

Policy: Sick Animal Response

Policy Number: POL-009

Version Number: 03

Category: Post Approval Monitoring

Subject: Sick animal response in any areas where animals are involved in animal-based science activities within Western's Research Community

Approving Authority: University Council on Animal Care

Responsible Office: Animal Care and Veterinary Services

Related Procedures: Procedures for Sick Animal Response

Approval Date: May 30, 2018

Effective Date: June 30, 2018

Previous Approval Dates: March 18, 2015; October 7, 2015; May 5, 2016

Revised:

Purpose

To establish a standardized and appropriate program for responding to Sick animals.

Rationale

Institutional Veterinarians are mandated by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) via the *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions*, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) via the *Animals for Research Act*, University Council on Animal Care (UCAC) via Western University's policies and the Animal Care Committee (ACC) to apply their expertise in veterinary animal medicine in establishing and maintaining the animal health program associated with animal-based science within Western's Research Community. CCAC, having adopted the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine's (CALAM) *Standards of Veterinary Care (2007)*, expects these standards to be in place in order to receive and maintain our institution's *Certificate of GAP*. Sick Animal Response (SAR), a stepwise framework in responding to animal health and welfare concerns, requires a consistent approach that aligns with regulatory standards by ensuring an appropriate response to sick animals by competent and accountable persons.

Scope

This policy applies to all animal-based science within Western's Research Community.

Policy

Sick Animal Identification

Individuals responsible for daily animal health observations must be competent in assessing the well-being of animals under their care.

Animal Care (AC) Facility Supervisors and Principal Investigators, or their designates, must promptly notify Institutional Veterinarians on concerns regarding an animal's health, behaviour and/or well-being and provide updates on the status of animals undergoing veterinary treatment.

Principal Investigators, AC Facility Supervisors and their designates must ensure up-to-date emergency contact information is readily available within the animal room at all times.

Diagnosis and Intervention Planning

Institutional Veterinarians are ultimately responsible for conducting diagnoses and determining appropriate treatments for Sick Animals.

AC Facility Supervisors and/or Principal Investigators must directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian in diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up.

Institutional Veterinarians must make reasonable effort to discuss any animal health and welfare concerns with the Principal Investigator to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Diagnostic laboratory services must be available and used as determined by the Institutional Veterinarian.¹

Intervention

Institutional Veterinarians must have authority to treat, remove from a study, or euthanize any animal if deemed necessary based on the professional judgment of the veterinarian.²

Sick Animals must undergo a treatment regime commensurate with their condition as outlined by CALAM's *Standards of Veterinary Care* (2007).

For Critical Animals, an Institutional Veterinarian must ensure immediate intervention by treating or euthanizing an animal based on his/her professional judgment.

Institutional Veterinarians may authorize SAR Designates to administer treatments and follow-up on clinical cases in a timely manner.

Animal Care (AC) Facility Supervisors, Principal Investigators and SAR Designates must follow Institutional Veterinarian-approved SAR Algorithms when intervening on behalf of an Institutional Veterinarian.

Follow-Up

Sick Animal identification, diagnosis, treatments and all associated Animal Records must be documented as per the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)* and made readily available for review by Institutional Veterinarians and regulators.

¹ CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care (2007). P. 9

² See CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care (2007) P.5 <http://calam-acmal.org/pdfs/StandardsVetCare.pdf>

All adverse events to animals and associated interventions involving Sick Animals, as noted above, must be disclosed within the *Animal Use Protocol* at Annual Protocol Renewal and at an AUP's Full Renewal.

Principal Investigators, AC Facility Supervisors and/or their designate(s) must immediately inform an Institutional Veterinarian of all instances of animal morbidity and animal mortality; must record all animal mortalities and morbidities in distinct logs to be made available at all times to Institutional Veterinarians, ACC members, and regulatory inspectors; and must submit these logs to the ACC monthly via the AC Facility Supervisor.

