

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS  
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a specialist veterinary pathologist and I work at an Australian laboratory which offer routine health monitoring to laboratory small animals and native and exotic animals and birds. I have been successful in coercing many of my clients (university and institutional laboratory animal houses) to utilise my pathology services for some of the adverse incidences which occur when dealing with live animals for breeding and experimentation. However, the percentage of the adverse incidents which are investigated by my myself and other veterinary pathologists is woefully low. The usual response to an adverse event is to possibly perform an in house post mortem; sometimes by a veterinarian but not always, and then to close the investigation whether a finding has been made or not.

It is my belief that we need to advance the need for professional veterinary investigation of all, except the most basic, adverse events in the research community using live animals of any classification i.e. Mammalia, avian, reptilian, fish, amphibian, insects etc.. Only when funding is made available for this will the prevention of bad practice in laboratory animal research be truly reached. As long as the cadavers of adverse events are disposed of prior to an investigation, bad practices will continue whether intentionally or unintentionally.

As can be seen from the submission figures below, I have managed to persuade the industry of the need for my work; however, the research sector is under severe financial pressures, there is a marked lack of specialist veterinary pathology services in the field of laboratory animals and an extreme lack of local training for specialist veterinary pathologists. Indeed, I have taken the step of recently employing a veterinarian with an interest in pathology and laboratory animals. I will be training this person over the next few years, at the financial expense of this small business, the veterinarian and myself, in order that they may become a Specialist Veterinary Pathologist with experience in laboratory animals.

If there was funding made available to enable routine veterinary pathology investigation of all laboratory animal adverse incidences, then the training of young veterinarians into this field, the inclusion of veterinarians in the development of research protocols, the inclusion of veterinary pathologists in the managing pathology tasks within research protocols, where their services are needed, would be made possible. This would inevitably lead to a reduction in animal numbers, and an increase in the reliability and reproducibility of research using live laboratory animals.