

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
**Comment on rehoming animals
after use**

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
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Due to the importance of agricultural research in New Zealand, production animals (alpacas/llamas, cattle, sheep, deer, goats and pigs) made up over two thirds of the numbers of animals used in 2022 for research, testing or teaching work. Most of the work with production animals was graded as having no or virtually no impact, or of low impact and 86 percent of these animals returned to a normal farm life after participating in studies. Overall, approximately 80 per cent of all animals used for research, testing and teaching in 2022 remained alive after use. Of the animals remaining alive, 88 per cent were returned to their owners, or retained by the institution for ongoing studies.

The Out of the Labs petition in 2017 called for the Government to amend the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to make it mandatory to consider rehoming as an alternative to euthanasia for research animals. To meet the intent of the petition, NAEAC does not consider it necessary to amend the Act.

NAEAC has advised animal ethics committees and code holders that there are options for rehoming animals, and that the New Zealand Anti-vivisection Society and Helping You Help Animals have offered to be points of contact for organisations and researchers who have animals appropriate for rehoming. A number of institutions have already set up rehoming programmes for animals that are suitable for rehoming. Information about these programmes may be provided on the institutional website. Animals for rehoming must be healthy and well socialised. The person receiving the animals must have suitable facilities for the animals and have the knowledge and experience to care for them properly. NAEAC has updated the [Good Practice Guide](#) for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching to include guidance for rehoming.

For more detailed guidance on rehoming a wide variety of species the NSW Department of Primary Industries Research [Animal Rehoming Guidelines](#) for animals used for scientific purposes provides useful information.