



Openness
Agreement on
Animal Research
and Teaching
in New Zealand

2023 Annual Report



anzccart
HUMANE SCIENCE

Reporting signatories



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Foreword

Launched by the New Zealand Board of **ANZCCART** in July 2021 with initially 21 signatories, growing by September 2021 to 27 signatories, the **Openness Agreement on the use of Animals in Research and Teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand** is now delivering, based on responses from those same 27 signatories, its **second Annual Report** (for the September 2022 to August 2023 reporting period). Although we now have a total of 30 signatories, the last three signatories joined at different stages during or after the reporting period and will therefore not be included until the third Annual Report.

The Openness Agreement is a **publicly accountable pledge** by the signatories to be far more transparent about either how and why they use animals in their research and teaching or why they fund or support such use. The Openness pledge expects signatories to enhance their communication on animal use with the media, public and tangata whenua (indigenous Māori community), enabling all to understand better the context of animal use in research and teaching, cultural and ethical viewpoints, and the regulations in the NZ Animal Welfare Act that govern this use of animals and which include adherence to the Three Rs (Replacement of animals with valid alternatives, Reduction in the number of animals used, and Refinement of techniques used in order to minimise suffering and harm to animals).

Openness will lead to fully **informed** discussion and allow appropriate debate amongst the scientific community, public and tangata whenua on the use of animals in research and teaching, permitting **all** to make up their own minds on the ethical spectrum whilst respecting and understanding other viewpoints. The ethical balance of benefit versus harm in the use of animals in research and teaching is a dilemma that taxes us all.

The **second Annual Report** indicates continuing improvement in Openness, a number of new initiatives and many excellent examples of good practice across the 27 signatory institutions. Where there is a gap in an institution's Openness portfolio, ANZCCART New Zealand encourages each institution to learn from each other and consider adopting another institution's best practice – we have also provided a total of 12 recommendations to aid in this Openness journey.

Not a signatory? ANZCCART New Zealand welcomes other NZ institutions/ organisations to become signatories of the Openness Agreement for the benefit of maintaining and improving the country's high standards of animal welfare, the country's high quality research and teaching, and most importantly ensuring accountability to the public of any institution involved in, funding or supporting, the use of animals in research and teaching. If your organisation would like to join the Openness Agreement, please contact anzccart@royalsociety.org.nz

Emeritus Professor Pat Cragg

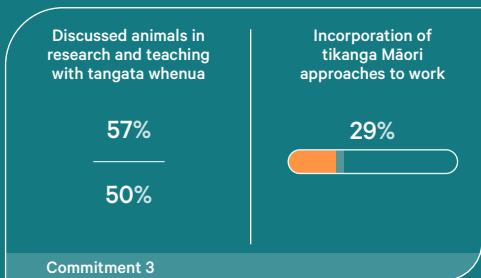
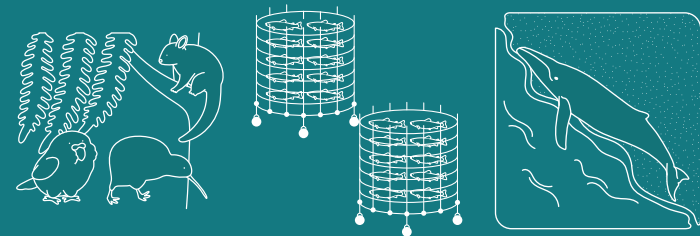
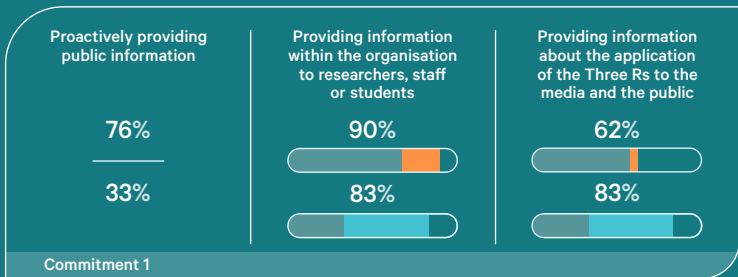
Chair of the New Zealand ANZCCART Board,
Australian and New Zealand Council for the
Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)



2023 Report for the New Zealand Openness Agreement

Percentage of the 27 signatories who have demonstrated the Commitments of the Agreement

KEY: 2022 2023 total % of signatories in 2023 directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching (21) 2022 2023 total % of signatories in 2023 not directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching (6)



3R Underpinning these Openness Commitments is the overall commitment to the Three Rs

- **Replacement** of animals with valid alternatives
- **Reduction** in the number of animals used
- **Refinement** of techniques used in order to minimise suffering and harm to animals

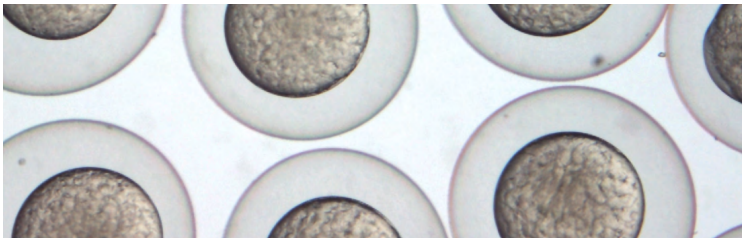
Executive summary

The ANZCCART Openness Agreement on the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand seeks to ensure that the public are well informed about what animal research involves, the role it plays in the overall process of scientific discovery, how such research is regulated in New Zealand, and what researchers and animal care staff do to promote welfare, reduce animal usage, and minimise suffering and harm to the animals. Signatories include: universities, institutes of technology, non-profit organisations, companies, Crown Research Institutes, government organisations, umbrella bodies, research funding organisations, and learned societies. Its five commitments are:

1. We will be clear about why and how we use animals in research and teaching.
2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research and teaching.
3. We will enhance our communications with tangata whenua about our use of animals in research and teaching.
4. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research and teaching using animals.
5. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences.