All bodies relating to animal morbidity and mortality must be held for post-mortem examination by an Institutional Veterinarian, unless directed otherwise by an Institutional Veterinarian.

Any animal ongoing non-critical health concerns that cannot be readily resolved through collaborative interactions between an Institutional Veterinarian, the Principal Investigator, and/or an Animal Care (AC) Facility Supervisor must be forwarded to the ACC Executive as per the *Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy* (POL-004) and *Procedures* (PROC-004).

Roles & Responsibilities

Keys to the success of this program are effective collaborative, collegial communications and commitment by all parties to act in good faith.

Institutional Veterinarians are responsible to

- diagnose and determine appropriate treatments for clinical cases
- ensure all treatment regimes are commensurate with their condition as outlined by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine's (CALAM's) *Standards of Veterinary Care*
- develop animal health monitoring sheets to establish animal model-appropriate assessment parameters that align with *CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care*
- provide written SAR Algorithms containing diagnosis and treatment plans to their SAR designates
- make a reasonable effort to discuss any animal health concerns with the Principal Investigator to determine the most appropriate course of action
- collegially work together with the PI and their staff, SAR Designates and Animal Care (AC) staff in developing and administering treatments to the animals under their care
- authorize competent designates to administer treatments and follow-up on clinical cases in a timely manner

SAR Designates are responsible to

- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian in directed or Critical Animals
- aid the Institutional Veterinarian in diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up of Sick Animals
- promptly notify Institutional Veterinarians and PIs on concerns regarding an animal's health, behaviour and/or well-being and provide updates on the status of animals undergoing veterinary treatment
- collegially work together with the Institutional Veterinarians, PIs (and their Staff), AC Staff and the AC Facility Supervisor in developing and administering treatments to the animals under their care

- as authorized by an Institutional Veterinarian, oversee or administer treatments and follow-up on clinical cases in a timely manner
- effectively communicate with the Institutional Veterinarian, PIs (and their Staff), AC Staff and AC Facility Supervisors regarding Sick Animals under their care
- follow appropriate SAR notification and flagging systems
- follow institutional veterinary-approved SAR Algorithms when intervening directly with Sick Animals
- ensure documentation associated with Sick Animal identification, diagnosis, treatments and all associated Animal Records aligns with the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)* and is made readily available for review by Institutional Veterinarians and regulators
- forward to the ACC Executive any non-critical ongoing animal health concerns that cannot be readily resolved through collaborative interactions between an Institutional Veterinarian and AC Facility Supervisor as per the *Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy (POL-004)* and *Procedures (PROC-004)*

Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible to

- ensure all adverse events to animals and associated interventions involving Sick Animals, as noted above, are disclosed within the Animal Use Protocol at Annual Protocol Renewal and at an AUP's Full Renewal
- ensure competently trained PI staff members responsible for daily animal health observations to assess the well-being of animals under their approved AUP
- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian in directed or Critical Animals
- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian and/or SAR Designate in Sick Animal diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up
- promptly notify Institutional Veterinarians and/or SAR Designates on concerns regarding an animal's health, behaviour and/or well-being and provide updates on the status of animals undergoing veterinary treatment
- collegially work together with the Institutional Veterinarians, SAR Designates and AC Facility Supervisor in developing and administering treatments to the animals under their approved AUP
- as authorized by an Institutional Veterinarian, oversee or administer treatments and follow-up on clinical cases in a timely manner
- follow Institutional veterinary-approved SAR Algorithms when intervening directly with Sick Animals
- forward to the ACC Executive any non-critical ongoing animal health concerns that cannot be readily resolved through collaborative interactions between an Institutional Veterinarian and AC Facility Supervisor as per the *Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy (POL-004)* and *Procedures (PROC-004)*
- ensure documentation associated with sick animal identification, diagnosis, treatments and all associated Animal Records aligns with the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)* and is made readily available for review by Institutional Veterinarians and regulators
- unless directed by an Institutional Veterinarian, hold all bodies associated with Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality for post-mortem examination by an Institutional Veterinarian or designate

