

Do I need AEC APPROVAL?

This document has been prepared by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC), in consultation with Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), as a resource for persons intending to undertake activities that may be a manipulation of an animal or animals for the purposes of research, testing or teaching (RTT).

While the checks provide guidance, NAEAC recommends that **any person who has to decide whether or not Animal Ethics approval is required should always consult the Chair of the AEC rather than make an independent decision.**

The checks should never be used to replace consulting an AEC.

The checks are not intended to be a stepwise process. Each one can be applied on its own, but none should be applied in isolation. Notwithstanding this, the first questions you should ask are:

- Is it an animal?
- Is it a manipulation?
- Is it RTT?

If it is not an animal AND it is not a manipulation AND the activity is not for the purposes of RTT you are unlikely to require AEC approval. However, if it is (or may be) one or more of those you should consult your AEC Chair.

The manipulation of animals for the purposes of RTT is allowed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 Part(6) and its amendments.

Other legislation and regulations may also apply, including, but not limited to:

- Agricultural and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
- Animal Products Act 1999
- Animal Welfare Records and Statistics Regulations 1999
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Veterinarians Act 2005

You must also comply with the Code of Ethical Conduct that your AEC is constituted under.

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for guidance only. It does not serve any compliance function. Offences committed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 carry significant penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for both individuals and the body corporate.

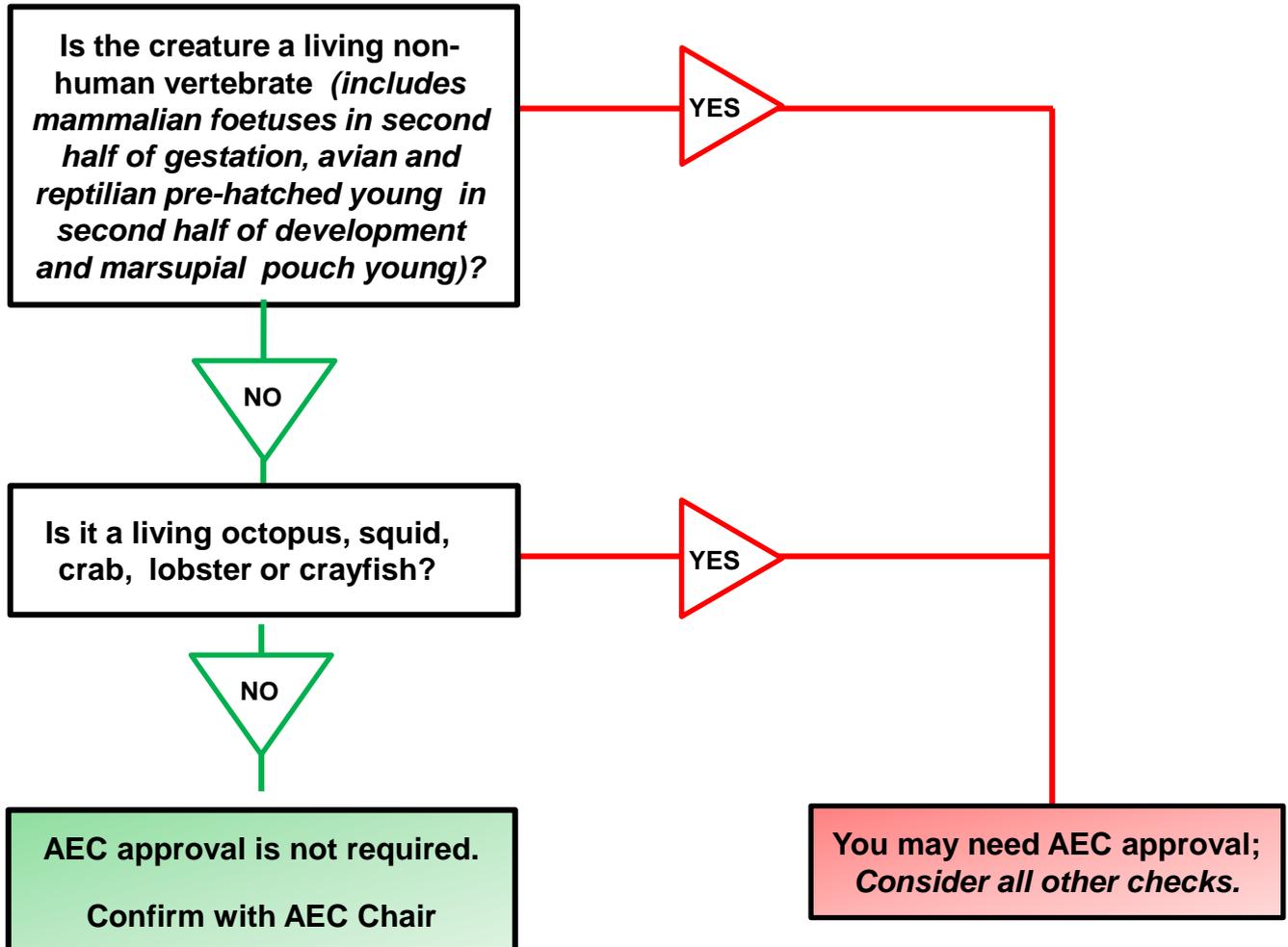
If you believe that your planned activity does not require AEC approval, NAEAC recommends that you confirm this with your AEC Chair before you start any work.