This is the second report on progress since the Agreement's launch in 2021. Of the 27 signatory organisations covered by this reporting period, 21 undertake research and/or teaching with animals directly, while six do so indirectly by funding or supporting the use of animals in research and teaching or having members that carry out such work.

A summary of the recommendations in the report can be found in Appendix 3.



Commitment 1

We will be clear about why and how we use animals in research and teaching

Providing public information: 76% of signatory organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching, and 33% of signatory organisations not directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching, proactively provided at least some additional information to the public. However, few organisations provided detailed information on animals used, the severity of procedures they are subject to or highlighting animal use visually or through outreach.

Providing information within the organisation: 90% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching, and 83% of organisations not directly involved, make their use of animals in research and teaching clear to researchers, staff, or students beyond those who work directly with the animals in some way. Talks and presentations are the most common method used to communicate about use of animals in research within organisations, followed by opportunities for non-research staff to visit animal facilities.

Providing information about the application of the Three Rs:¹

62% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching, and 83% of organisations not directly involved, communicated work done in their organisation around the Three Rs to media and the public over the past year, in at least some way. There was a marked increase in this communication from signatories compared with 2022.

Recommendations:

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to report animal use in more detail in their annual reports.
- Organisations are encouraged to routinely publish lay summaries of animal-using research undertaken/funded. These summaries could include information about the number and type of animals used (for all aspects including breeding/wastage) and the severity of the procedures.
- Organisations are encouraged to provide Three Rs-related prizes.

¹The Three Rs — Replacement, Reduction and Refinement — are embodied in the Animal Welfare Act 1999, to help scientists minimise any negative impact of their work on animal welfare and to encourage them to consider alternative methods that do not use animals.

Commitment 2

We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research and teaching

Website information: More than 40% of organisations directly involved in animal use in research and teaching required three or more clicks to reach their statement, while only one of the six signatories not directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching required more than one click.

Policies and guidelines: Most signatories do not have a written policy or guidelines regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, but do have a process for referring direct enquiries to suitable respondents. Often this involves an email address that goes to the Animal Ethic Committee (AEC). A few go to a communications team or a senior person such as department head.

Staff training: Staff training/guidance in public engagement/media is generally available, but not always extensive, with more than half of signatories directly involved in the use of animals in research providing no formal staff training. Support of the in-house engagement team has gone up (from five organisations to 13), to help staff or students contribute to public engagement. Internal training support is being provided by UAR Oceania and Science Media Centre Media SAVVY courses.

Recommendations

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to reduce the number of clicks needed to reach their web statement on their website.
- Organisations are encouraged to develop policies regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, either in media releases or in general.

Commitment 3

We will enhance our communications with tangata whenua about our use of animals in research and teaching

Discussing animals in research and teaching with tangata whenua:

57% of directly involved organisations and 50% of not directly involved organisations have, in some way, discussed animals in research and teaching with tangata whenua. A variety of approaches were used overall, but each approach was used by only a few organisations. Other ways of interacting with tangata whenua about the use of animals in research and teaching included consultation with Māori as part of AEC approval for specific research (embedded in Code of Ethical Conduct) or as part of research on taonga species and public media reporting on such research.

Incorporation of tikanga Māori: 33% of research/teaching signatories have incorporated tikanga Māori approaches to work at their organisation relating to animal use in research.

Recommendations

- Organisations could consider creating memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local iwi about their relationship engagement.
- Lay summaries could also be written in te reo Māori alongside the English description.
- Organisations can provide more opportunities for staff to engage with iwi, whether it is meetings or comments around the use of animals for tangata whenua.
- Including Māori researchers and/or students in research leadership.

Commitment 4

We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research and teaching using animals

Providing opportunities for public engagement: The number of signatories engaging with the public or community around the use of animals in research and teaching, including access to animal facilities, increased in 2023 compared with 2022. Engagement with schools was the most common way of engaging with the public or community, with various levels of students and types of facilities/events cited (around 40% of signatories directly involved with animals in research and teaching). Other engagement activities included presentations at local events, live animal facility tours, open days, training days on organisation's research farms, stall at children's festival, and teachers' portal providing resources on animal use.

Access to animal facilities: More signatories directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching have provided videos/images with explanation about animal research/teaching in 2023 than 2022. Various kinds of groups have been hosted including politicians, special interest groups, students/schools, public members, other researchers, and funders.

Recommendations

- Organisations could consider having schools and other groups visit research facilities to discuss and engage with them on the research that involves animals and the concerns that are raised.
- Organisations could consider the adoption of research animals to friends and family of staff.
- Organisations are encouraged to develop policies to protect the welfare of animals in their organisations when increasing visitor access to animal areas.

Progress towards the Openness Agreement Commitments

Few organisations have cited barriers to meeting the Agreement's five commitments. Those mentioned included: insufficient time and people resources to share information more effectively; intellectual property/legal constraints; conservative approaches taken by communications teams around media releases; access to people with appropriate knowledge/expertise and the time required to develop relationships with tangata whenua; biosecurity and commercial sensitivity and reduced staffing making tours difficult.

New initiatives relating to openness or the Agreement this year include:

- making virtual streaming from an animal unit open to the public for the first time,
- development of resources relating to openness or including openness in internal policy,
- development of an explicit Culture of Care (tangible ways of acknowledging animals and technical staff working with animals and compassion fatigue), and
- expanded information given to students in lectures/labs on using animals in research/teaching.





