

La Trobe Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)

Does my project need AEC approval?

You must have approval to use animals for scientific purposes. Only the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) can give approval to use animals for teaching and research.

Does my project need AEC approval?

If wildlife field research - refer to LTU Guidance for Researchers on wildlife projects.

Are animals involved in my research project?

If YES, are animals managed or treated any differently that how they would normally be managed or treated in their everyday life?

If NO, then the AEC does not need to approve your research project.

Examples include

- a video recording of people interacting with their own dog as they both go about their normal day
- a survey of children comparing a cohort that owns a dog and another who do not.
- The use of organs or other materials from animals killed as part of routine commercial food and fibre production (e.g. sourced from butchers, fish shops, or abattoirs).
- The use of cadavers or samples from animals killed at veterinary clinics or shelters for other (veterinary or management) purposes.
- The use of cadavers or samples from dead animals (e.g., road kill).
- Tissue samples from animals that have already been approved and monitored for care and euthanasia as part of an earlier AEC-approved activity can be used in laboratories.

If YES, then the AEC does need to approve your research project.

Examples include.

- a study of human and dog activity where dogs have activity monitors applied
- a study where animals are kept in a room away from human contact for 6 hours (where they would not normally be kept away from human contact)
- a study where dogs are introduced to a new nursing home environment.