advise the Minister responsible for animal welfare on welfare issues arising from the use of animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). Its other functions include giving advice on the codes of ethical conduct that govern live animal use in RTT and providing information to the bodies that administer the codes (animal ethics committees (AECs)). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 15 November 2018 general meeting included the following:

- **Regulations** – NAEAC received an update from MPI on progress developing the Significant Surgical Procedures regulations which are due to be in place by 2020.
- **AEC workshop** – NAEAC discussed the AEC workshop that had been held the previous day, noting the positive feedback received from attendees. The presentation on animal welfare in emergencies was acknowledged as a highlight of the workshop.
- **Revised Good Practice Guide** – NAEAC agreed to final changes to their publication, *The Good Practice Guide for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching* that will be made available to code holders and AECs in early 2019.
- **Strategic plan** – NAEAC approved their strategic plan for the next 5 years after holding a strategic planning session earlier in the year. The plan identified 4 priority areas. These are:
  - Informed public discussion;
  - Full and frank advice with solutions provided to Minister and Director-General of MPI;
  - Animal ethics committees are supported in their function to ensure animals are used ethically; and
  - A robust, ethical research, testing and teaching system.
- **Zebra fish** – NAEAC discussed the feedback it had received from national and international experts on the topic of zebra fish. The feedback supported NAEAC's view that zebra fish should be classed as animals after the yolk sac is completely absorbed (approximately 5-7 days post-fertilisation). NAEAC agreed to progress work in having the definition of *animal* in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 amended to reflect this view.