Introduction

New Zealand has long been committed to maintaining and improving high standards of animal welfare, as well as undertaking world-leading research and teaching using animals, as controlled under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. However, the scientific community in New Zealand also recognises the importance of demonstrating and promoting these values. To be seen as trustworthy, the scientific community must be open, transparent, and accountable for the research and teaching it conducts, funds, or supports, including when the high standards we strive for are not achieved. It is key to do more to communicate the nature of the work and the context in which animal research and teaching takes place, the work that organisations undertake to incorporate the Three Rs (the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal use in research and teaching), the regulations that govern this research and teaching, and the systems that are in place to report and rectify poor practice.

The signatories to this Agreement are involved in carrying out, funding, or supporting the use of animals in research or teaching. The objective of this Agreement is to ensure that the public is well informed about what animal research involves, the role it plays in the overall process of scientific discovery, how such research is regulated in New Zealand, and what researchers and animal care staff do to promote welfare, reduce animal usage, and minimise suffering and harm to the animals.

The Agreement was launched on 27 July 2021 with 21 universities, institutes of technology, non-profit organisations, Crown Research Institutes, government organisations, umbrella bodies, research funding organisations, and learned societies committed to communicate openly about animal use. This report covers survey responses from 27 signatories from September 2022 to August 2023.

Of these organisations, 21 (78%) undertake research and/or teaching with animals directly, while six (22%) do so indirectly by funding or supporting the use of animals in research and teaching, or having members that carry out such work. Three additional organisations (two directly undertaking research and teaching, and one not directly involved), have joined the Agreement since this reporting period and will be included in the 2024 report.

The signatories have formally agreed to the Openness Agreement's five commitments:

1. We will be clear about why and how we use animals in research and teaching.
2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research and teaching.
3. We will enhance our communications with tangata whenua about our use of animals in research and teaching.
4. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research and teaching using animals.
5. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences.

How each organisation meets these commitments will differ depending on their operation, purpose, capacity, and legal obligations. While some signatories already have systems and structures in place to help them to fulfil the commitments, others may require time to develop these processes.

The intention of the Agreement is that all signatories demonstrate ongoing commitment towards greater openness on the use of animals in research and teaching in New Zealand. The survey for this report is the response to Commitment 5.



Commitment 1

We will be clear about why and how we use animals in research and teaching

This commitment covers:

- When we communicate about the use of animals in research and teaching, we will aim to provide descriptions of the benefits, harms, and limitations, and be open about its impact on animal welfare and the ethical considerations involved.
- We will take steps to ensure that staff (and students, where relevant) are aware of our organisation's involvement with and support for the use of animals in research and teaching, including highlighting when the use of animals in research and teaching has been replaced with alternatives.
- We will be prepared to provide information explaining our involvement with the use of animals in research and teaching and will be prepared to respond to reasonable enquiries about this. Where there are reasons not to respond to enquiries, we will clearly explain those reasons.



Providing public information

All signatory organisations provided public information via a statement on their website. 76% of signatory organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching, and 33% of signatory organisations not directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching, proactively provided at least some of the additional information below to the public:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Numbers and type/species of animals used	7	NA
Percentages or proportions of types of animals used	2	NA
Details of actual severity of procedures	3	NA
Images of stock animals or facilities	7	NA
Images of animals undergoing procedures	4	NA
Images or information about people involved in caring for the animals	4	NA
Lay summaries of research projects undertaken or funded	6	1
The proportion of your funded research that involves animals	0	0
In-person tours of animal facilities for non-research staff, students, or the public	8	NA
Video footage of animal facilities (such as a virtual tour)	2	NA

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Video footage of research animals or procedures	5	NA
Animal research news or breakthroughs	6	NA
Articles on animal research or the Three Rs	9	NA
Organised talks or face to face outreach work with general public audiences	7	NA
Other	6	2

(Note: NA stands for “Not asked”)

Few organisations are providing detailed information on animals used, the severity of procedures they are subject to, or highlighted animal use visually or through outreach. However, around 38% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching provided opportunities for non-researchers to tour their animal facilities. 29% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching provide lay summaries of research undertaken, which remained the same as for 2022.

Examples include:

- **Cawthron Institute:** A local school was invited to observe eels being collected from a stream for trials. There was also a media release on this which is also available on the Cawthron website <https://www.cawthron.org.nz/our-news/tamariki-learn-about-edna-during-cawthron-eel-collection/>. Cawthron also took part in a public event such as Children’s day where they showcased their work with marine mammals.
- **Te Pūkenga:** Photos of animals being used for teaching purposes appear on the websites of the different business divisions around the country.
- **University of Auckland:** We undertake visits to schools; visits to animal facilities; family and friends visits to facilities; communicate our use of animals through lectures; intranet (public facing and staff specific);

and international workshops. We encourage adoption of research animals with NZAVS; have a Code of Ethical Conduct, an AEC Process Document, and a Policy on Openness in Animal Research and Teaching on website accessible by the public. We have FAQs, including what happens to animals at the end of a study; produced a booklet on refinement (rat jellies) with MPI/ANZCCART; and podcasts. We are currently in the process of arranging videos of animal work and facilities to be placed on the website. We do list animals we use.

- **Victoria University of Wellington:** Periodically researchers discuss their animal research in publicly accessible lectures at the University or with journalists for public dissemination. The University runs an annual open day of its coastal ecology laboratory where members of the public can view holding tanks and learn about the research underway involving marine wildlife. Some enclosures for Tuatara are viewable from public areas, and animal care staff often engage with the public viewing the enclosures to discuss the nature of research done at the University.



Providing information within the organisation

90% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching, and 83% of organisations not directly involved, make their use of animals in research and teaching clear to researchers, staff, or students beyond those who work directly with the animals in some of the following ways.

