

Research and Teaching Involving Animals	
Category: Academic	Approval Date: June 29, 2021
Policy Owner: Vice President, Academic and Research	Effective Date: July 1, 2021
Policy Administrator: Associate Vice President, Teaching, Learning and Research	Review Period: Every 3 Years
Recommended by: Deans' Council	
Associated Documents Research and Teaching Involving Animals Procedures Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (2016) Memorandum of Understanding with Olds College Olds College, Research Involving Animals Policy	

PURPOSE

To establish the conditions for use of live non-human vertebrate animals and cephalopods for teaching, research, or testing under the aegis of Red Deer College.

To ensure the ethical and humane use and responsible care of live animals in research, teaching, and testing.

To establish the highest possible standards in the care, well-being, quality of life, and use of live animals in accordance with applicable laws, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines and policy statements, and the *Tri-Agency Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions*.

This Policy does not apply to dogs used for law enforcement purposes, qualified service animals, and certified therapy animals.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, and contracted partners.

POLICY

1. Red Deer College (RDC) is committed to providing humane treatment and care of animals. In compliance with regulations associated with the *Animal Protection Act* (Alberta), all use of animals for teaching, research, or testing at RDC shall, at a minimum, comply with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) documents listed in the [Animal Protection Regulations](#).
2. The Vice President, Academic and Research oversees the College's

- Animal Care Program and procedures.
3. RDC will participate in the CCAC programs and maintain a Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice[®].
 4. When animals are held on-site or there are animal facilities at RDC, this policy will need to be revised, along with the MOU with Olds College. Care for on-site animals will require compliance with the following required components of the CCAC's Animal Care Program:
 - a. Comprehensive Veterinary Program;
 - b. Continuing Education Program for the Veterinarians and Animal Care Staff; and
 - c. Appropriate Animal Facilities.RDC will also be required to seek re-certification from the CCAC if animals are kept on site.
 5. RDC, in compliance with CCAC requirements, has established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as the only authority on campus to make animal use approvals. The institution and all College staff and contractors who work with animals must work with the IACUC to ensure that all animal users and caregivers are informed of and comply with institutional animal care and use policies and procedures.
 6. The IACUC has the authority and responsibility to:
 - a. ensure that any objectionable procedures be stopped if, in consultation with the veterinarian, the IACUC considers that unnecessary pain and distress is being experienced by any animal;
 - b. ensure that any use of animals which causes the animals to experience excess unforeseen pain and distress be stopped;
 - c. ensure that an animal be humanely killed if, in consultation with the veterinarian, the IACUC feels that pain or distress caused to the animal cannot be alleviated;
 - d. ensure monitoring protocols for compliance post-approval; and
 - e. report any infractions to the appropriate immediate supervisor and RDC's Vice President, Academic and Research.
 7. RDC supports the work of the IACUC and appoints an Animal Research Coordinator to ensure that animal use protocols are well managed and committee functions are performed.
 8. The Chair of the IACUC and the associated veterinarian will be allowed access at all times to all areas where animals are held or used at Red Deer College.
 9. RDC researchers and faculty have the responsibility to follow the protocol review process and the animal care procedures established by the IACUC. Instructors shall be responsible for student adherence to the animal care procedures established by the IACUC. Animal use that contravenes this policy constitutes non-compliance and may represent research misconduct.

RELATED POLICIES

[Academic Freedom Policy](#)

[Workplace Learning Policy](#)

[Health & Safety Policy](#)

[Integrity in Research and](#)

DEFINITIONS

Animal: any living non-human vertebrate, and higher invertebrate with well-developed nervous systems (e.g. cephalopods), including free-living embryos.

Animal Care Program: a requirement for obtaining a Certificate of Good Animal Practice (GAP) from the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The program includes:

- an institutional animal care and use committee;
- process for scientific merit review and pedagogical merit review;
- a comprehensive veterinary program;
- a continuing education program for the veterinarian(s) and animal care staff;
- a training program for researchers and instructors;
- a crisis management program;
- an occupational health and safety program; and
- appropriate animal facilities, if animals are held.

Animal Use Protocol (AUP): the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (ACC) mandatory animal ethics form that contains details of an AUP holder's intended live animal use, which must be reviewed and approved by the ACC in advance of animal-based science activities.

Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC): the national peer review agency responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the care and use of animals used in research, teaching and testing throughout Canada on behalf of Tri-Agency and the Canadian public; responsible for developing national policies and guidelines, assessing research facilities' compliance with these standards, and administering the Certificate of Good Animal Practice (GAP) to compliant facilities.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: the local institutional animal care and use committee (ACC) set up by each participating institution according to the Canadian Council on Animal Care policy statement on terms of reference for animal care committees. Institutional ACC's are responsible for overseeing all aspects of animal care and use, working with animal users, animal care personnel and the institutional administration.