Do I need AEC APPROVAL?

Checks to consider

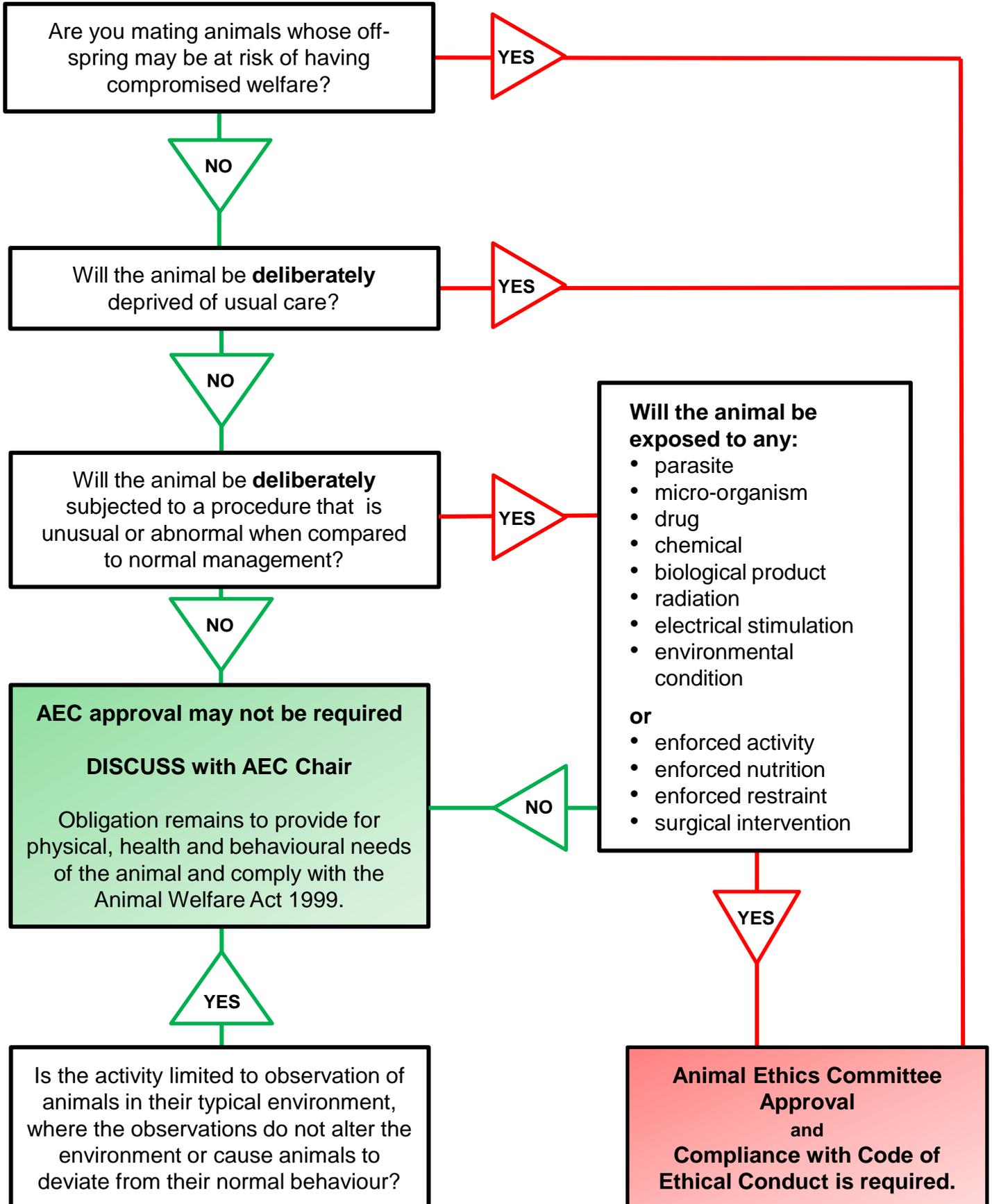
Check: Does the work involve an animal?