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Explicit mention of the use of animals in research and/or teaching during the recruitment and/or induction process	7	NA
Talks and presentations about the use of animals in research and teaching	12	4
Opportunities for non-research staff to visit animal facilities	11	NA
Newsletters and internal publications or communications	9	2
Open invitations to attend AEC meetings	1	NA
Representative from student body on Animal Ethics Committee	3	NA
Participation in or provision of taught courses on animal research or ethics for staff/students	4	NA
Other	NA	4

(Note: NA stands for “Not asked”)



Talks and presentations seem to be the most common way to communicate about use of animals in research within organisations, followed by opportunities for non-research staff to visit animal facilities. In-person tours for non-research staff, students, or public have increased since last year (from 7 organisations in 2022 to 11 in 2023). Very few provide taught courses on animal research or ethics to their staff and students.

Examples of how organisations made their people aware of their use of animals in research:

- **AbacusBio:** Presentation on our use of animals and openness at least once a year at an all of company staff meeting.
- **Cawthron Institute:** There are regular (Aquaculture monthly) science talks that all staff are invited along to. Some of these projects involve animals in research. Cawthron also have fortnightly talks for all staff to attend. Animal research is mentioned depending on the talk.
- **Lincoln University:** We have re-instated the delivery of a course that covers research ethics. We have included information on the numbers of animals manipulated on our website based on species so the information is freely available.
- **Massey University:** 'Massey News' is emailed to staff weekly. It includes articles on animal research and outcomes. It also has links to other publications (e.g., rural industry news, local newspaper) that feature research undertaken by Massey staff, including animal research. The Massey staff intranet has information about research ethics, the AEC, the Three Rs, and AEC considerations as required by Section 100 of Animal Welfare Act, Code of Ethical Conduct, and the sharing of animal tissues database. Teaching courses using animals (veterinary, agriculture, animal science, zoology) feature on the web site.
- **Otago Medical Research Foundation:** Inclusion of guest speakers at fundraising events that speak openly about the use of animals in their research.

- **Victoria University of Wellington:** Internal communications often feature research programs underway at the University, including research involving animals. Regular talks by staff and students are presented throughout the year, abstracts are disseminated, and the talks are open to the public. An award for commitments to the principles of the Three Rs is included in the VUW staff excellence award ceremony (also open to the public). Students undertaking biology degrees are exposed to numerous examples of current research underway involving animals at the University and elements of animal ethics incorporated into teaching courses.



Providing information about the application of the Three Rs

62% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching, and 83% of organisations not directly involved, communicated work done in their organisation around the Three Rs to media and the public over the past year, in at least some of the following ways.

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Examples on organisation's website	6	5
Examples given through other organisational publications	3	3
Examples provided to third party (e.g. ANZCCART) to be shared	2	0
Support for the Three Rs and welfare in the sector (e.g. hosting discussions, giving prizes)	1	1
Academic publications	3	NA
Media releases	3	0
Other	4	2

(Note: NA stands for "Not asked")

Almost all organisations not directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching communicated about their work on the Three Rs by providing examples on their website, a marked increase from the previous year (only 33%).

Examples include:

- **Massey University:** Publication of Three Rs research – Replacement of a rat model: Barnes MJ, Lomiwes D, Parry DAD, Mackintosh S (2022) An experimental model of contusion injury in humans. PLoS ONE 17(11): e0277765. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0277765>

- **SPCA New Zealand:** Our work around the Three Rs has mostly been to publicly advocate for them. We have position statements and an article on the Three Rs available on our website. Our public submissions are available on our website, and these will include ones related to use of animals in research, testing, and teaching. We provide our Science inbox email address for requests for a specific submission.
- **University of Auckland:** Web site with information on the Three Rs – <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/research/about-our-research/openness-in-animal-research/the3Rs-replacement-reduction-refinement.html>
- **Victoria University of Wellington:** In 2023, the University hosted a workshop showcasing innovations in animal health, bringing together members of the public, with animal health professionals, policymakers, and researchers.

Channels used to share information

The channels used to proactively provide information included:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
A public-facing statement on your use of animals in research and teaching	15	6
Public-facing webpage covering your organisational involvement with animals in research and teaching	17	6
An annual report or section in an annual report covering animal research or teaching	4	5
Public-facing leaflets or brochures	1	3
Posters relating to or explaining the use of animals in research and/or teaching presented in public areas	4	2
Media releases	9	0
Facebook	6	1

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
YouTube	3	0
Twitter	3	0
Instagram	3	0
Other social media platform	3	0
Newsletters	3	1
Other	6	NA

(Note: NA stands for “Not asked”)

As with signatories last year, the most common ways of providing public information in 2022–2023 period were via organisational webpages and public-facing statements. Organisations not directly involved (NDI) in research or teaching were more likely to include information about animal use in their annual report. Those organisations directly involved in research and teaching were more likely than NDIs to make public information about animal use via media releases. The other specified methods were used by very few organisations.

Communication examples:

- **Massey University:** <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/300802664/research-finds-plantain-use-can-reduce-nitrogen-leaching-and-may-help-health-of-waterways>.
- **SPCA New Zealand:** Our organisation has developed an Advocacy webpage that features the ANZCCART Openness Agreement as one of our public-facing advocacy campaigns. This webpage currently has links to the ANZCCART Openness Agreement webpage, to our position on transparency in research, testing, and teaching, and to our organisation’s position on using SPCA animals in research and teaching. We are currently developing the content for our organisation’s use of animals in teaching and research with the aim of including it on the public-facing page.
- **University of Auckland:** Research group web pages – <https://kecain.weebly.com/> <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/our-research/take-10-with/take-10-with-marine-science/take-10-with-diana-lascala-gruenewald0.html>

Recommendations

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to report animal use in more detail in their annual reports.
- Organisations are encouraged to routinely publish lay summaries of animal-using research undertaken/funded. These summaries could include information about the number and type of animals used (for all aspects including breeding/wastage) and the severity of the procedures.
- Organisations are encouraged to provide Three Rs-related prizes.



Commitment 2

We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research and teaching.