- record all Animal Morbidity and Mortality in distinct logs to be made available at all times and upon request to Institutional Veterinarians, ACC members, and regulatory inspectors, and to be forwarded to the AC Facility Supervisor for inclusion in monthly reporting to the ACC

Animal Care Facility Supervisors are responsible to

- ensure AC staff responsible for daily animal health observations to assess the well-being of animals under their care are competent
- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian in the diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up for Directed and Critical Animals
- promptly notify Institutional Veterinarians and/or SAR Designates on concerns regarding an animal's health, behaviour and/or well-being and related trends, and provide updates on the status of animals undergoing veterinary treatment
- collegially work together with the PI, SAR Designates and Institutional Veterinarians in developing and overseeing or administering treatments to the animals under their care
- forward to the ACC Executive any non-critical ongoing animal health Concerns that cannot be readily resolved through collaborative interactions between an Institutional Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator as per the *Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy (POL-004)*
- ensure documentation associated with sick animal identification, diagnosis, treatments and all associated Animal Records aligns with the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)* and is made readily available for review by Institutional Veterinarians
- unless directed by an Institutional Veterinarian, hold all bodies associated with Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality for post-mortem examination by an Institutional Veterinarian or designate
- record all Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality in distinct logs to be made available at all times and upon request to Institutional Veterinarians, ACC members, and regulatory inspectors, and forward to the ACC in monthly reporting to the ACC

Animal Care & PI Staff are responsible to

- competently perform daily animal health observations to assess the well-being of animals under their care
- recognize normal and abnormal clinical signs of the animals under their care
- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian in the diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up for Critical and Directed Animals
- directly involve an Institutional Veterinarian and/or SAR Designate in Sick Animal diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up
- promptly notify Institutional Veterinarians and/or SAR Designates on concerns regarding an animal's health, behaviour and/or well-being and provide updates on the status of animals undergoing veterinary treatment
- collegially work together with the Institutional Veterinarians, SAR Designates and AC Facility Supervisor in developing and administering treatments to Sick Animals under their care
- as authorized by an Institutional Veterinarian, oversee or administer treatments and follow-up on clinical cases in a timely manner
- follow the instructions of the Institutional Veterinarian for the care of Sick Animals

- ensure documentation associated with sick animal identification, diagnosis, treatments and all associated Animal Records aligns with the approved AUP and *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-002)* and is made readily available for review by Institutional Veterinarians
- inform supervisor of Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality
- unless directed by an Institutional Veterinarian, hold all bodies associated with Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality for post-mortem examination by an Institutional Veterinarian or designate
- record all Animal Morbidity and Animal Mortality in distinct logs to be made available at all times and upon request to Institutional Veterinarians, ACC members, and regulatory inspectors, and to be forwarded to the AC Facility Supervisor for inclusion in monthly reporting to the ACC

References

- Tri-Agency – Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) –Animals for Research Act
- Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine - CALAM Standards of Veterinary Care (2007)
- University Senate
 - MAPP 7.12 – Policy for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching
 - MAPP 7.15 - Post Approval Monitoring Program
- University Council on Animal Care
 - Animal Use Protocols Policy - POL-002
 - Animal Care and Use Records Policy – POL-003
 - Concerns Identification, Project Refinement and Corrective Response Policy - POL-004

Revision History

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Author
00	03-18-15	New Policy	LT
01	10-07-15	Updated terms and definitions	LT
02	05-05-2016	Highlight authority of ACVS Vets to lead SAR program, e.g. ‘treat, remove from study, euthanize’, use diagnostic services; vet response to ‘Critical Animals;’ reqmt for emergency contact info within room; competence for animal assessment; add ref. to reqmts for morbidity/mortality records; Add expand Rationale; Update multiple Definitions, e.g. ‘Sick’ ‘Critical’ animals; and Roles & Responsibilities	LT
03	05-30-2018	Add ‘SAR Designate’ Roles & Responsibilities; group policy statements under sub-headings; Remove definitions	LT