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Checks to consider

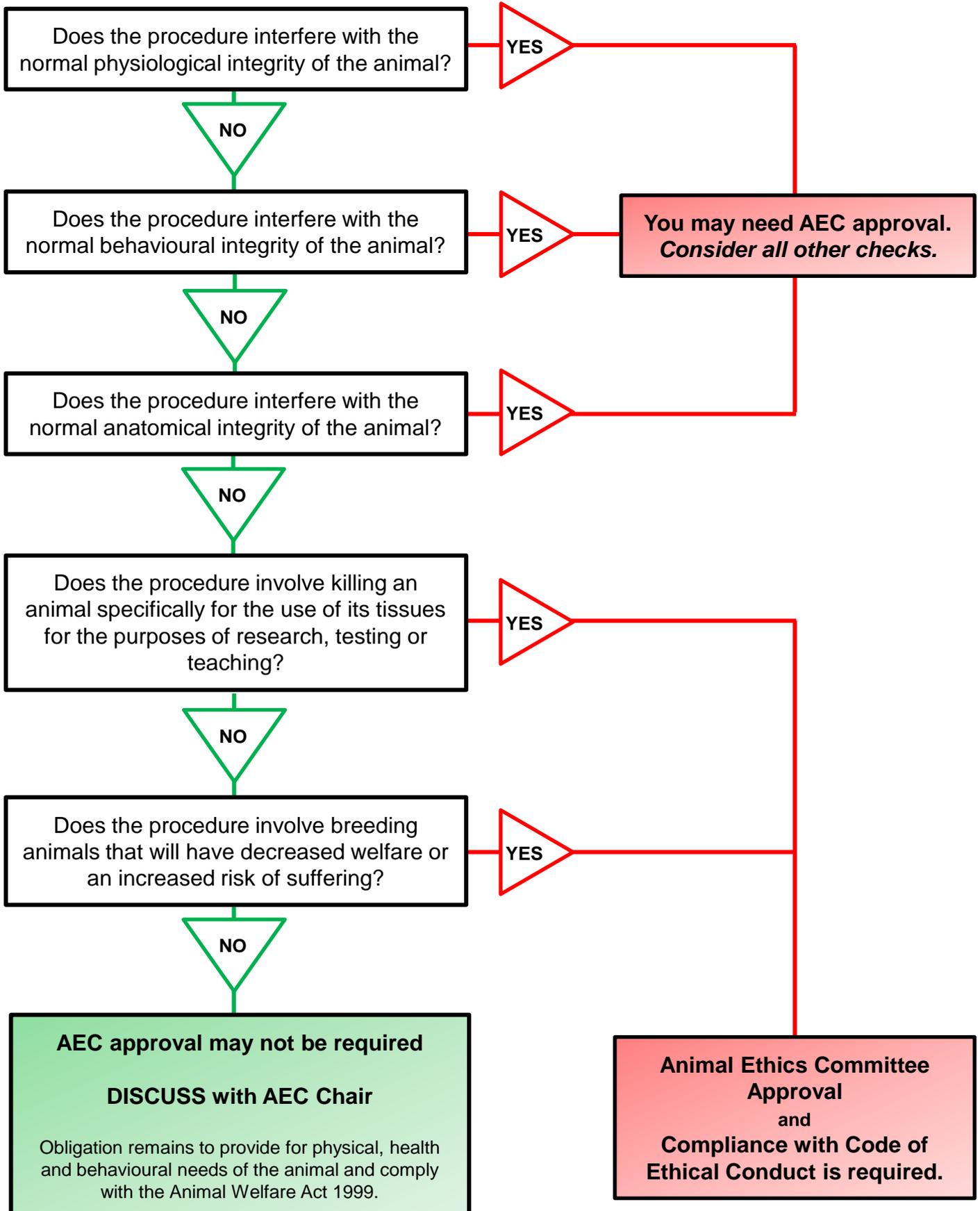
Check: Is it a manipulation?