This commitment covers:

- Where animal research has played a significant role in a scientific advancement and/or product development we will seek to include information about such animal research in relevant communications, including media releases.
- We will encourage researchers to follow and report the use of acknowledged good practice when designing and publishing the results of our animal research (e.g., the principles enshrined in the PREPARE and ARRIVE guidelines).
- We will support and encourage researchers and staff who wish to engage with the media on matters pertaining to the use of animals in research and teaching whenever possible.
- We will identify a point of contact for information about the organisation's involvement in the use of animals in research and teaching and will aim to provide appropriate ambassadors to communicate about relevant topics.



Website information

Signatories have provided website addresses for their policy statement or website page providing their position on animal research and teaching. These are provided in Appendix 2. The number of clicks it takes to reach these websites from the organisation's home page is:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
0-1	6	5
2	5	0
3	6	0
4	0	1
5 or more	2	0

More than 40% of organisations directly involved in animal use in research and teaching (8/19) required three or more clicks to reach their statement, while only one of the six not directly involved required more than one click.

Policies and guidelines

Signatories having an organisational policy regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, either in media releases or in general:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Yes	5 ↑	0 –
Not at present but we plan to introduce one within three years	3 ↓	2 ↑
No	13 ↑	4 ↓

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year)

Most signatories do not have a written policy or guidelines regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, but have a process for referring direct enquiries to suitable respondents. Often this involves an email address that goes to the AEC. A few go to a communications team or a senior person such as department head.

Two more signatories directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching now have an openness policy when they did not in 2022. However, more than half reportedly have no plan to introduce one in the next three years and this had not changed since 2022. No signatories not involved in the use of animals in research and teaching have a policy and most still have no plan to introduce one.

Specific examples:

- **ANZLAA:** We have a communications guideline.
- **Cawthron Institute:** Internally we have an Animal ethics policy available to all staff, which includes 'openness'.
- **University of Auckland:** Openness in Animal Research and Teaching Policy <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about-us/about-the-university/policy-hub/research-innovation/conduct/openness-in-animal-research-and-teaching-policy-.html>. An Animal Research Communications Guideline is also in development, as is a guideline for researchers on how to meaningfully interact with the policy.



Signatories encourage researchers to follow and report the use of acknowledged good practice when designing and publishing the results of our animal research (e.g., the principles enshrined in the PREPARE and ARRIVE guidelines). The numbers of those requiring PREPARE and ARRIVE guidelines specifically to be followed were:

	ARRIVE Guidelines		PREPARE Guidelines	
	Directly involved	Not directly involved	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Yes	3	3	2	1
No	16	2	15	4
NA	NA	1	NA	1

(Note: NA stands for “Not asked”)

Most organisations do not necessary use ARRIVE or PREPARE guidelines but have similar ones in place.

Specific examples:

- **AgResearch:** Our preview team are knowledgeable of the PREPARE guidelines. Each application that is submitted to the animal ethics office is previewed by the team. The preview lead sends the application back to the applicant for revisions to be made, assisting as much as possible as to what is required. The questions, when well answered, ensure that the research has the greatest chance of success and that the Three Rs have been extensively covered.
- **Massey University:** The Prepare guidelines are linked to the ‘Research with Animals’ section of the staff intranet and compliance with them is encouraged.
- **Otago Medical Research Foundation:** Statement on the grant application form: The OMRF is a signatory of the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in New Zealand. As part of our commitment to this agreement an additional section has been added to the application form, asking you to briefly explain the use of animals and confirming how the research design adheres to the Three Rs principals and conforms to the ARRIVE and PREPARE guidelines. This section (if needed) will not be included in the page count.

- **Royal Society Te Apārangi:** The Society journals endorse the use of the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments) guidelines, which has been developed to improve the design, analysis, and reporting of research using animals.
- **University of Canterbury:** The AEC considers the ARRIVE guidelines when assessing animal ethics applications, which includes a statement by researchers that they intend to publish the results of their research.
- **Victoria University of Wellington:** The PREPARE guidelines are incorporated into the AEC’s user guide for Staff and Students applying for ethics approval.

Staff training

Eight signatories provide their researchers or staff with formal training to engage confidently with the public (including their friends and family) on the issues around animal research and teaching:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Yes	5 ↑	3 ↑
No	12 ↑	2 ↓
No, but we have plans to provide training in the next three years	2 ↓	0 –

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year)



However, 14 of directly involved organisations and five not directly involved organisations have provided the following forms of guidance or support to staff or students to deliver public engagement events about the use of animals in research or teaching over the past year:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Support from in-house engagement or communications team	13 ↑	2 ↑
Coaching by staff experienced in public engagement	6 ↑	3 ↑
Public engagement training	4 ↑	1 –
Other internal expertise or support structure	5 ↑	2 ↑
Other external support or training	0 ↓	2 ↓

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year)

Staff training/guidance in public engagement/media is generally available, but not always extensive, with more than half of signatories directly involved in the use of animals in research providing no formal training. Support of the in-house engagement team has gone up, from five organisations in 2022 to 13 in 2023, to help staff or students contribute to public engagement. External training support is being provided by UAR Oceania and Science Media Centre Media SAVVY courses.

Specific examples:

- **AgResearch:** Animal Ethics Office has talked with technicians and researchers about the Openness Agreement when the agreement was first signed.
- **Cawthron Institute:** Media training or discussion around media risk is on a case by case/as required basis.
- **Otago Medical Research Foundation:** We provide research communication training (2-day training course) for our summer student research scholarship holders.

- **University of Auckland:** Training in the form of talks and workshops in house, as well as through membership of UAR Oceania (e.g., in depth workshops); help with research group websites in house and through UAR Oceania; staff are also encouraged to do CPD if interested (e.g. Savvy Science Media Centre course).

