

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

POSTGRADUATE ORIENTATION AND RESEARCH WORKSHOP
3 – 5 APRIL 2024

Research Ethics Committee (Animal) (REC-A) Overview

Prof Ilse Truter
4 April 2023

https://rd.mandela.ac.za/Research-Ethics

The screenshot shows the website header with the Nelson Mandela University logo and 'Office of Research Development'. A navigation menu includes 'Home' and 'Research Ethics'. Below, there are two main sections: 'Research Ethics Committee (Human): REC-H' and 'Research Ethics Committee (Animal): REC-A', each with a circular logo and a 'More info' button.

https://rd.mandela.ac.za/Research-Ethics/Research-Ethics-Committee-Animal-(REC-A)

Research Ethics Committee: Animal (REC-A)

The Nelson Mandela University Research Ethics Committee (Animal) (REC-A) is charged with monitoring the treatment of animals used in both research and teaching at the institution. It has the responsibility of reviewing all protocols involving animal use in order to ensure that they are in accordance with acceptable ethical and scientific standards as described in the South African National Standard for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 10386:2021. The REC-A assists the institution in complying with legislation and creating an awareness of ethical conduct in researchers and teachers.

Respect for animals must underpin all decisions and actions of the people involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. This respect is demonstrated by

- using animals only when it is justified;
- supporting the well-being of the animals involved;
- avoiding or minimizing harm, including pain, suffering, distress and lasting harm, to those animals;
- applying high standards of scientific integrity;
- applying the **four Rs** as all stages of animal care and use:
 1. the **Replacement** of animals with alternatives;
 2. the **Reduction** in the number of animals used;
 3. the **Refinement** of techniques used to minimize the adverse impact on animals; and
 4. the knowledge and acceptance of one's **Responsibilities**.

EXPAND YOUR VIEW

The graphic shows a silhouette of a person standing on the left, looking towards a group of animal silhouettes on the right. A red dashed line extends from the person's eye level, creating a perspective that 'expands' the view to include various species like a cow, dog, cat, octopus, and insect. The text '@animal.ethics' is on the right side.

Animal Ethics

(https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069964505558)

Research Ethics Committee (Animal) (REC-A)

- Similar, but different to Research Ethics Committee – Human (REC-H)
- A university committee, covering ALL the Faculties
- George Campus is also included

- Chairperson: Prof H Davids
- Administrative management: Mr Imtiaz Khan & Ms M Barnett
- Secretariat: Ms Ursula Spies

- No full research proposal

Members sign a confidentiality agreement

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (ANIMAL) (REC-A)

I, the undersigned, "the User", _____, permit(s) information "the REC-A" to be used for the following: _____

The REC-A is a body constituted by appropriately qualified professional individuals with the training of proposals for research which is to be conducted on animals. The work of the REC-A is to ensure that the research and teaching activities on the care and use of animals are conducted in accordance with the standards of the South African National Standard for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 10386:2021. The members of the REC-A and any other individuals who are involved in the work of the REC-A, agree to be bound by the provisions of this agreement for the duration of their service to and on the REC-A.

4. INTENT OF DOCUMENT

States the manner in which the user(s) shall use the information.

5.1 "Confidential Information" shall mean certain proprietary or confidential information which the REC-A member acknowledges to be confidential. Such information includes all data, products relating to the research and associated documentation. The Confidential

ToR

Status

The RECA is a sub-committee of the Research and Engagement Committee.

Terms of reference

- Examines proposed experimental and teaching protocols submitted by institutional staff with reference to the likely harm that may be caused to the animals and likely benefits that may arise from such work and determines how these considerations are weighted in relation to each other;
- Examines hypotheses to ensure they are well considered, plausible, and have a reasonable prospect of yielding good results;
- Approves applications that comply with the ethical principles for humane animal experimentation;
- Proposes amendments and modifications, seeks clarifications and requests revised submissions in the case of the applications that are not approved;
- Re-appraises applications that have not been completed within their proposed experimental period and reserves approvals for those in which there is no justification for time extensions;
- Considers the sourcing, care and accommodation standards applied to all animals within the institution including breeding stocks, and monitors the humane killing of surplus animals;
- Regularly consults and engages with recognized authorities, concern groups and reputable sources of information to ensure that they are abreast of developments in the field of ethical review and analysis;
- Regularly reviews the establishment's managerial systems, procedures and protocols where these relate to the proper use of animals;
- Establishes that both the researchers/educators and all individuals under their supervision have the competence, training and skills to ensure the comfort, health and humane treatment of animal subjects; and
- From time to time sponsors seminars and workshops on laboratory animal science, animal welfare and the ethics of animal experimentation, and makes resources and material available to heighten ethical sensibility among researchers and educators.

