Sick Animal Response – Processes Overview

**STEP 1**
- Sick Animal Identification
- Diagnosis

**STEP 2**
- Intervention Planning
- Intervention Implementation

**STEP 3**
- Documentation & Morbidity / Mortality Reporting

Multi-Stakeholder Communications Throughout

**DIAGNOSIS**
- Principal Investigators
- ACVS Veterinarians

**INTERVENTIONS**
- Principal Investigators
- AC Facility Supervisors

SAR Designates
Sick Animal Response – Process for Sick Animal Diagnosis – STEP 1

**Directed Animals**

- **If Critical Animal**, immediately page ACVS Veterinarian - 519-661-2195
  - Identify Cage/Animal
  - Following examination & with reference to the AUP, ACVS Vet immediately attempts to consult with PI & Facility Supervisor or their designates
  - If PI/designate is not readily available for consultation, ACVS Vet to proceed with intervention
  - If PI/designate is readily available, PI & ACVS Vet consult on best course of action for animal

- **If Non-Critical Animal**, check AUP to identify if symptoms & related treatments are specifically identified within experimental model
  - If within AUP experimental parameters, follow the AUP, related monitoring sheet, Record abnormalities within in-room health monitoring binder & email details to ACVSVET@uwo.ca
  - PI / AC Staffs to provide ongoing monitoring in accordance with the AUP
  - If outside AUP experimental parameters, contact ACVS Vet for further instruction - acvsvet@uwo.ca

**Designated Animals**

- **If Critical Animal**, follow Directed Animals process
  - If outside AUP experimental parameters, contact ACVS Vet for further instruction - acvsvet@uwo.ca
  - ACVS Vet contacts PI & Facility Supervisor / designates to consult on best course of action for animal

- **If Non-Critical Animal**, check AUP to identify if symptoms & related treatments are specifically identified within experimental model
  - If within AUP experimental parameters, contact ACVS Vet for further instruction - acvsvet@uwo.ca
  - PI / AC Staffs to provide ongoing monitoring in accordance with the AUP
  - If outside AUP experimental parameters, contact ACVS Vet for further instruction - acvsvet@uwo.ca
  - ACVS Vet contacts PI & Facility Supervisor / designates to consult on best course of action for animal

**GO TO SICK ANIMAL INTERVENTIONS FLOW CHART – STEP 2**
Sick Animal Response – Process for Sick Animal Diagnosis – STEP 1

- **Sick Animal** – Any animal that presents clinical signs reflecting a health and welfare concern – physiological, psychological, and/or behavioural - related or unrelated to experimental design
- **Critical Animal** – A sick animal having serious to severe health concerns, as determined by an ACVS Veterinarian, that requires immediate intervention in order to relieve unnecessary or unacceptable pain or suffering
- **Directed Animals** –
  - Species - Pigs, sheep, dogs, cats, non-human primates, and rabbits
  - Conditions as determined by the ACC or an ACVS Veterinarian
  - Any sick animal with critical (serious to severe) health concerns
  - Any sick animals associated with experimental groups experiencing increased morbidity
  - Any animal identified by an ACVS veterinarian or the ACC to require his/her direct involvement on a case-by-case basis
- **Designated Animals** – All other animals than those identified as Directed Animals whose initial diagnosis and treatment have been designated to SAR Designates, e.g. Animal Care Supervisors, PIs, and their staffs.
  - Includes all species not listed as directed, e.g. rodents, birds and fish
  - Non-critical health concerns
  - Non-critical sick animal associated with experimental groups with no known history of increased morbidity
  - Non-critical animal not identified by an ACVS veterinarian or the ACC to require his/her direct involvement
- **Experimental Parameters** – ACC pre-approved (via AUP) experimental conditions, procedures or research models directly attributable to the research purpose that may alter an animal’s normal physical, psychological and/or behavioural state, e.g. spinal cord injury model: lower limb paralysis
Sick Animal Response – Process for Sick Animal Interventions – STEP 2

