ANZCCART News

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The complete ANZCCART News can be downloaded here.

ANZCCART Guidelines for the Humane Killing of Cane Toads

Cane toads are a major threat to many native species across Northern Australia and never should have been introduced to this continent, but they were and now we have to deal with that fact. However, none of this alters the simple, which is that they are sensate animals that must be handled appropriately and when they are killed, it must be done humanely. Unfortunate as their presence might be, that is our fault and not theirs. Respect for all animals is also a basic underlying principle of the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (The Code), which we wholeheartedly endorse and believe that the broader community should also apply this principle to feral animals where practical, just as it is applied to pets for example. So, it is within this basic framework, that ANZCCART has prepared a new Fact Sheet outlining what we consider to be appropriate methods for the humane killing of cane toads.

While ANZCCART does not believe that it appropriate for children to be involved with culling practices, we do acknowledge that cane toads are killed for a variety of reasons that range from conservation motivated projects right through to scientific and teaching applications and we have attempted to factor the resulting variations in both access to materials and expertise into this Fact Sheet, which is published in this edition of ANZCCART News and can be accessed here.

Updated Principles and Guidelines for the Care and Use of Non-Human Primates

These recently released guidelines are a revision of an earlier document by the NHMRC and provide up-to-date principles and best practice guidance on the care and use of non-human primates. The guidelines support the implementation of the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purpose and are intended for investigators, animal carers and members of animal ethics committees. Read more here.

Victorian Animal Welfare Under Review

The Victorian Government has developed a five-year action plan for the State’s animal welfare. Three priority areas have been identified for improvement with the aim to revise their animal welfare legislation in consultation with the community and stakeholders and to ensure compliance and enforcement is efficient and effective. Read the proposed changes here.
ANZCCART is on the move

After nearly ten years at the Thebarton Campus, ANZCCART is returning to its ‘ancestral home’ in Adelaide, the Waite Campus. The current plans are for the move to take place in mid-October and we anticipate some down time which may mean slower than usual response times and possibly limited or no contact by email or phone for a day or two. Read more about the move here.

Recent Articles of Interest:

John Hopkins Ends Use of Live Animals to Train Med Students

The John Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore will no longer use live animals to train its medical students. The controversial course which involved students operating on live anaesthetized pigs was well attended and popular with students. After reviewing their medical course, the School found that the procedure was not essential and it was time for a change. Read the full article at: http://www.nbcnews.com/news/education/johns-hopkins-end-use-live-animals-train-med-students-n576481

Animal-based antibodies: Obsolete

Animal-Friendly Affinity reagents (AFAs) are antibodies which are generated through technology in viruses or yeasts and it is thanks to these AFAs that animals are no long required for their antibody production. As well as the animal welfare implications, AFAs have wide-ranging applicability, are commercially available and researchers have greater control over the antibody properties, generation time and cost. Despite the increased techniques in producing these AFAs, the production of antibodies using animals still continues. Read about the actions proposed to put an end to this needless animal use. http://science.sciencemag.org/content/353/6298/452.2?utm_campaign=toc_sci_mag_2016-07-28&et_rid=33788102&et_cid=671354

Spain Joins the Bandwagon for “Openness” about Animal Research

The Confederation of Spanish Scientific Societies (COSCE) recently launched a set of standards on how research organisations in Spain should be more transparent with the public about their use of laboratory animals. The scientific community have joined the growing movement for “openness” across Europe with ninety research centres, universities, scientific societies and companies in Spain now adopting these standards. Read more at: http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/09/spain-joins-bandwagon-openness-about-animal-research