



## Purpose / Scope

This policy provides a framework for the establishment and maintenance of a post approval monitoring (PAM) program for all animal-based science within Western and its affiliates.

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## Rationale

The Canadian Council on Animal Care's (CCAC) Policy Statement for Senior Administrators Responsible for Animal Care and Use Programs states that, "each institution must establish procedures for post-approval monitoring of animal use protocols and must define the roles and responsibilities of the members of the animal care and use program in the monitoring process." <sup>1</sup>

Sections 16 and 17 of the Animals for Research Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.22 require the Animal Care Committee to establish "procedures for the prevention of unnecessary pain including the use of anaesthetics and analgesics." <sup>2</sup>

Regular onsite presence facilitates a proactive rather than reactive approach to animal-based science compliance and best practices advancement and fosters a collaborative approach to CCAC- and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)-mandated post approval monitoring.

Ongoing arms-length presence by ACC members and their delegates is required to

- facilitate effective communication;
  - provide meaningful support for all involved stakeholders;
  - help ensure that animal environment, health and welfare issues do not arise and/or are promptly addressed;
  - identify and quickly resolve Concerns, *Animal Use Protocol* (AUP) drift and/or animal facility concerns; and
  - address questions from Laboratory Animal Facility Supervisors and animal-based scientists.
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## Policy Statements

Following the approval of an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) by the Animal Care Committee (ACC), the animal-based scientist must endeavour to undertake his/her AUP in practice as approved in principle

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Council on Animal Care. Policy Statement for Senior Administrators Responsible for Animal Care and Use Programs (2008). Appendix IV, Section 8. Retrieved on 08APR2024 from [https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Senior\\_administrators.pdf](https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Senior_administrators.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Government of Ontario.

and support the oversight of his/her animal care and use by arms-length designates of the Animal Care Committee (ACC), Institutional Veterinarians and their designates.

Post approval monitoring must be undertaken using a collaborative approach by all responsible parties to identify and correct all variances from approved AUPs, institutional policies and procedures and/or current veterinary standards, and to prevent and/or relieve unnecessary animal pain and suffering.

- Any issues identified during PAM activities must be communicated and resolved by those responsible in a timely manner.

Post approval monitoring must be undertaken by arms-length designates of the ACC, who must ensure that all animal holding and use areas, including procedure rooms, are visited with a frequency proportional to risks to animal health and welfare.

- ACC Leaders, Institutional Veterinarians, and members of the AECF Compliance Team must have unrestricted access at all times to all areas where animals are held or used.

Post approval monitoring must be undertaken citywide using a number of approaches, including activities involving trained, experienced staff who regularly interact with live animals under their care during:

- Regular interactions between ACC members and research personnel;
- Model development and refinement support from animal health professionals;
- Animal procurement oversight, per the *Research Animal Procurement Policy (POL-008)*;
- Daily health checks by trained Animal Care staff, per the *Animal Husbandry Policy (POL-010)*;
- Sick Animal Response per the *Sick Animal Response Policy (POL-009)*;
- Animal health professional visits per the *PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals Policy (POL-020)*;
- Animal welfare assessments per the *Animal Welfare Assessments Policy (POL-021)*;
- Annual Renewal reviews per the *Animal Use Protocols-Annual Reviews Policy (POL-002-B)*;
- ACC Site Visits per the *ACC Site Visits Policy (POL-019)*; and
- Response to Concerns per the *Concerns Policy (POL-004)*.

The degree of risk to animal health and welfare must be outlined within the *Risk Analysis Record*, which will be maintained by the AECF Compliance Team and reviewed annually by the ACC Executive to ensure it reflects current risk levels and locations.

PAM activities must be documented by accountable parties; associated logs and/or reports must be centrally maintained for regulatory reporting purposes, and made readily available to the ACC, the Vice President (Research) and external regulators upon request.

- Due to the multifaceted nature of PAM activities, personnel responsible for undertaking PAM activities will share related information with other accountable parties having citywide responsibilities, e.g., institutional veterinarians.

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## References



- Canadian Council on Animal Care
  - Policy Statement for Senior Administrators Responsible for Animal Care and Use Programs
  - Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees
- Western’s Senate
  - MAPP 7.12 – The Animal Ethics and Care Program
- Animal Care Committee policies and procedures

### Revision History

Version	Date <i>dd-mm-yyyy</i>	Description of Changes	Author
00	09-04-2020	Newly Policy derived from MAPP 7.15 and POL-005 Continuing Care Visits policies.	LT
01	08-10-2020	Updates to further delineate PAM program elements, e.g. inclusion of Annual Renewal reviews, ref. to new separate Animal Health Professional Visits, ACC Site Visits policies.	LT
02	13-06-2024	Add POL-021 to list of PAM elements; add duty to share information; expand access for AECP Compliance Team members	LT, SG, AE, PB