

POLICY 7.12 – Policy for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching

Policy Category:	Research
Subject:	Use of Animals in Research, Testing, Teaching and Display
Approving Authority:	Board of Governors
Responsible Officer:	Vice-President (Research)
Responsible Office:	Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Related Procedures:	Procedures for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing & Teaching
Related University Policies:	MAPP 7.0 – Academic Integrity in Research Activities MAPP 7.10 – Standardized Training in Animal Care and Use MAPP 7.15 – Post Approval Monitoring Program
Effective Date:	June 23, 2016
Supercedes:	September 26, 2006, November 26, 2009, November 22, 2012, November 26, 2015

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy and its associated procedures apply to all instances of research, testing, teaching and display involving animals at Western, its affiliated hospitals, affiliated university colleges and research institutes, to field research that involves more than simple observation (e.g. trapping, artificial provisioning), and to Principal Investigators (PIs) using animals owned by the public, and to all PIs and/or instructors and their staffs.

The policy outlines the responsibilities and accountabilities of university officers and the various committees and subcommittees established in accordance with the regulations of the Canadian Council on Animal Care ([CCAC](#)) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Failure to comply with this policy and its associated procedures may prevent approval of *Animal Use Protocols* (AUPs), and may result in the withdrawal of AUP approval by ACC. As warranted by the severity of circumstances, this may also include revoking University approval for animal-based research, testing, teaching and displaying, and notification of this decision to Department Chairs, Institute Heads, and appropriate granting and licensing agencies.

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II. POLICY

1. The University Council on Animal Care ([UCAC](#)), chaired by the Vice-President (Research), is responsible to Senate for all aspects of procurement, maintenance, use and ethical treatment of animals in research, testing, teaching and display as defined by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), hereafter referred to as “animals.” UCAC must ensure adequate institutional oversight according to the outlined procedures in this document, and as outlined within its *Terms of Reference*.
2. The Vice-President (Research) is the senior administrative officer of the University responsible for the care and use of animals at the University and its affiliated institutions - London Health Sciences Centre/Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Robarts Research Institute, Siebens-Drake Medical Research Institute, Huron University College, Kings University College, Brescia University College, Child and Parent Resource Institute, as outlined within the *Senior Administrator’s Terms of Reference* (see [Appendix 1](#)).
3. The institution’s Animal Care Committee (ACC) of UCAC, under the leadership of its Chair and Vice Chairs, is responsible to UCAC for ensuring that the care and use of animals associated with the University’s animal-based research, testing, teaching and display activities are in compliance with all Federal, Provincial, and University policy statutory requirements, regulations and guidelines, as outlined within its *Terms of Reference*.
4. The Department of Animal Care and Veterinary Services (ACVS), under the leadership of its Director and directly accountable to the Vice-President (Research), serves the University and its affiliated institutions, its associated committees, and the research community, by ensuring animal care and use meets all Federal, Provincial, and University policy statutory requirements, regulations, and guidelines, and by facilitating the research of scientists using CCAC-defined animal models.
5. ACVS, Institutional Compliance Officers, Animal Care Facility Supervisors, Principal Investigators, and their respective staffs share responsibility for the ongoing assessment and maintenance of ethically appropriate animal care and welfare.
6. Any Principal Investigator or instructor intending to use animals for research, testing, teaching or display in association with the University or its affiliates must be a University faculty member, an ACVS-veterinarian, or a LHSC-Lawson appointed scientist, unless otherwise approved by the ACC.

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Appendix 1



Institutional Senior Administrator Responsible for Western's Animal Care and Use Program Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Canadian Council on Animal Care's (CCAC) *policy statement for senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs* (2008),¹ requires that an institution have a single senior administrator ultimately responsible for ensuring appropriate animal care and use in partnership with institutional members and with the CCAC. While the institution ultimately bears responsibility for its animal care and use program through institutional leaders, the senior administrator is the individual responsible to coordinate efforts, ensure that all organizational responsibilities are met, and ensure the Institution provides adequate resources to fulfill its commitments.

As a signatory to the Tri-Agencies' "Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions", Western has committed to this obligation.

The senior administrator ultimately responsible for the Western Research Community's animal care and use program is Western's Vice President (Research). Other institutional leaders with shared accountability for supporting the Vice President (Research) in fulfilling these responsibilities include Deans, Vice-Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs/Directors.

Responsibilities

Western's senior administrator is responsible to ensure that:

- a) A CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice – is in place for all areas associated with animal-based science under the authority of Western's Animal Care Committee (ACC),
- b) At minimum one Animal Care Committee (ACC) is appropriately composed, structured and well-functioning in accordance with CCAC's policy statement on terms of reference for animal care committees; that this committee is provided with sufficient human resources to function appropriately and effectively,
- c) Appropriate animal care and use operations are in place to meet the institution's scientific goals of research, teaching and testing; appropriate and sufficient animal facilities are in place to accommodate the species and types of work to be undertaken,

¹ Canadian Council on Animal Care (2008) Retrieved from http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Senior_administrators.pdf

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- d) Sufficient, well-structured and knowledgeable veterinary and animal care staffs are in place to provide effective support to animal-based researchers within Western's Research Community; adequate resources are provided to these roles to support their continuing education and training specific to their fields,
- e) Animal care and use is conducted appropriately, according to institutional and CCAC policies and guidelines and the Animals for Research Act (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs-Ontario),
- f) Animal users are well-informed with regard to all aspects of Western's animal care and use program; animal users understand that animal use is a privilege granted conditionally upon adherence to all regulatory and institutional standards of animal care and use,
- g) A sound structure is in place to support solid pre- and post-approval monitoring programs that eliminates unnecessary barriers to animal-based research, that fosters effective communications between animal users, the ACC and veterinary and animal care staffs and that results in prompt resolution of concerns; in the event of serious differences of opinion that cannot be readily resolved between researchers and the ACC, the senior administrator will provide direct support to the ACC in order to seek prompt resolution that aligns with regulatory and institutional standards,
- h) Institutional measures are in place to protect those who may be exposed to animals from related hazards, including an occupational health and safety and a crisis management program,
- i) Western's Research Community appropriately prepares for and contributes to every CCAC assessment visit; key roles associated with the animal care and use program, including the senior administrator, are made available to respond to questions; the senior administrator acts as the main institutional contact with CCAC by receiving and sending all formal CCAC communications; comprehensive responses from the senior administrator are provided in a timely manner to address CCAC recommendations about institutional program deficiencies.