



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

## ANIMAL RESEARCH REVIEW PANEL- WEBINAR Q&A

### Pain Management for Animals in Research

The [Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for scientific purposes](#) (the Australian Code) promotes the ethical, humane and responsible care and use of animals for scientific purposes. Procedures for ensuring that a health status of the animals is maintained that safeguards animal wellbeing and meets the requirements of their proposed use.

#### Webinar Presentations:

Dr Innes Wise: Large animal pain management

Dr Rebecca Johnson: "Paws"itive" approaches to laboratory animal analgesia

Dr Michael Grima: Experimental conditions and analgesia in experimental fish models predominantly as it relates to zebrafish

#### Webinar Questions and Answers

What is the Best Laryngoscope Blade size and shape suitable for intubating a sheep and where to find it?

*Dr Wise: We use a Miller size 4 laryngoscope blade which you can buy from most veterinary anaesthesia equipment suppliers. Here is an example - [https://meditools.com.au/shop/veterinary-laryngoscope-set-miller.html?srltid=AfmBOoqfQlbHGljhLVflvDr1-yQU9Fc\\_2H7AXN4\\_Om8bSPhX4jyxaDG](https://meditools.com.au/shop/veterinary-laryngoscope-set-miller.html?srltid=AfmBOoqfQlbHGljhLVflvDr1-yQU9Fc_2H7AXN4_Om8bSPhX4jyxaDG). What is also very helpful for intubating sheep (and pigs) is a bougie – we use a 15F 750mm one as a long ‘stylet’ to place through the arytenoids and then guide the ET tube over.*

Protocols that involve building the evidence base for analgesia in animals are challenging for Animal Ethics Committees. Do the speakers feel these studies should always have a veterinarian as an investigator and 2) should the protocols go to a specialised animal ethics committee or a consultant report?

*Dr Wise: I agree with Dr Johnson and I play a similar role at the university in reviewing and advising on analgesic/anaesthetic protocols for many different species, particularly if they are higher impact protocols. For our large animal work, my team and I provide all the animal and veterinary care, including anaesthesia and perioperative care. We often have specialist veterinary review or involvement in protocol, for example specialist veterinary surgeons, dentists, livestock vets and the support is highly valuable.*

*Dr Johnson: At our institution, protocols that involve efficacy of analgesic techniques almost always have an MD or DVM as the PI. When being evaluated by the AEC, a veterinarian is ALWAYS one of the reviewers. In addition, as the research anesthesiologist at our institution, I frequently see them as well so I am the “consultant” on them. Thus, I do not think it is a terrible idea to have significant veterinary input into these protocols although I don’t necessarily think a DVM needs to be the PI.*

*Dr Grima: A veterinarian on an AEC is necessary to provide ethical as well as practical input with regards to analgesia in experimental protocols as part of Category A membership. I think that although not necessary in every experimental context but having a clinical veterinarian as an investigator not necessarily a PI on a study makes sense and ensures that the study follows rigorous ethical standards by engaging specialised veterinary input where required for protocols requiring efficacious and evidence-based anaesthesia/analgesia.*

### References used in the presentation:

Dr Innes Wise

- <https://animalpain.org/en/home-en/>

Dr Rebecca Johnson

- Foley et al 2019. Clinical Management of Pain in Rodents. Comparative Medicine: 69:468-489. 2) Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia. The Sixth Edition of Lumb & Jones, 2024.
- See attached Dr Johnsons presentation slides

Dr Michael Grima

- Please see attached a handout from Dr Grima “Analgesia in Fish”