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Membership composition

AREC Membership as per South African National Standard (SANS) 10386:2021 2nd ed. and Department of Health (DoH) Guidelines Revision

The following categories required representation:

- i. Category A: Veterinarian;
- ii. Category B: Scientist;
- iii. Category C: Welfare; and
- iv. Category D: Layperson (independent).

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Current REC-A members

Members: Prof P Pistorius (Acting Chairperson) Dr T Fick Dr D Zimmerman Prof H Davids Mr P du Toit Prof I Truter Mr W Mathee Ms N Visser Dr P-P Steyn Vacant Vacant Dr P Mensah	Category B: Zoology Category A: Veterinarian (Independent) Category A: Veterinarian (SANPARKS) Category B: Physiology Category B: Zoology Category B: Pharmacy Category B: Natural Resources Category C: NSPCA Category D: Biostatistician Category D: Community member Category D: Legal representative Category D: Research Development
RD office: Mr I Khan Ms M Barnett	Ethics Administration Officer Ethics Administration Officer

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Typical REC-A meeting agenda

- Notice of the meeting, confirm agenda, minutes
- Review NEW protocols/applications
- Review PRACTICALS
- Annual PROGRESS REPORTS / AMENDMENTS / EXTENSIONS / CLOSURES
- Animal Holding Facility
- Research Ethics Policy or other relevant documents
- Any other matters relating to animal ethics
- (Training)

[https://rd.mandela.ac.za/Research-Ethics/Research-Ethics-Committee-Animal-\(REC-A\)](https://rd.mandela.ac.za/Research-Ethics/Research-Ethics-Committee-Animal-(REC-A))

Meeting Dates

REC-A Agenda Cut-off Date	REC-A Meeting Date
24 January 2024	07 February 2024
21 February 2024	06 March 2024
26 April 2024	10 May 2024
22 May 2024	05 June 2024
24 July 2024	07 August 2024
21 August 2024	04 September 2024
18 September 2024	02 October 2024
30 October 2024	13 November 2024

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NMU Animal Ethics Reference Documentation

- **REC-A Standard Operating Procedures (2023):** The Nelson Mandela University Research Ethics Committee - Animal is charged with monitoring the treatment of animals used in research and teaching at the University. This work-in-progress document outlines the standard operating procedures of REC-A.
- **REC-A Terms of Reference:** This can be found on the REC-A Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures document of 2016.
- **Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in the Care and Handling of Animals used for Research and Education at the Nelson Mandela University**
- **Nelson Mandela University Code of Conduct for Researchers:** This policy gives expression to the values that apply at the Nelson Mandela University and to which all researchers (students, academic and support staff) commit themselves in their research activities.
- **Nelson Mandela University Research Ethics Policy:** This policy aims to promote awareness of fundamental ethical standards, principles and practices when conducting research with human participants.

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INSTITUTIONAL REGULATORY CODE (IRC) (Policies, Procedures, Rules etc.)

To be completed by initiator of policy/policy owner:

1. POLICY TITLE: POLICY ON RESEARCH ETHICS	
2. FIELD OF APPLICATION: (All persons to whom policy applies)	All who present their research as affiliated to NMU, staff and students engaged in research activities, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, honorary, emeritus, ad personam, visiting and adjunct Professors, external researchers
3. COMPLIANCE OFFICER(S): (Persons responsible for ensuring policy implementation)	Research project leaders, study leaders, promoters, HODs, Executive Deans, Directors of Research and DVC: RII
4. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: (State the stakeholder group/s consulted during policy formulation/revision)	Research Ethics committees > RTI Committees > Senate (approval body)
5. DESIGNATION OF POLICY OWNERS: (Persons responsible for maintaining policy)	DVC: RII / Director: Research Development

POLICY HISTORY (To be completed by policy owner)

