

# The Use of Animals in Short-Term Displays and Demonstrations

## Intent

At JCU, situations arise where animals are used for short periods in displays or demonstrations for the purpose of showcasing JCU's programs or for inspiring interest in or educating community groups or school children in animal research and welfare.

This policy aims to provide clear advice to staff and students when determining whether a short-term animal display or demonstration would require and application to the JCU Animal Ethics Committee.

## Scope

This policy applies to all JCU staff who plan to use animals for one off or infrequent displays or demonstrations to the general public.

## Definitions

AEC – Animal Ethics Committee

## Policy

### **1. A short-term animal display or demonstration to the general public does not need AEC approval if it meets all of the following criteria:**

- 1.1. The animals are being held under a current holding/display AEC approval or are privately owned.
- 1.2. The display/demonstration is not a structured education or training activity with defined learning outcomes.
- 1.3. The display/demonstration is infrequent and low impact.
- 1.4. The animals used are under the care and supervision of a competent person.
- 1.5. The animals are transported and housed in way that ensures their wellbeing.
- 1.6. The animals are secure from escape and theft.
- 1.7. The animals are only handled under the direct supervision of the person responsible for their care.
- 1.8. Any animals showing signs of stress is removed from the display/demonstration.
- 1.9. The animals are returned to their normal husbandry conditions as soon as possible after their use in the display/demonstration.
- 1.10. The animals are fish in a self-sustaining JCU campus pond where they do not need the ongoing care and feeding.

### **2. When using animals in a short-term display or demonstration, the following principles apply:**

- 2.1. Use animals only when it is justified.
- 2.2. Support the wellbeing of the animals involved.
- 2.3. Avoid or minimise harm, including pain and distress, to those animals.

- 2.4. Apply Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3Rs) at all stages of animal care and use:
  - 2.4.1. Animals only when no alternatives are available
  - 2.4.2. The minimum number of animals
  - 2.4.3. Techniques that minimise any adverse impact on animals
- 2.5. All those involved know and accept one's responsibilities

## Related policy instruments

JCU Animal Ethics Committee Terms of Reference

JCU Animal Ethics Committee Operating Procedures

## Schedules/Appendices

None

## Related documents and legislation

*Animal Care and Protection Act*

The Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes

## Administration

Approval Details

Policy Sponsor	Craig Godfrey
Approval Authority	Animal Ethics Committee
Date for next review	01/10/2027

Version	Approval date	Implementation date	Details	Author
1.0	09/04/2018	09/04/2018	Policy established	Craig Godfrey, Animal Welfare Officer
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