Signatories providing media training for staff who wish to engage with the media on animal research:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Yes	9 ↑	2 ↑
No	10 ↑	2 ↓
NA	NA	2 *

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year; * new category. NA stands for “Not asked”)

Specific examples:

- **Plant and Food Research:** Media training is available to all staff, and particularly encouraged for those working in high profile or contentious areas of research.
- **Massey University:** Assistance from the Science Media Centre is regularly promoted to staff, in addition to in-house communications training.
- **University of Otago:** All staff wanting to engage with the media about their research are offered training and when relevant that includes encouragement to discuss the use and benefit of using of animals in their work.

Recommendations

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to reduce the number of clicks needed to reach their web statement on their website.
- Organisations are encouraged to develop policies regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, either in media releases or in general.

Commitment 3

We will enhance our communications with tangata whenua about our use of animals in research and teaching

This commitment covers:

- We will acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the need to improve openness and engagement with tangata whenua as kaitiaki and pou tikanga, especially where research and teaching involves taonga species, by engaging early, and being inclusive in determining issues and developing solutions.
- We will actively consider the incorporation of tikanga Māori approaches where appropriate.

Discussing animals in research and teaching with tangata whenua

57% of directly involved organisations and 50% of not directly involved organisations, have discussed animals in research and teaching with tangata whenua, in some of the following ways:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
A policy or position statement on the use of animals in research or teaching that acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the need to improve openness and engagement with tangata whenua as kaitiaki and pou tikanga, especially where research or teaching involves taonga species	4	0
Held a hui or other event for tangata whenua on the use of animals in research or teaching	2	0
Provided panel members for an external hui or other event on the use of animals in research or teaching	3	0

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Arranged specific access to animal facilities for Iwi representatives or other tangata whenua	3	NA
Public-facing webpage designed for tangata whenua covering your organisational involvement with animal research and teaching	2	0
Interviews or long-form pieces for Māori audiences where the use of animals in research or teaching was a key topic	1	0
An annual report or section in annual report specifically addressing animal research or teaching activities and their relevance to tangata whenua?	0	0
Public-facing leaflets or brochures that communicate about animal research or teaching and its implications for tangata whenua	0	NA
Posters displayed in public areas that explain the use of animals in research or teaching, and how it relates to tangata whenua	0	NA
Comment on a general issue around the use of animals in research or teaching as it relates to tangata whenua	3	0
Comment on your organisation's use of animals in research or teaching and its significance for tangata whenua	3	1
Academic articles relating to animal use in research or teaching that engage with mātauranga, issues or themes within te ao Māori	2	NA
Other	9	3

(Note: NA stands for "Not asked")

A variety of approaches were used over all but each approach was used by only a few organisations. Other ways of interacting with tangata whenua about the use of animals in research and teaching included consultation with Māori as part of AEC approval for specific research (embedded in Code of Ethical Conduct) or as part of research on taonga species and public media reporting on such research.

Specific examples:

- **AgResearch:** Yes, our application requires a declaration of external approval: the applicant ticks if Māori Consultation is needed, proof of consultation then needs to be provided prior to the animal ethics approval.
- **Royal Society Te Apārangi:** In our Member's code of Professional Standards and Ethics it outlines the need to, where practicable, endeavour to partner with Māori in activities involving as subjects or likely to significantly affect taonga species or fauna indigenous to Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **University of Auckland:** Our Leigh Marine Lab has an MOU with the local iwi about their relationship engagement. Our Ngapouri Research Farm gave a tour to the General Manager of two local iwi.
- **University of Canterbury:** We are in the process of recruiting an iwi representative as a permanent member of the AEC.
- **University of Otago:** Researchers at the University of Otago published a paper: Population Genomics of New Zealand Pouched Lamprey (kanakana; piharau; *Geotria australis*) Allison K Miller, Nataliya Timoshevskaya, Jeremiah J Smith, Joanne Gillum, Saeed Sharif, Shannon Clarke, Cindy Baker, Jane Kitson, Neil J Gemmell, Alana Alexander *Journal of Heredity*, Volume 113, Issue 4, July 2022, Pages 380–397, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esac014>. The research into this taonga species was conducted in consultation with tāngata whenua. A te reo Māori abstract was written and published with the article alongside the English abstract and a Māori artist designed a cover for that issue of the *Journal* which was inspired by the article.

Incorporation of tikanga Māori approaches to work relating to animal use in research

29% of signatory organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching have incorporated some kind of tikanga Māori approaches into their work relating to animal use in research at their organisation:

Specific examples:

- **Cawthron Institute:** We had a blessing ceremony when we opened up our PC2 aquatic facility.
- **Massey University:** A research team investigating native fauna use tikanga Māori at each meeting to discuss research with hapu, and by meeting with them at the marae following traditional protocols.
- **SPCA New Zealand:** We incorporate tikanga Māori approaches/principles /values into our use of animals for teaching, but it is done more generally so that they apply to all users across all training.
- **University of Otago:** The Biomedical Research Facility working with a University of Otago Māori strategic framework facilitator developed karakia for Biomedical Research Facility staff meetings to help honour, respect and remember the animals the staff work with and to foster cultural understanding amongst the facility staff.

Recommendations

- Organisations could consider creating MOU with local iwi about their relationship engagement.
- Lay summaries could also be written in te reo Māori alongside the English description.
- Organisation can provide more opportunities for staff to engage with iwi, whether it is meetings or comments around the use of animals for tangata whenua.
- Including Māori researchers and/or students in research leadership.

