Subject: current and proposed animal projects  
Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 at 9:23:30 am Australian Eastern Daylight Time  
From: Malcolm France  
To: Malcolm France  
Priority: High

Dear Animal Researchers

I would like to emphasise that routine animal care is continuing to be provided by the Animal Services team as the coronavirus situation unfolds. While some changes in rostering may be implemented, Animal Services personnel will continue to operate the Wallace Wurth, Lowy, GSBME, Randwick and St George animal facilities.

Please note that unless formal notification is issued by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) to indicate otherwise, researchers must continue to meet all protocol approval conditions including monitoring, study duration and procedural details. Any variation to these conditions, including proposals to terminate a study early, must be approved in advance by the ACEC. Up to date information on COVID-19 related amendments to approval provisions is available at https://research.unsw.edu.au/animal-research-ethics.

Given the inevitable uncertainty, researchers planning to commence new studies should:

(i) Consider carefully if the study protocol they are planning can be completed given the current restrictions and uncertainties  
(ii) Seek approval from their HoS  
(iii) Contact me at an early stage, and definitely before ordering animals

Our Animal Services team, the RECS team and the broader Research Infrastructure facilities are here to help for current as well as future studies. So please seek advice at any time. Should a change to current arrangements be required, a timeframe will be factored in to allow for orderly implementation as much as practicable.

Please contact the RECS Animal Ethics (animalethics@unsw.edu.au) or Animal Care (animalcare@unsw.edu.au) teams or myself (m.france@unsw.edu.au or 0401 719 456) should you have any queries.

Malcolm France  
Director of Animal Services  
[Usual days: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday]

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