



Ethical Guidelines for Projects Involving Animals and Humans

Projects involving Humans

Projects involving humans could involve the following:

- tasting, touching or smelling different foods or other substances
- taking any medicines, drugs or other substances
- applying any substance to their bodies
- undergoing any physical or medical tests
- giving you any information of a personal, private or confidential nature
- giving information that could identify them



For projects involving humans, ethical approval is **NOT** required.

However, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Safety of everyone concerned must be paramount
- Any project should only involve minimal risk, ie any adverse effect should be very small, and the probability of that effect occurring should be low. For instance, if one is asking people for information, it should only be the sort of information that would be safe, easily volunteered and appropriate to ask in an ordinary conversation, or if you are asking people to exert themselves, physically it should only be to a level that the person might do in everyday life.
- When people are asked to participate in research, they need to be told clearly what the research is and what will be required of them. If you are collecting information from them they need to know what will be done with that information, who else will see it and whether or not the information can be linked to a particular person.
- If your research involves **no unusual risk or exertion or unreasonable request and the person can't be identified**, then no written permission is necessary. Otherwise, written permission **must** be obtained from the person **and** the person's guardian if under the age of 16.

Teachers, students and parents need to read the full guidelines which can be found at the following website:
http://www.rsnz.org/education/science_fairs/humanethicscode.php

Projects involving these Animals: shellfish, insects, snails, spiders, worms

For projects involving these animals, ethical approval is **NOT** required.

However, the following guidelines must be followed:

These animals must receive:

- Proper and sufficient food **and** water
- Adequate shelter
- The opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- Appropriate physical handling
- Protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, injury and disease



The investigation should be designed so that no more animals than absolutely necessary are used.

Projects involving these Animals: mammals (excluding humans), amphibians, birds, fish, reptiles, octopus, squid, crabs, lobsters, crayfish

For projects involving these animals, ethics approval **MUST** be sought **REGARDLESS** of what is being investigated. Approval must be given **BEFORE** the investigation is started. The approval must be attached to the project. This includes such simple things as:

- Observations of animal behaviour, eg do cows form the same groups in a paddock?
- Animal preferences, eg which cat food does my cat prefer?



An application form can be found on our website or at <http://www.nzase.org.nz/ethics.html>

Application for Ethics Approval **MUST** be made **at least one week** before the following dates: 13 May, 10 June, 8 July

**Checklist for Science Fair Investigations
involving Humans or Animals**

Name of student(s): _____

Title of Project: _____

Please make sure that you read the attached guidelines in conjunction with this checklist.

This checklist should be included in the logbook.

Project involving Humans	Project involving <i>these</i> Animals <i>Shellfish, insects, snails, spiders, worms</i>	Project involving <i>these</i> Animals <i>Mammals (excluding humans), amphibians, birds, fish, reptiles, octopus, squid, crabs, lobsters, crayfish</i>
<p>No ethics approval is required.</p> <p>However, you must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No unusual risk <input type="checkbox"/> No unusual exertion <input type="checkbox"/> No unreasonable request <input type="checkbox"/> Not able to be personally identified <input type="checkbox"/> Participants are fully informed <input type="checkbox"/> Written permission is obtained if necessary (see attached information) 	<p>No ethics approval is required.</p> <p>However, you need to ensure that the animals receive the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate food and water <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate physical handling <input type="checkbox"/> Protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, injury and disease <input type="checkbox"/> No more animals are used than absolutely necessary 	<p>Ethics approval must be sought for ANY investigation BEFORE it is started.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics approval is given BEFORE the investigation is started <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics approval is attached to the investigation

If these guidelines are not followed, then the project may be withdrawn at any time.