Commitment 4

We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research and teaching using animals

This commitment covers:

- We will consider ways in which activities can be facilitated that will allow public engagement around the use of animals in scientific, veterinary, and medical research and teaching.
- Where relevant, we will include information about the role of animals in talks or public events we take part in, for example at schools or with the local community.
- We will contribute to efforts to provide more comprehensive explanations of animal use in research and teaching. These explanations could, where appropriate, include images and videos, be stand-alone materials, or accompany other communications, such as media releases

Providing opportunities for public engagement

57% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching and 67% of organisations not directly involved, have engaged with the public or community around the use of animals in research and teaching over the past year in at least some of the following ways:

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Policy events (non-sector)	0 ↓	0 –
Holding or participating in science festivals	3 –	2 ↑
Presentations at local or supporter events	4 ↑	2 ↑
Family days	4 ↑	NA
Community days and festivals	2 –	1 ↑

	Directly involved	Not directly involved
Recruitment fairs	2 –	1–
Patient engagement and involvement initiatives	0 –	0–
Schools' engagement	8 ↑	2 ↑
Other	6 *	1*

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year; * new category. NA stands for “Not asked”)

There is more evidence of engagement with the public or community around the use of animals in research and teaching, including access to animal facilities, in 2023 vs 2022. Engagement with schools was the most common way of engaging with the public or community with various levels of students and types of facilities/events cited (around 40% of signatories directly involved with animals in research and teaching). Other engagement activities included presentations at local events, live animal facility tours, open days, training days on organisation's research farms, stall at children's festival, and teachers' portal providing resources on animal use.

Examples of this engagement:

- **Malaghan Institute:** We had school visit where kids got the opportunity to visit around the institute and some parts of our facility.
- **Massey University:**
 - Industry training days on Massey farms, including communicating findings of relevant research.
 - School of Veterinary Science open days.
 - Presentations at Agricultural field days.
 - Visits from high school students.
 - Massey open days.
 - Conference science presentations.



- **Victoria University of Wellington:** Our organisation holds annual open days for our Coastal Ecology Laboratory, which involves allowing the public to view aquatic enclosures and learn about research and teaching using animals conducted on site. The University participates in community outreach programs, where research undertaken by the University, including animal research, is discussed. Academics are often involved in presentations of research to local community groups and supporters of the University.

Access to animal facilities

48% of organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching have provided access to their animal facilities to visitors from outside their organisation or provided more comprehensive video and audio explanations of animal use in research and teaching in at least some of the following ways.

	Directly involved
We have provided videos or images with audio explanation about what happens in animal research and/or teaching	3 ↑
We have hosted an MP / politician	2 ↓
We have hosted a special interest group	6 ↑
We have hosted students or (non-research) staff from another institution or school	7 ↑
We have hosted members of the public	2 *
Our organisation's policies do not allow this, but we provide an alternative engagement activity	2 ↑
We have not provided access	3 ↑
Not applicable	6 ↓

(Note: arrows indicate change from previous year; * new category)

Greater number of signatories directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching have provided videos/images with explanation about animal research/teaching than previously. Various kinds of groups have been hosted including politicians, special interest groups, students/schools, public members, other researchers, and funders.

Examples include:

- **AgResearch:** Students, funders, and special interest groups have visited the animal facilities at Ruakura, Invermay, Lincoln, and Grasslands campus and Farms, e.g. at Woodlands – international TV crew were hosted. MPs/politicians, farmer groups, and funders regularly visit the New Zealand Ruminant Methane Measurement Facility. Videos of this facility are also provided for media to use in context of discussions around inhibitors/agricultural climate change mitigation. Students from Massey University School of Veterinary Science regularly visit and engage with research animals at our Grasslands Campus while undergoing their training, and we discuss research underway where possible, including the use of fistulated cattle.
- **Massey University:** Visits to Massey Farms to provide industry training and to communicate research findings. People requesting to visit facilities (eg Feline Unit, Canine Unit, Large Animal Teaching Unit) are accommodated as often as is possible. Sometimes issues such as the number of visitors in a group is prohibitive due to the impact of a large group on resident animals and facility size.
- **Plant & Food Research:** Plant & Food Research finfish facilities at Nelson is open to requests from visitors of all nature. We have visiting protocols and procedure to guarantee that fish welfare and biosecurity are priorities during visits. Plant & Food Research animal facility hosted veterinary students from Massey University to share our knowledge and expertise for interacting with and handling laboratory rats and mice. We have also shared our knowledge and expertise with manipulations with staff from other outside organisations to assist them in their research.
- **SPCA New Zealand:** The animals that we use for teaching are at our Centres. Due to welfare reasons (and historically COVID restrictions), we have moved towards appointment-based only visitors as this reduces stress on the animals.

- **University of Auckland:** Families of technicians invited to tour facilities and hear about the significant research their family members help support. Tours for representatives from companies or organisations that may have an interest in working with us or us with them. We have hosted international and national visitors. We have live streamed animal surgeries to overseas organisations. There have been donors that have toured certain facilities.
- **University of Otago:** Our animal facility is a PC2 facility which prevents large tour groups or open days from happening, but smaller groups have been led through the facility. This included groups external to the University and groups of internal University staff who do not normally work with animals.

Recommendations

- Organisations could consider having school and other groups visit research facilities to discuss and engage with them on the research that involves animals and the concerns that are raised.
- Organisations could consider the adoption of research animals to friends and family of staff.
- Organisation are encouraged to develop policies to protect the welfare of animals in their organisations when increasing visitor access to animal areas.



Progress towards the Openness Agreement Commitments 2023

Few organisations cite barriers to being clear about how and why animals are used in research and teaching for Commitment One. Of those who did, about half related to insufficient time and people resources to share information more effectively. About a third were due to intellectual property/legal constraints.

Only two organisations described barriers to meeting Commitment Two, linked to legal constraints or conservative approaches taken by communications teams around media releases.

Only three organisations reported barriers to enhancing communication about the use of animals in research and teaching to tangata whenua, for Commitment Three. This mainly relates to access to people with appropriate knowledge/expertise and also the time required to develop relationships to facilitate research.

Few signatories cite barriers additional to those mentioned above in connection with Commitment Four, noting biosecurity and commercial sensitivity and reduced staffing making tours difficult.

