

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**GUIDELINES ON THE INDUCTION OF TUMOURS**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the induction of tumours in animals at The University of Melbourne. They are designed to assist researchers, animal technicians and Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) to ensure that the scientific aims of a proposal to induce tumours are achieved with minimal discomfort for the animals involved. When Freund's adjuvant is to be used, the *Guidelines on the use of Freund's adjuvant* should also be read.

**Policy**

All scientific procedures carried out on animals must comply with the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* (2004), which states:

- 3.3.65 The site for induction of tumours must be chosen carefully. Subcutaneous sites on the back or flank should be chosen when possible. Footpad, brain and eye sites must not be chosen unless there is no alternative.
- 3.3.66 Investigators must monitor their animals closely for signs of pain and distress, sudden changes in body condition, and other signs of tumour growth and spread.
- 3.3.67 Animals with induced tumours must be killed humanely before predictable death occurs, wasting becomes advanced, or the tumour becomes large enough to cause ulceration or severely limit normal behaviour. Animals should be euthanased as early and possible when tumours are at the minimum size necessary to obtain valid results.
- 3.3.68 In tumour therapy studies, end-points compatible with reliable assessment of the therapy must be as early as possible. Weight changes must be monitored closely and death from the tumour must not be an end-point.

**Guidelines**

***General***

When inducing tumours in animals, the overriding consideration must be to minimise the pain and distress experienced by the animals.

### ***Training***

Investigators and animal technicians involved in tumour induction must have appropriate training in all the techniques they are required to perform.

### ***Site of Injection***

The site of injection must be selected with the aim of causing the least pain and distress for the animal.

### ***Monitoring of Animals***

Animals must be monitored daily and records of observations and interventions must be maintained. Investigators must adhere to the humane endpoints describe in the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*.