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Checks to consider

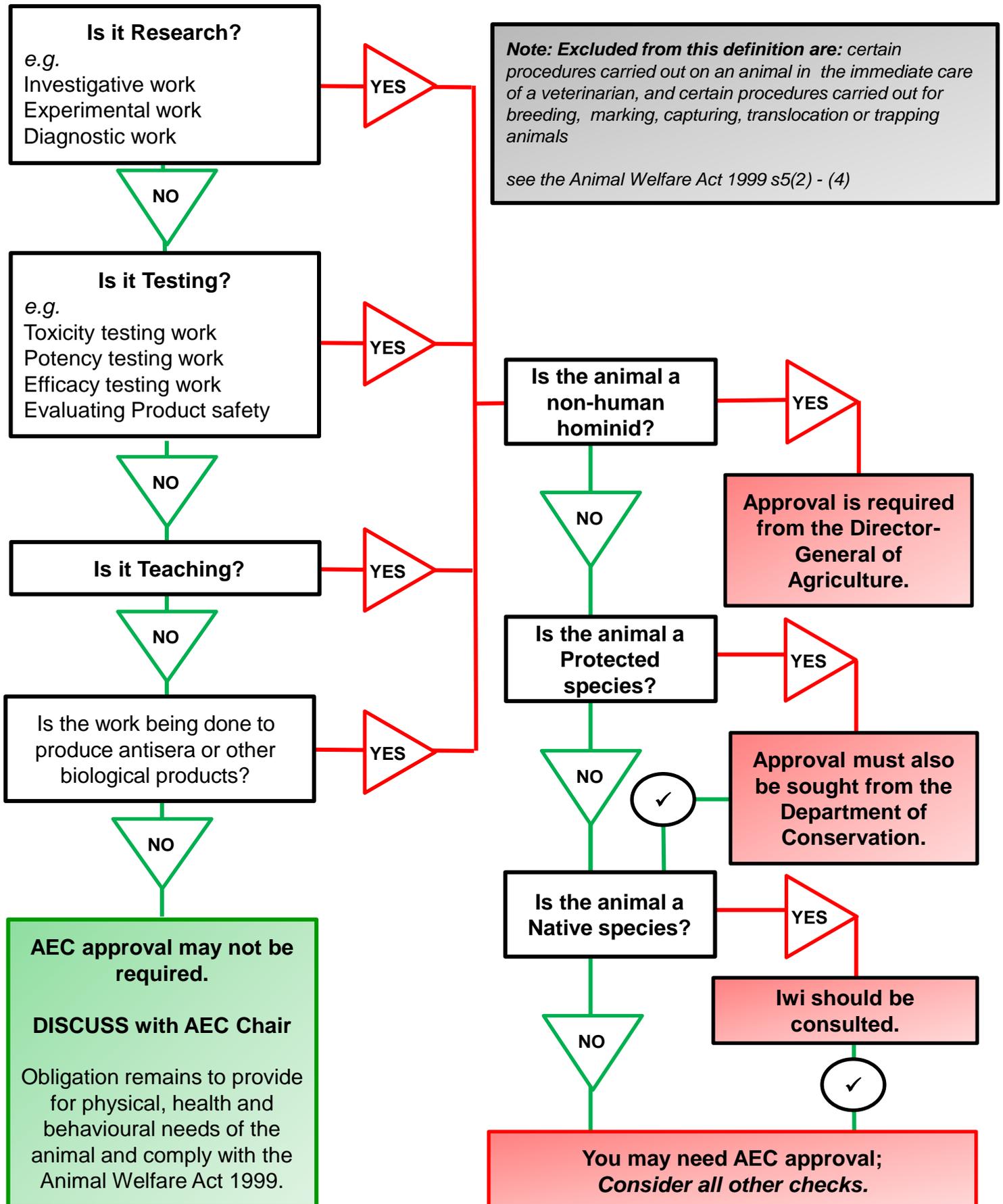
Check: Is the work the manipulation of an animal?



