Western's Animal Care Committee













External Regulatory Bodies





Animal
Ethics &
Care
Program
Oversight





Internal Governance The 'Rules'
Laws
Policies
Guidelines





ACC

Member

Roles

Western's Animal Care Committee (ACC)

Equal voice

Consensus-driven decision-making

ACC Chair / Vice Chairs

Veterinarians

Animal-Based Scientists

Animal Health Professionals

Community Reps

Students

Non-Animal User Faculty

ACC Coordinators



Western
Research
Animal Care Committee
Terms of Reference

1. ACC Responsibilities and Authority

As defined within the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)'s Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees, and acting under the authority of the senior administrator responsible for the animal ethics and care program within Western's Research Community – the Vice President (Research) – the Animal Care Committee (ACC) is responsible:

Fulfills role of CCAC's 'working' animal care committee

Delegated authority by VPR to intervene to relieve unnecessary animal pain or suffering



ACC Responsibilities

The ACC is responsible for overseeing all animal care and use undertaken by members of the institution and ensuring compliance with institutional and CCAC standards. CCAC Policy Statement for Senior Administrators. Sect. V. P.4

Responsibilities per CCAC's Terms of Reference for ACCs

Appropriate care of animals -Delegated authority by VPR to intervene to relieve unnecessary animal pain or suffering Policies & Procedures creation, implementation & adherence with external regulations for:

For ALL activities relating to animals, animal care & animal facility operations

SOPs aligned with veterinary standards that mitigate unnecessary pain, distress, stress, ensure analgesia / anesthesia, post-op care, suitable environment

AUP content, ethics review process & frequency alignment with external regulations & guidelines
Arms-length merit reviews prior to AUP approval

Institutional Animal User Training / Ethics Training / Research Community Education Post Approval Monitoring
Program
Animal-based activities align
with approved AUP
Practice = Principle

Human Safety Program

Crisis Management Program Comprehensive / Integrated

Annual ACC Site Visits

Concerns Response Appeals Mechanism

Face-to-face, documented ACC meetings with consensus-driven decision-making

Internal Governance

ACC Working Groups

Executive

- Weekly meetings
- Concerns response
- AUP Major Mod Reviews
- Reports Reviews, e.g., ACC Site Visits, Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Facility Supervisors

- Monthly meetings
- Best-practice sharing
- ACC policies/procedures/citywide SOP reviews

AUP Review

- Online review / approval
- AUP Major / Minor Mod Reviews

Training Exemption

• Online review of requests for exemption from IAUTP delivered Core Skills hands-on training

Executive

- be apprised of external regulatory requirements and develop plans to ensure their translation and transmission to institutional policies, procedures, and stakeholders;
- lead in the development and/or review of institutional policies and procedures, including Standard Operating Procedures;
- facilitate two-way communications between the ACC and the animal-based science community at Western and affiliates to educate and enhance collaboration;
- act as an AUP Review Working Group to perform AUP reviews, as needed, in accordance with the AUP Review Working Group Terms of Reference;
- act as front-line responders to Concerns, Reportable Animal Welfare Incidents, and Animal Welfare Assessments brought to its attention, as outlined within related policies;

- review all Animal Care Committee (ACC) Site Visit reports prior to full ACC distribution; provide direction regarding recommendations and ensure follow-up, as applicable;
- review reports associated with and impacting the Animal Ethics and Care Program, e.g., post approval monitoring, animal user training programs and other strategic initiatives; develop recommendations and action plans, as applicable;
- provide direction and support to other ACC working groups;
- provide leadership in preparation for and in response to regulatory assessments and associated reports; and
- notify and engage the full ACC of its decisions and actions, as appropriate.



ACC Working Group Responsibilities

Facility Supervisors

- annually allocate two of its members to assume the role of Laboratory Animal Facility Supervisor Representatives (Category 6).
- be apprised of external regulatory requirements associated with Facility operations and husbandry practices.
- compile and/or develop associated concerns, questions, and/or recommendations and relay them to the ACC Executive.
- review draft institutional policies and procedures applicable to their roles.
- share best practices with one another; support one another in problemsolving.
- as applicable, advise the Executive of any Concerns not readily resolvable, including Reportable Animal Welfare Incidents, as per the Concerns Policy (POL-004).



ACC Working Group Responsibilities

AUP Review

- Perform ethical review of AUP Modifications requiring Full Review as per the Animal Use Protocols Policy-Modifications (POL-002-C) and AUP Review Processes for Principal Investigators (GUID-002).
- As appropriate, AUP forms undergoing Delegated Review may be reviewed by this Working Group.
- As requested by the Executive, perform ethical review of full AUPs requiring interim review/approval.
- As requested by the reviewing Veterinarian, perform ethical review of other forms, e.g., Annual Renewals.



ACC Working Group Responsibilities

Training Exemption

 Review 'Exemption Request Forms' as per Procedures for the Institutional Animal User Training Program (PROC-017); recommend training requirements.

Office of the ACC Roles & Responsibilities