A few organisations report new or different initiatives relating to openness or the agreement in the last year. These include:

- making virtual streaming from an animal unit open to the public for the first time,
- development of resources relating to openness or including openness in internal policy,
- development of an explicit Culture of Care (tangible ways of acknowledging animals and technical staff working with animals and compassion fatigue), and
- expanded information given to students in lectures/labs on using animals in research/teaching.

Appendix 1

About this report

Management of the Openness Agreement

ANZCCART (NZ) actively manages the Openness Agreement and asks for feedback from signatories on the support they have been given over the year.

Most (72%) Agreement signatories agreed or somewhat agreed that they understand the Openness Agreement commitments and the support available to help fulfil them, and 96% of signatories agreed or somewhat agreed the Agreement was an important step forward for New Zealand-based organisations using animals for research and teaching. Only one signatory felt the Agreement would not lead to real changes in their organisations.

Most (84%) signatories found the Openness Agreement communications helpful. Several organisations now felt that a visit or onsite presentation would be helpful to better inform new staff about the Openness Agreement and how it works.

Data collection methodology

This report is based on data collected from signatories through a survey. The survey was distributed in advance, with responses sought to cover the September 2022 to August 2023 period. Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research or teaching, and those not directly involved, answered separate sets of survey questions to support respondents in completing the survey.

Responses are provided by the named signatory contact, but most represent a co-ordinated response on behalf of their organisation. The views and activities described in this report were volunteered by signatories and have not been externally assessed or audited. The exceptions to this are around points of compliance such as the placement of policy statements on institutional websites, which are checked and verified by ANZCCART.

Organisations were not asked to provide responses to every question, and throughout this report respondent numbers are provided as absolute values, reflecting the changing number of total respondents for each question.

Appendix 2

Signatories

Organisation	Website statement
Not directly carrying out research and/or teaching on animals in New Zealand	
ANZLAA	https://www.anzlaa.org/About-ANZLAA
AstraZeneca	https://www.astrazeneca.com/Sustainability/ethics-and-transparency/animals-in-research.html
Callaghan Innovation	https://www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/terms-and-conditions
Oceania Regional Committee of ICLAS	https://iclas.org/regional-committees-australia/
Otago Medical Research Foundation	https://omrf.org.nz/research/
Royal Society Te Apārangi	https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/statement-on-use-of-animals-in-research-and-teaching/
Directly carrying out research and/or teaching on animals in New Zealand	
AbacusBio	https://abacusbio.com/corporate-social-responsibility/
AgResearch	https://www.agresearch.co.nz/partnering-with-us/products-and-services/animal-ethics-te-ara/
Auckland Zoo	https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/news/zoo-proud-to-be-signatory-to-openness-agreement-on-animal-research
AUT	https://www.aut.ac.nz/research/researchethics/frequently-asked-questions
Cawthron Institute	https://www.cawthron.org.nz/our-research/animal-ethics/
Department of Conservation	https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/code-of-ethical-conduct/

Lincoln University	https://www.lincoln.ac.nz/about-us/statement-on-use-of-animals-in-research-and-teaching/
Malaghan Institute	https://www.malaghan.org.nz/our-expertise/animal-welfare/
Massey University	https://www.massey.ac.nz/research/ethics/animal-ethics/
New Zealand Veterinary Association	https://www.nzva.org.nz/about-us/animal-use/
NIWA	https://niwa.co.nz/about/working-with-animals-at-niwa
Plant & Food Research	https://www.plantandfood.com/en-nz/our-views-on-use-of-animals-in-research-1
SoleTech	https://www.solettech.co.nz/research/
SPCA NZ	https://www.spcan.org.nz/advice-and-welfare/category?cat=position-statements&subcat=positions-research-testing-and-teaching
Te Pūkenga, New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology	https://www.op.ac.nz/schools/school-of-veterinary-nursing/animal-use-in-research-and-teaching/
University of Auckland	https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/research/about-our-research/openness-in-animal-research.html
University of Canterbury	https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about/governance/ucpolicy/general/animal-ethics-committee-code-of-ethical-conduct/Animal-Ethics-Committee-Code-of-Ethical-Conduct.pdf
University of Otago	https://www.otago.ac.nz/research/animal-research.html
University of Waikato	https://www.waikato.ac.nz/research-enterprise/ethics/animal-ethics/our-statement
VetNZ	https://www.vetnz.nz/vetnz-anzccart-statement
Victoria University of Wellington	https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/research/support/ethics/animal-ethics/statement

Appendix 3

Summary of Recommendations

Commitment 1: We will be clear about why and how we use animals in research and teaching

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to report animal use in more detail in their annual reports.
- Organisations are encouraged to routinely publish lay summaries of animal-using research undertaken/funded. These summaries could include information about the number and type of animals used (for all aspects including breeding/wastage) and the severity of the procedures.
- Organisations are encouraged to provide Three Rs related prizes.

Commitment 2: We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research and teaching

- Organisations directly involved in the use of animals in research and teaching are encouraged to reduce the number of clicks needed to reach their web statement on their website.
- Organisations are encouraged to develop policies regarding openness about animal use in research or teaching, either in media releases or in general.

Commitment 3: We will enhance our communications with tangata whenua about our use of animals in research and teaching

- Organisations could consider creating memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local iwi about their relationship engagement.
- Lay summaries could also be written in te reo Māori alongside the English description.
- Organisations can provide more opportunities for staff to engage with iwi, whether it is meetings or comments around the use of animals for tangata whenua.
- Including Māori researchers and/or students in research leadership.

Commitment 4: We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research and teaching using animals

- Organisations could consider having schools and other groups visit research facilities to discuss and engage with them on the research that involves animals and the concerns that are raised.
- Organisations could consider the adoption of research animals to friends and family of staff.
- Organisations are encouraged to develop policies to protect the welfare of animals in their organisations when increasing visitor access to animal areas.



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EXPLORE | DISCOVER | SHARE

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