

Policy: Inclusion of Veterinary Technicians in Animal Use Protocols

Policy Number: POL-006

Version Number: 02

Category: Operations

Subject: Requirements for involvement of Veterinary Technicians in specific instances

Approving Authority: University Council on Animal Care

Responsible Office: Animal Care Committee

Related Procedures: Procedure for Requesting Exemption from the Inclusion of Veterinary Technicians in Animal Use Protocols

Approval Date: May 30, 2018

Effective Date: June 30, 2018

Revised: 8SEP2010; 11OCT2012

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline institutional requirements for directly involving a Veterinary Technician when undertaking specific procedures identified within Animal Use Protocols.

Rationale

According to CCAC's Policies and Prerequisites web page, one of three main requirements for obtaining and maintaining a Good Animal Practice (GAP) certificate is ensuring *"trained, qualified personnel in sufficient numbers to care for all groups of animals seven days a week."*¹

According to Section 17 of Ontario's *Animals for Research Act*, the Animal Care Committee (ACC) must ensure the prevention of unnecessary pain, oversee the standards of care relating to animal procedures, and ensure adequate qualifications and training associated with those directly involved in the care of animals.²

Scope

This policy applies to animal-based science activities associated with Western's Research Community.

¹ Canadian Council on Animal Care. Policies and Prerequisites. 28FEB2018. Retrieved from <https://www.ccac.ca/en/certification/about-certification/policies-and-prerequisites.html>

² Animals for Research Act. R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.22 28FEB2018 Retrieved from <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a22/v6#BK16>

Policy

Appropriately trained and experienced Veterinary Technicians must be directly involved in the following:

- 'D' or 'E' level AUPs involving dogs, cats, pigs, sheep, or NHPs with respect to:
 - Long and/or invasive surgical procedures;
 - Anesthetic induction, monitoring and recovery;
 - Long and/or difficult recoveries;
 - Multiple surgical procedures;
 - Multiple anaesthetics;
 - Post-procedure health monitoring;
- Instances where the Animal Care Committee (ACC) determines the risk to animal health and welfare to require a Veterinary Technician's direct involvement, e.g. recurring issues relating to animal health and welfare; and
- On a case-by-case basis, instances where the ACC identifies other AUPs requiring Veterinary Technician involvement.

Exemptions to the requirement for Veterinary Technicians, as outlined above, must be pre-approved by the ACC via submission of an Exemption Request Form.

Veterinary Technicians associated with this policy must:

- maintain animal records in accordance with the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy* (POL-003)
- for animals identified as Sick, undertake sick animal response in accordance with the *Sick Animal Response Policy* (POL-009) and *Procedures* (PRO-009), and
- for animal health and welfare Concerns that cannot be readily resolved between the Veterinary Technician and the PI, the concerned party must forward the concern to the ACC Executive, as per the *Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy* (POL-004) and *Procedures* (PROC-004).

Roles and Responsibilities

The Animal Care Committee, or its Executive, is responsible to

- Determine which Animal Use Protocols require direct Veterinary Technician involvement, as per this policy

The Veterinary Technician is responsible to

- Competently contribute animal health professional expertise to the research team as outlined within this policy and the specific AUP
- Maintain a high degree of veterinary technician skills
- Follow other related UCAC policies and ACC procedures
- Work collegially with the Principal Investigator to appropriately and promptly resolve any animal health and welfare Concerns identified by the Veterinary Technician

The Principal Investigator and other PI Staff/Students are responsible to

- Directly involve a Veterinary Technician as defined within this policy
- Work collegially with the Veterinary Technician to appropriately and promptly resolve any animal health and welfare Concerns identified by the Veterinary Technician

References

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

MAPP 7.15 – Post Approval Monitoring Program

MAPP 7.10 – Standardized Training in Animal Care and Use

University Council on Animal Care.

Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)

Sick Animal Response Policy (POL-009) and Procedures (PROC-009)

Concerns Identification, Project Refinement, and Corrective Response Policy (POL-004) and Procedures (PROC-004)

Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Animals for Research Act. R.S.O. 1990

Revision History

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Author
01	10-11-2012	Updated 'criteria;' 3. Add 'exemption process' and 'Exemption Request Form'	LT / TDL
02	30-05-2018	Created policy statements; Add Definitions and Roles and Responsibilities and References	LT