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Checks to consider

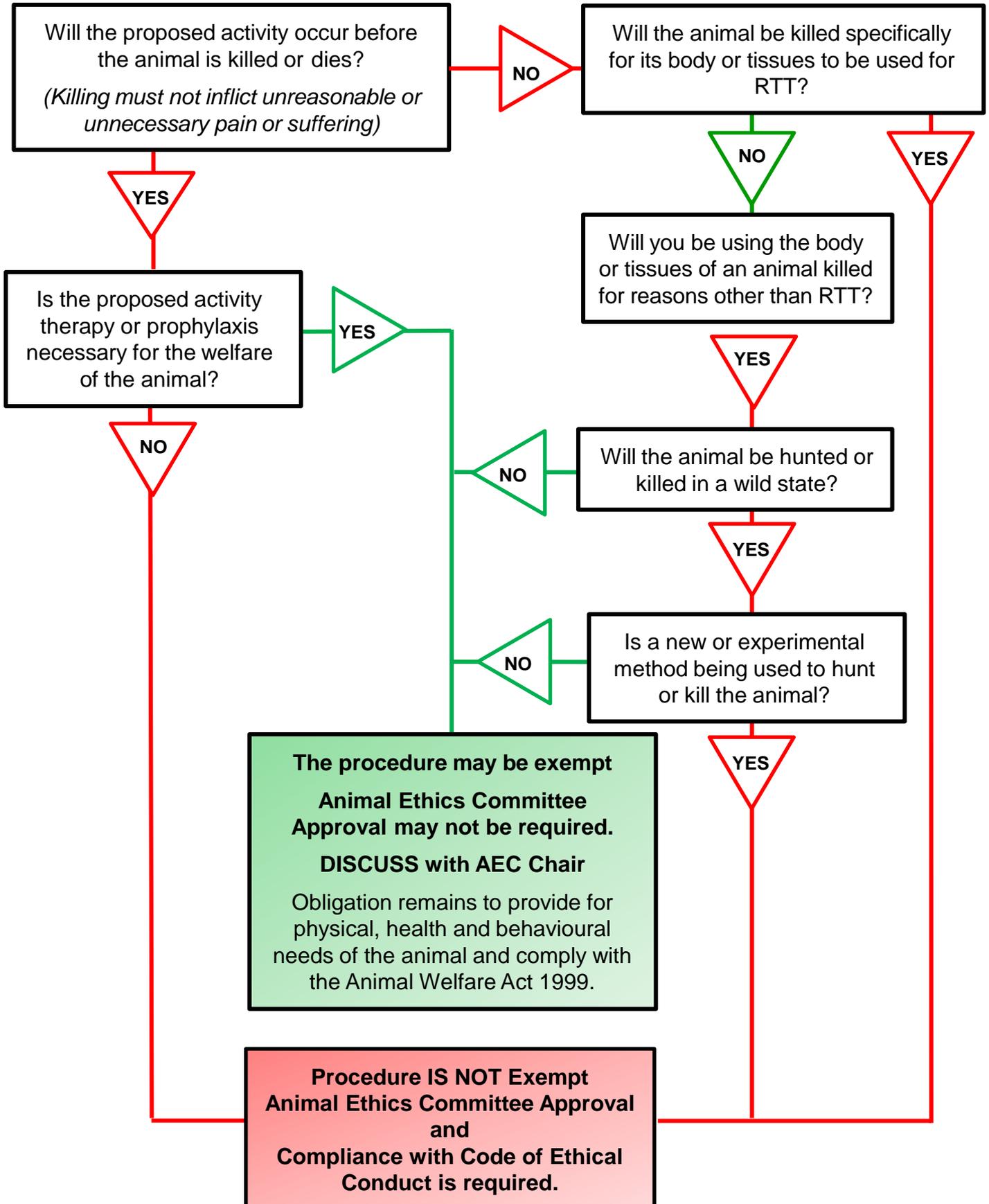
Check: Is the work RTT?



