

Live Animal and Cadaver Use in Education

Key Messages

Support

- The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) supports the ANZCCART* Openness Agreement on use of animals in research and teaching in New Zealand, and is committed to publishing the NZVA's view and use data in accordance with this agreement.
- The NZVA supports the principles of the "3 Rs" in the use of live animal and cadaver material for education.
- The NZVA's use of animals in teaching demonstrates the Association's support for the appropriate use of live animals and cadaver materials where they enhance continuing professional development for veterinary professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Education

- The NZVA acknowledges that quality Continuing Professional Development is a cornerstone for all veterinary professionals, enabling a more knowledgeable, competent, and confident veterinary workforce.
- The long-term goal for the NZVA is the replacement of all animals used in teaching, as allowed for by developments in science, technology, and law.

Ethics

- Animal welfare and ethics (including evolving societal views) are important considerations in the ongoing use of live animals and cadaver material in teaching.
- The NZVA acknowledges that aspects of live animals and animal cadaver material use may create concern for some New Zealanders.
- All live animal and cadaver material used for educational purposes must be ethically obtained.

Short Summary

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the process of acquiring, maintaining, and enhancing the skills and knowledge needed for professional practice. The objective of CPD is to ensure professionals, at any stage of their career, are competent and confident in their field. All practicing veterinarians registered with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand must undertake CPD annually.

Subject to the primacy of animal welfare and safety considerations, the NZVA supports the use of both live animals and animal cadaver material for CPD. Animal welfare and ethics (including evolving societal views) are important considerations that will continue to inform and influence the NZVA's use of live animals and cadaver material in teaching.

The NZVA has signed the [ANZCCART Openness Agreement](#) on animal research and teaching in New Zealand, and supports the principles of the "3 Rs" (Replace, Reduce, and Refine) in the use of live animal and cadaver material for education. The NZVA recognises the importance of demonstrating and promoting both the values of the 3Rs and the five commitments of the Openness Agreement.

*Australia New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching