

Purpose / Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline visits by animal health professionals (hereto referred to a 'Visits') in support of the Post Approval Monitoring Program (PAM) associated with Western's Research Community. Visits will include the following:

- Facility visits
 - Animal Use Protocol visits
 - ACC directed evaluations
 - Field research reviews
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Rationale

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) supports the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine's *CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care* (2007), which outlines the critical role played by animal health professionals in ensuring that animal-based practices align with veterinary standards of care. Through regular, collegial Visits to areas where live animals are held and/or procedures are undertaken, and through direct engagement with associated stakeholders – Laboratory Animal Facility staff and animal-based scientists and their staff – animal health professionals provide essential support for ensuring optimal animal health and welfare are maintained across the animal ethics and care program.

Policy Statements

General

Visits must be undertaken in a manner as outlined within the Post Approval Monitoring Policy (POL-005), and the *Procedures for Visits by Animal Health Professionals* (PROC-020).

Visits must be documented; associated logs and/or reports must be centrally maintained for regulatory reporting purposes, and made regularly available to the ACC.

Facility Visits

All Laboratory Animal Facilities and Extra-Vivarium Spaces will be visited by an animal health professional at the frequency outlined within the PAM Risk Analysis Record.

Animal Use Protocol Visits

Either following initial AUP approval or at Annual Protocol Renewal, all AUPs must be assessed at minimum once during its full renewal cycle with reference to the PAM Risk Analysis Record; AUPs will be assessed using the risk analysis record and will require direct observation of associated procedures by an arms-length animal health professional.

ACC Directed Evaluations

AUPs requiring evaluations by animal health professionals will include Pilot Studies and may also include any AUPs based upon perceived risk to animal health and welfare, e.g. invasive and/or novel and/or unfamiliar procedures.

PIs undertaking Pilot Studies or having AUPs identified by the ACC as requiring veterinary observation and/or evaluation must provide advance notice to Institutional Veterinarians and ACC Office regarding the commencement of related animal procedures.

- PIs will facilitate Institutional Veterinarian observation of these procedures.
- Institutional Veterinarians must be actively engaged in monitoring and evaluation of experimental subjects during Pilot Studies, and in the identification and refinement of endpoints and monitoring sheets.

Field Research Reviews

Review of AUPs involving Field Research must be undertaken at minimum every four years.

In the event that on-site observation by an animal health professional is not feasible, a meeting will be arranged between the PI Field Researcher and the PAM Coordinator in order to determine AUP elements – procedures and/or equipment - that require review.

A PI Field Researcher must provide the ACC via the PAM Coordinator with video, photographic and/or other pictorial records of the following AUP elements:

- capture techniques,
- housing conditions,
- sedations/euthanasia,
- transportation,
- manual handling/restraint, and
- invasive procedures.

References

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine's *CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care* (2007)

Canadian Council on Animal Care. *Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees* (2006)

Revision History

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Author
00	08-10-20	New stand-alone policy; previously embedded in POL-005 PAM Program	LT