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Checks to consider

Check: Is the proposed activity excluded from the definition of a manipulation?



Do I need AEC APPROVAL?

Checks to consider

Check: Is the work Veterinary research?

Note: Excluded from the definition of manipulation are: certain procedures carried out on an animal in the immediate care of a veterinarian, and certain procedures carried out for breeding, marking, capturing, translocation or trapping animals.

see the Animal Welfare Act 1999 s5(4) - (5)

Is the activity being undertaken by registered veterinarian to answer a question about treating a condition/problem specific to the animals on a particular farm or small group of farms where animals are displaying similar symptoms (i.e. 'will the activity treat or cure specific animals).

If the results will be published, they are likely to be offered as a brief communication/clinical note/letter to the editor etc.

YES

AEC approval is not required.

The activity is answering a specific clinical question in order to treat a discreet group of animals

Is the activity being undertaken to ask a question (i.e., is this product/ingredient more effective over different sets of conditions than an existing one; or, is it useful because there is currently no effective treatment/cure available), and to find the answer I need to utilise groups of animals with different backgrounds, that are managed under different conditions, using a scientific approach”.

If the results are to be published, they are likely to be peer reviewed and submitted to a refereed journal.

YES

AEC approval is required.

The activity is asking a scientific question, and will add to the academic literature

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Checks to consider

Check: Specific legislated exceptions

Are you killing an animal while exercising powers under the Biosecurity Act 1993 s(2B) or 2(C)

NO

You may need AEC approval;
Consider all other checks.

YES

Under this authority,
Subsection 1(A) of the
Animal Welfare Act 1999
does not apply.

*Discuss with your AEC
Chair.*

Are you undertaking research or testing that is in the national interest as described in s118 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999?

NO

You may need AEC approval;
Consider all other checks.

YES

The work does not need
AEC approval but **MUST**
be approved by the
Minister responsible for
Animal Welfare.
*Discuss with your AEC
Chair.*

Are you breeding animals specifically for the purposes of research, testing or teaching?

NO

You may need AEC approval;
Consider all other checks.

YES

Using animals for
research, testing or
teaching requires AEC
approval;
Consider all other checks.

Animals that are bred for
research, testing or
teaching and are killed
but not used must be
included in animal use
statistics.