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Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Office for Research, Training and Support  
[health-sciences.nwu.ac.za/healthethics](http://health-sciences.nwu.ac.za/healthethics)

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| **AnimCare** Ethics Committee on Animal Care, Health and Safety in Research *(AREC-130913-015)* **Project Head Declaration Form for Approval of Single or Larger Projects**  ***AnimCare 05-01a, Version 4.10 (Nov 2016)*** |
| **CONFIDENTIAL!** This document contains confidential information that is intended strictly and exclusively for the applicant and AnimCare Committee. Should this document or parts thereof erroneously come in your possession, you are requested to destroy it or to return it to AnimCare without delay. Unauthorised possession, reading, studying, copying or distribution of this material, or any other form of abuse, is illegal and punishable. |

This form is to be completed by the Project Head (e.g. principle investigator / study leader), as indicated in the AnimCare Ethics Application Form for Single or Larger Projects.

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| General Project Identification |

**Applicant to complete this table BEFORE sending it off for signing.**

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| **Project Head** (Title, Initials & Surname) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Project Title** (see Application Form) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Envisaged Application Date** | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| **NWU Ethics Number** (see Application Form) | NWU- ?????-??-s?***(request from Ethics Office)*** |

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| Declarations by the Project Head |

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for approval of this project using vertebrate or higher invertebrate animals, as described in the scientific project proposal, and hereby declare that:

1. I have familiarised myself thoroughly as to the content of AnimCare’s rules and procedures, and the latest South African National Standards and regulations for the use of animals in research and training, and I will keep to these guidelines and the details described in the scientific proposal as and when ethically approved.
2. The current project and its experimental design is scientifically justifiable and affordable (i.e. it can be finished once the use of animals will have commenced). Accordingly I:
   1. will ensure sound scientific integrity and research ethics in the planning, execution, data handling and work-up and scientific reporting of the current project,
   2. will ensure that all raw data is stored safely and remains in the possession of the North-West University,
   3. undertake to respect intellectual property rights throughout and to avoid any form of plagiarism.
3. The use of animals can be justified for the current project, no unnecessary repetition of previously done work is included and due consideration has been given to implementation of the 3Rs (replace, reduce & refine, which I am familiar with) and the principle of due responsibility. I therefore also confirm that:
   1. the project objectives cannot be achieved meaningfully through replacement of animal subjects (e.g. lower order animals without consciousness / feeling or tissue or other models),
   2. the experimental design is such that the minimum number of animal subjects is used, no animals are wasted unnecessarily and the optimal quantity of data is obtained from the studies with the number of animals used,
   3. any discomfort/suffering for animal subjects is kept to the minimum and no unnecessary suffering is caused,
   4. the potential predominant advantages arising from the project exceed the risks and disadvantages for the animal subjects.
4. I will always value the wellbeing of the animal subjects above the interest to continue with or complete an experiment or the study, and the humane handling and treatment of animals and immediate relief of any undue discomfort, pain or distress will remain the highest priority of all team members,
5. I will ensure that the project is managed ethically justifiably from start to finish. This imply that I will:
   1. oversee the project,
   2. ensure that all team members (e.g. myself, co-workers / assistants / technicians) are appropriately trained, experienced, qualified, authorised, registered and otherwise legally competent to implement the approved studies / procedures / interventions,
   3. where applicable and necessary, always ensure that I have the necessary permits at my disposal before the relevant actions are carried out,
   4. confirm that the facilities where animals are housed and procedures performed is appropriately maintained and registered, and that all instruments and apparatus are appropriate for the animals, well maintained and calibrated as required,
   5. confirm that all required and appropriate safety measures are in place and that appropriate monitoring and response measures are in place,
6. I have familiarised myself with the processes and form for incidents & adverse events, and will ensure that all team members (including students) working with the animals will be properly informed and trained in emergency procedures as well as provided with the report guidelines and forms.
7. The information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that no ethical codes will be violated by the project.
8. I will not deviate from the approved proposal, or formally apply for approval of any amendments, and that I understand that the project may be suspended or terminated if I deviate from the proposal without the approval of the Ethics Committee, which may also lead to disciplinary action.
9. I will report to AnimCare:
   1. without delay, as prescribed by the incident and adverse event report, any such incidents or adverse events experienced during the course of the project,
   2. annually to the Ethics Committee (or as determined by the Ethics Committee) on the prescribed monitoring report form concerning any and all progress and ethical aspects of the project,
   3. concerning any and all progress and ethical aspects of the project once the project is completed.

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| **Name** (Title, Full Names & Surname) |  |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  |
| **Date** |
| Click or tap to enter a date. | **Signature** |
|  |  |
| **Any comments (optional)** Click or tap here to enter text. | |