UNIVERSITY ANIMAL POLICY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Overview
The University of Alberta is committed to ensuring the ethical and humane use and responsible care of animals in research, teaching, and testing in accordance with applicable laws, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guidelines, and Tri-Council requirements (Memorandum of Understanding on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of Federal Grants and Awards [MOU]).

The University of Alberta regards the use of animals in research, teaching, and testing as a privilege, not a right. Animals are used only for valid scientific studies with a reasonable expectation of obtaining knowledge for the potential benefit of people and animals. The University of Alberta is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards in the care, well-being, quality of life, and use of its animals.

2.0 Authority
2.1 The CCAC requires that institutions conducting animal-based research, teaching, or testing establish an animal-care committee.

The University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee (UAPWC) is a standing committee of the Vice-President (Research), who is the senior University administrator responsible for animal care and use for the University.

As the institutional animal-care committee, UAPWC has the following responsibilities:
- to oversee and coordinate the work of the specialized animal care committees to which it has delegated responsibility for reviewing and managing animal-care and animal-use protocols
- to establish University policies and procedures to ensure sound general standards for animal care and use that meet or exceed CCAC guidelines throughout the University of Alberta
- to ensure that all University of Alberta faculty who use animals for research, teaching, or testing purposes submit protocols to a UAPWC-approved animal-care and animal-use committee for approval before starting their animal use.

2.2 The UAPWC has the authority, on behalf of the Vice-President (Research), to do the following:

2.2.1 Stop any objectionable procedure if it considers that unnecessary distress or pain is being experienced by an animal.
2.2.2 Terminate immediately any non-approved procedure, any procedure causing unforeseen pain and distress to animals, or any use of animals that deviates from the approved protocol.
2.2.3 Humanely euthanize an animal if pain or distress caused to the animal is not part of the approved protocol and cannot be alleviated.

2.3 The UAPWC has delegated the above authorities to the University Veterinarian and to the Directors of the University’s animal-service facilities. 2.4 The UAPWC Chair, the University Veterinarian, and the Directors of the University’s animal-services facilities must have access at all times to all areas where animals are or may be held or used.

3.0 Responsibilities
The UAPWC has the following responsibilities:
3.1 The UAPWC develops policy and procedures about all aspects of the care and use of animals at the University of Alberta (institutional policy shall be recommended to and approved by the General Faculties Council [GFC]; institutional procedures shall be recommended to the Vice-President [Research]).
3.2 The UAPWC establishes, reviews, and maintains ethical standards for animal use in research, teaching, and testing.
3.3 The UAPWC establishes procedures to review and manage animal-care and animal-use protocols. The UAPWC has delegated review and management of animal-care and animal-use protocols, as follows:

3.3.1 Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC): Biosciences
3.3.2 Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC): Health Sciences
3.3.3 Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC): Livestock

*Note: Protocols designated as a Category E level of invasiveness or those involving non-disclosure agreements and private industry will be reviewed by UAPWC.*

3.4 The UAPWC ensures that the ACUCs meet and exceed the current CCAC guidelines on the care and use of all animals within their jurisdiction.

3.5 The UAPWC annually reviews the ACUCs’ terms of reference.

3.6 Hear appeals of decisions of an institutional ACUC to deny animal use according to the published appeal procedures associated with the Animal Ethics Policy.

3.7 The UAPWC facilitates communication among the ACUCs (to support this communication, the UAPWC Chair [or his or her representative] will attend at least one meeting of each ACUC annually).

3.8 The UAPWC supports and promotes seminars/workshops on animal research and the ethics of animal use.

3.9 The UAPWC advises the Vice-President (Research) about significant events in animal care and use as they occur and provides an annual report to the General Faculties Council on the status of the University’s animal-care and animal-use program.

3.10 The UAPWC makes recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) about the construction, maintenance, or closure of University animal facilities.

3.11 The UAPWC supports and promotes the coordinated provision of animal services by the Health Sciences Laboratory Animal Services, the Biosciences Animal Service, and the Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Animal Services.

4.0 Meetings
4.1 The Chair will call at least two meetings per year.

4.2 A majority will be 70% of those present at the meeting but not less than 51% of the total membership of the Committee.

4.3 A quorum will represent 51% of membership and will include at least one veterinarian licensed to practice in the Province of Alberta and one community representative. If a quorum is not attained, the meeting shall be postponed and rescheduled.

4.4 UAPWC decisions on animal-care and animal-use protocols and final decisions in the appeal process should be reached by consensus.

Membership

**Ex-officio members:**
- Chair, appointed by the Vice-President (Research);
- University Veterinarian*;
- Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences or his or her representative;
- Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry or his or her representative;
- Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Science or his or her representative;
- Biosafety Officer;
- Chair, Animal Care and Use Committee: Biosciences;
- Chair, Animal Care and Use Committee: Health Sciences;
- Chair, Animal Care and Use Committee: Livestock;
- Chair, Cross Cancer Institute Animal-Care Committee;
- Chair, Microbiology and Public Health Animal-Care Committee;
- Director, Biosciences Animal Service;
- Director, Health Sciences Laboratory Animal Services;
- Director of Animal Care, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences Animal Services;

**Appointed members:**

*Three-year term:*
representative from any Faculty with no direct association with research, teaching, and testing or promoting the use of animals;

two community representatives;

two graduate student representatives;

Two-year term:

two representatives from Alberta-based organizations concerned with animal welfare in research, teaching, and testing;

representative from the University Senate;

One-year term:

representative from the research community

*The primary mandate of the University Veterinarian is as the Executive Officer of the University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee. As such, acting with direct authority from the Office of the Vice-President (Research) in meeting the institution’s primary responsibility for the welfare of animals, the University Veterinarian or delegate shall be responsible for implementing appropriate animal-care and animal-use practices at the University of Alberta.*