Decision Date	Status (New/Rev)	Implementation Date	Approval	Resolution Number	Policy Document	Pending date for next

Recommended Reading

- **South African Medical Research Council Research Ethics Policy**
- **South African Medical Research Council Guidelines on the Responsible Conduct of Research**
- **Department of Health Research Ethics Guidelines (2015):** This document provides the minimum national benchmark of norms and standards for conducting responsible and ethical research.
- **World Organisation for Animal Health: Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019)**

SANS 10386:2021, Ed 2: The care and use of animals for scientific purposes (Please note: This document is subject to copyright and is only available to staff and students at Nelson Mandela University. It may reside on a LAN, WAN, intranet, internet or ECM server and is available in accordance with copyright exploitation agreement no. 014/009/21-006, valid until 2023-03-31. Only students, lecturers and staff members of the Nelson Mandela University may make paper copies of the standard. No paper copy may be photocopied or reproduced in any way.)

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SANS 10386:2021
Edition 2

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

The care and use of animals for scientific purposes

328 pages

Downloadable templates

- **Application for Approval (Research):** Any activity involving the acquisition, keeping or use of live animals for a research study, requires completion of this form and submission for approval to REC-A.
- **Application for Approval (Practical):** Any activity involving the acquisition, keeping or use of live animals for practical work, requires completion of this form and submission for approval to REC-A.
- **Application for External Animal Sample Collection:** Completion of this form is required where there is a need to acquire already existing animal samples.
- **Application to use External Data from Animal Sample Collection:** Completion of this form is required where there is a need for previously collected/secondary data to be used in a study.
- **Application for Extension to an Approved REC-A Project:** Completion of this form is required before the current ethics approval period lapses.
- **Annual Progress Report**
- **Completion of Project Report:** Completion of this form is required as soon as a project registered with REC-A has been completed.
- **Unexpected Mortality/Adverse Events Report**
- **Draft Monitoring Forms:** This includes templates for animal housing, project folder cover page, Animal daily checklist, Field checklist, Practical checklist.

Applying for Ethics Approval from REC-A

All applications for approval must be submitted online on [MEOS](#) (Mandela Ethics Online System). This includes:

- **Research studies:** Any activity involving the acquisition, keeping or use of live animals for a research study
- **Practicals:** Any activity involving the acquisition, keeping or use of live animals for practical work
- **Use of an External Animal Sample Collection:** Any activity that requires the acquisition of already existing animal samples
- **Use of Data from an Animal Sample Collection:** Any activity where there there is a need for previously collected/secondary data to be used in a study
- **Extension Applications**
- **Amendments** to an Approved Protocol
- Reporting of an **Unexpected Mortality/Adverse Event**
- Reporting the **Closure of a Research Study**

Reporting Research Misconduct

Any member of the public or Nelson Mandela fraternity who is concerned that Mandela staff or student research might be contravening ethical research principles is asked to report their concerns. The reporting process as well as further information on what constitutes research misconduct is available on the [Report Research Misconduct](#) page.

rd.mandela.ac.za/Research-Ethics/Research-Ethics-Committee-Animal-(REC-A)

www.mandela.ac.za

Research Ethics

The Nelson Mandela University respects the treatment of animals used in both all protocols involving animal use scientific standards as described in Scientific Purposes: 10386(2021). The awareness of ethical conduct in research Respect for animals must underpin all research for scientific purposes. This

- using animals only when it is justified
- supporting the well-being of the animal
- avoiding or minimising harm, including pain, suffering, distress and lasting harm, to those animals
- keeping high standards of scientific integrity
- keeping the Rec-A file on usage of animals care and use.

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Animal Holding Facility

Biology Building (Building 12, Mvezo Building) Basement

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Who am I?

Animal Ethics

(Source: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069964505558>)

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

sentient
adjective
adjective: **sentient**
able to perceive or feel things.
"she had been instructed from birth in the equality of all sentient life forms"

Similar: [feeling](#) [capable of feeling](#) [living](#) [live](#) [conscious](#) [aware](#)

Origin

LATIN → LATIN
sentire → sortent → sortient
feeling early 17th century

early 17th century; from Latin *sentient-* "feeling", from the verb *sentire*.