Directed Animals

If Critical Animal

ACVS Vet or SAR Designate, as directed by the Vet, to provide immediate treatment or euthanasia

Document observations & actions within in-room health monitoring binder
Send email record to all involved stakeholders, including ACVS Vet, of actions taken and related observations

If animal is treated, ACVS Vet to ensure regular follow-up monitoring and treatments, as required

If Non-Critical Animal

ACVS Vet or SAR Designate, as directed by the Vet, to administer treatments.
SAR Designate to follow SAR Algorithm

Document observations & actions within in-room health monitoring binder
Send email record to all involved stakeholders, including ACVS Vet, of actions taken and related observations

ACVS Vet to ensure regular follow-up monitoring and treatments, as required

Designated Animals

If Critical Animal, follow Directed Animals

If Non-Critical Animal

SAR Designate to administer treatments outlined within SAR Algorithm

Document observations & actions within in-room health monitoring binder & send email record to all involved stakeholders, including ACVS Vet, of actions taken and related observations

SAR Designate to ensure regular follow-up monitoring and treatments, as required

ACVS Veterinarian provides treatment or euthanasia plan in consultation with PI and AC Supervisor, as appropriate to the animal's health status (see Diagnosis Flow Chart - STEP 1)

GO TO ANIMAL MORBIDITY / MORTALITY LOGS FLOW CHART – STEP 3
• **Sick Animal** – Any animal that presents clinical signs reflecting a health and welfare concern – physiological, psychological, and/or behavioural - related or unrelated to experimental design

• **Critical Animal** – A sick animal having serious to severe health concerns, as determined by an ACVS Veterinarian, that requires immediate intervention in order to relieve unnecessary or unacceptable pain or suffering

• **Directed Animals** –
  - Species - Pigs, sheep, dogs, cats, non-human primates, and rabbits
  - Conditions as determined by the ACC or an ACVS Veterinarian
  - Any sick animal with critical (serious to severe) health concerns
  - Any sick animals associated with experimental groups experiencing increased morbidity
  - Any animal identified by an ACVS veterinarian or the ACC to require his/her direct involvement on a case-by-case basis

• **Designated Animals** – All other animals than those identified as Directed Animals whose initial diagnosis and treatment have been designated to SAR Designates, e.g. Animal Care Supervisors, PIs, and their staffs.
  - Includes all species not listed as directed, e.g. rodents, birds and fish
  - Non-critical health concerns
  - Non-critical sick animal associated with experimental groups with no known history of increased morbidity
  - Non-critical animal not identified by an ACVS veterinarian or the ACC to require his/her direct involvement

• **SAR Algorithms** – *Sick animal* diagnosis and treatment decision trees/plans developed by ACVS Veterinarians in conjunction with SAR Designates and PIs and followed by SAR Designates

• **SAR Designate** – An ACVS-veterinarian-approved competent individual who is designated to follow ACVS veterinary SAR Algorithms and act under the instruction of an ACVS Veterinarian in sick animal interventions
Sick Animal Response – Animal Morbidity / Mortality Logs – STEP 3

- **Animal Morbidity** –
  - A. For Purposes of Veterinary Interventions & Post Mortems - Any sick animal’s condition that is beyond the experimental parameters identified in the related AUP
  - B. For Purposes of Morbidity Log Record-Keeping– All sick animals

- **Animal Mortality** – Any animal that has died under any circumstance or condition, with the exception of one that has reached its experimental endpoint as outlined within the related AUP. Includes animals found dead and morbid animals requiring early euthanasia

- **Experimental Parameters** – ACC pre-approved (via AUP) experimental conditions, procedures or research models directly attributable to the research purpose that may alter an animal’s normal physical, psychological and/or behavioural state, e.g. spinal cord injury model: lower limb paralysis

- **Sick Animal** – Any animal that presents clinical signs reflecting a health and welfare concern – physiological, psychological, and/or behavioural - related or unrelated to experimental design