

**Unexpected Adverse Event Form**

**To comply with *the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th Edition 2013 (updated 2021), i.e. the Code,* and to ensure the health of all animals used for research and teaching activities, the WSU Animal Care and Ethics Committee requires that investigators notify the Animal Ethics Officer or the Animal Welfare Officer within 48 h of any event related to approved activities that may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of the animals used for research or teaching. This does not include cases where adverse animal welfare occurrences are explicitly part of the approved protocol (e.g., desired disease-relevant phenotypes or experimental outcomes).**

*(refer to the Code, clauses 2.4.18 (ix), 2.4.34 (ii) & and 2.1.5 (v) d)*

**Reportable unexpected adverse events may result from different causes, including but not limited to:**

* Unexpected animal welfare impacts or death affecting an animal or group of animals. This does not include: issues that commonly occur in laboratory rodents#, independently of any particular experimental procedure, or; injuries or deaths from natural causes in field-based studies.
* Unexpected animal welfare impacts or deaths following a procedure or treatment in the lab (e.g., during surgical procedures or anaesthesia) or in the field (e.g., during capture or from equipment failure). Examples of clinical signs that may develop include, but are not restricted to, diarrhoea, vomiting, respiratory difficulty, collapse, abdominal swelling, rapid weight loss, physical injury, and death.
* Animal welfare impacts or deaths following a procedure or treatment that were predicted to be of less severe nature (e.g., increased mortality rate, more rapid health decline including body weight loss, increased level of pain or distress).
* Animal welfare impacts or deaths in a larger proportion of animals than predicted during the planning of the project or activity, based on the actual number of animals used at the time, not the total number approved for the study.
* Animal welfare impacts or deaths from a power failure, inclement weather, emergency situations or other factors external to the project or activity.

**Note in case of death of an animal:** If the death was not foreshadowed in the approved project or activity, and cannot be reasonably attributed to natural or other known causes/husbandry issues#, a necropsy must be performed by a person with appropriate qualifications and/or experience (please contact the Animal Welfare Officer if no expertise is available). The ACEC must promptly be notified of the outcomes [refer to clause 2.4.34(ii), of the *Code*].

For laboratory studies, all deaths including welfare-related euthanasia, irrespective of cause, must be promptly reported to the Animal Facilities Manager, who provide regular welfare reports to the ACEC.

*# Common animal welfare issues affecting laboratory rodents include malocclusion, dermatitis, barbering, hydrocephalus, vaginal septa, fight wounds, pre-weaning mortalities, runty pups, penis prolapse, anal prolapse, or e.g. dystocia. These do not necessarily constitute an adverse event but must be reported to Animal Facility (AF) management. Please also discuss how to manage the issues identified with AF management and inform the WSU Animal Welfare Officer.*

# Section 1: Overview

**1.1. Project Title:** Click here to enter text.

**1.2. ACEC Number: A**Click here to enter text.

**1.3. Name of Chief Investigator:** Click here to enter text.

**1.4. Animal Species involved:** Click here to enter text.

**1.5. Location of animal at the time of the event:**

**1.6. Date of event:** Click here to enter a date.

**1.7. Date of this report** Click here to enter a date.

# Section 2: Summary of Event

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| --- |
| **2.1. Summary of Event** |
| **Outcome of Event** | **Yes** | **No** | **Age of Animals** | **Number of Animals** |
| Unplanned Mortality | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |  |
| Unplanned euthanasia | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |  |
| Recovery (experiment continued) | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |  |
| Experiment Terminated | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| Other:  |

**2.2. Describe the Event: What Happened?**

*Include details of the symptoms and/or signs exhibited by the animal (e.g. weight loss, diarrhoea, other signs of injury or distress, or found dead).*

**2.3. At what stage of the experiment did the event occur?**

*What treatments/procedures had been performed on the particular animal(s) prior to the event? It may assist to include a timeline of events.*

**2.4. How many animals were involved in the treatment group the animal belonged to?**

*e.g. 1 animal died out of a group of 20.*

**2.5. What action was taken when the event happened or was discovered?**

*e.g. animal euthanased, pain relief administered and animal monitoring increased, pathology etc. Field-based researchers should provide details on investigations into how an animal died or was injured during the field work. Photographs may also be helpful.*

**2.6. Do you need to replace the animals that were lost as a result of this adverse event?** [ ] Yes [ ]  No

If Yes, a separate amendment request will need to be submitted for additional animals.

**2.7. Why / how do you think it happened?**

*What investigations have taken place? e.g. necropsy (a* [*rodent necropsy form*](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0007/1952836/FORM_ACEC_Necropsy_Rodent.docx) *is available online), histopathology, microbial culture etc.*

**2.8. Is this a one-off event or has it happened before?**

*If it has happened before, document when and explain how the recurrence couldn’t be prevented*

**2.9. What immediate and long-term actions are being taken to prevent a recurrence?**

*e.g. modification to procedures or experimental design, housing, monitoring or researcher / student training or supervision*

**2.10. Is there any other information or comment you wish to provide in relation to this event?**

**2.11. List all previous adverse events for this project (if applicable).**

**Name of Chief Investigator:**

**Signature:** **Date:**

Forward to the Animal Ethics Officer – animalethics@westernsydney.edu.au