SENTIENCE

BEING ABLE TO FEEL PAIN AND PLEASURE

Animal Ethics

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Examples of projects

- Avian scavengers as indicators of recovery of an island biota
- Modelling African swine fever disease in domestic pigs with culling and removal of contaminated feeds
- Vegetation impact, space-use and human-elephant conflict in Malawi National Parks
- The treatment of breast cancer in mice with targeted and non-targeted gold nanoparticles
- Space-use and movement behaviour of elephant on Samara Private Game Reserve
- Cape vultures and their increasing threats: A race to extinction?
- Molecular scatology as a tool to update dietary information of Southern African seabirds
- Honours class excursion to teach data collection methods for invertebrate, bird and small mammal sampling in fragmented Renosterveld landscape in the Overberg district

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THE REC-A FORM

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APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL: NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (ANIMAL)

- Any activity involving the acquisition, keeping or use of live animals (e.g. research, education, practical work, etc.), hereafter called a study, requires completion of this form and submission for approval to the RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (ANIMAL) (REC-A).
- Each Department or equivalent unit has the primary responsibility for ensuring that subjects kept or used are protected adequately from undue stress by the application of the appropriate procedures.
- Departmental approval must be obtained before submission to the REC-A.
- This form has to be generic. Please do not include details of your study that are not relevant to your study.
- Ethics approval remains valid for three years unless the protocol and conditions remain unchanged.

How to proceed:

- Read the *Guidelines for the Handling of Animals used for Research and Education at the Nelson Mandela University*, available on the Intranet, and save this Word file with a filename containing your name.
- Get a copy of the application form from the Intranet, and save this Word file with a filename containing your name.
- Complete Sections 1-7 by hand. If you have multiple pages, information may be pasted from existing Word documents, save (ensuring the filename contains your name), and email the file to ilse.khan@mandela.ac.za.
- Print the document, get each page initialed on the lower right hand corner and get Sections 6 and 7 signed by the relevant parties. Hand the signed hardcopy in at the Department of Research Development (RD).
- Attach confirmation emails for all external co-workers as an addendum to this application.
- For amendments to a protocol. Any amendment request should be emailed by the PRP/PI to Mr I Khan and Ms U Spies with changes clearly highlighted in the original application form.
- Weekly animal welfare records should be kept by the PRP and should be available upon request.
- Completion of Project Form. PRP/PI is responsible to complete the form which is available on the RD website.

Please note - The Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act) has been promulgated and implemented on 1 July 2020. All personal identifiable information provided by you shall be treated in accordance with this statute and only used for research ethics application and/or reporting processes, as indicated in the University's Privacy Policy. By providing your information, you are giving your consent for the use of all of your personal identifiable information, provided to the University, for the aforesaid purposes.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

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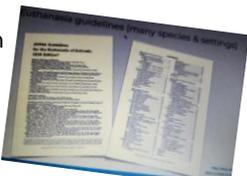
REC-A Template for new protocols

REFERENCE NUMBER	
TITLE	
DEGREE	
RISK OF STUDY	LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH
PRP	
PI	
RECA MEETING DATE	
DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	
DATE OF COMPLETION	
REVIEWER NAME	
RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> RESUBMISSION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED
RECA RESOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That protocol [xxx] be approved on condition that the recommendations below be addressed and implemented. That xxx (Faculty name), as liaison person, be available for consultation with the PRP/PI in order to advise regarding the implementation of the recommendations. That, once amendments had been made to the satisfaction of the RECA liaison person, the amended signed electronic application be submitted to RD (Mr I Khan) and the RECA Secretariat (Ms U Spies). <p><i>It is the responsibility of the PRP/PI to make contact with the designated RECA liaison person should he/she require further assistance when attending to the recommendations made by the RECA. The PRP/PI would be given a period of three calendar months from the date of forwarding the RECA resolution by the RECA Secretariat within which to resubmit amendments to the protocol for final ethics approval to the designated RECA liaison person. Should the submission not be submitted within the said period, the PRP/PI would need to resubmit their application to RECA.</i></p>
REC APPLICATION FORM (approval of study is subject to the recommendations below being addressed and implemented)	
1 GENERAL PARTICULARS	
(a)	

Training ...

All the usual ethics principles apply

- Harm-benefit analysis
- Euthanasia
- Need to sacrifice animals?
- Importance of sample size
- Importance of study design



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Thank you

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