



ANU Microchipping Training and Competency Assessment Framework V1.0

Background

The Tasmanian Veterinary Surgeon's Regulation 2012 requires that a responsible veterinary surgeon must assess the competency of any individual undertaking microchipping in animals annually.

The ANU has agreed to the following process for meeting these requirements for all animal-based research in Tasmania that requires microchipping.

Training

Initial training may be provided by the ANU Veterinary Services Team, at ANU campus, with the use of animals from the University's research facilities. If this is not feasible, then the Primary Investigator may arrange training for volunteers and individuals on a protocol from a competent individual (as deemed by veterinary approval). However, the person in training must continue to receive direct, in person oversight from a competent individual, until they have received veterinary approved competency.

It is possible that animals from the University's facilities (which will usually be mice) may not accurately replicate all conditions for microchipping but may be utilised to introduce the basic principles and steps for microchipping or to assess technique where required. It is acknowledged that in some cases, the specifics for some species may need to be covered in the field.

First Assessment

The first assessment takes place if a veterinarian has never previously assessed an individual as competent, or the individual is unable to provide proof of competency attainment from a veterinarian.

This first assessment must occur **in person** using a suitable animal or model that replicates the process as close as possible to that required in the approved animal ethics protocol.

If the individual is available and based in the ACT or close surrounds then assessment can be arranged at the ANU campus, with the use of mice from one of the University's research facilities. As with the training above, it may be that the mouse does not accurately represent the target species in the field. This will be assessed on a case by case basis and any adjustments that are necessary can be discussed with the vets.

If the individual is based in Tasmania, or otherwise interstate, and unable to attend the ANU campus for assessment, they must liaise with the ANU veterinary team to arrange a competency assessment with a registered veterinarian at their location. This may cause some challenge as to the availability of suitable animals or models for competency assessment and therefore is not the preferred option.

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If an external veterinarian is utilised they must complete the competency assessment paperwork in full, as provided by the ANU and return this to the ANU veterinary services team.

Annual Assessments

Records must be kept of all animals that have been microchipped including any instances where the microchip was not accurately injected (e.g. a 'through and through' injection) and repeat injection is necessary or where a microchip cannot be found after recapture of the animal.

These records must be provided in the annual protocol review to the animal ethics team and will be assessed by the vet services team. Any reason for concern (i.e. a high rate of failure) will be highlighted and retraining and/or reassessment may be required.

Every Three Years

Every three years (for example, at the renewal of any new protocol or the third anniversary of the first assessment), the ANU veterinarians must undertake review of video footage of the individual performing microchipping. This review must include at least three separate animals being microchipped and include the entire process as assessed in the competency form. If the video footage does not provide enough evidence, a verbal discussion may be required to test the individual's knowledge. Any individual that cannot be fully assessed by video footage or where there may be reason for technique improvement, re-training and re-assessment of the individual in person may be warranted. This decision is to be made by the ANU veterinarian.

Record Keeping

The veterinarians and the individual being assessed must sign the competency form and both must keep a record of its completion. The Primary Investigator (PI) must also keep a record of the competency assessment for any individuals working on their protocol. If the individual's supervisor is not the PI, then it is recommended that the individual also provide a record of their competency assessment to their supervisor.