



## Animal Care Committee Guideline

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Date Revised: -

# Veterinary Services to Animal Utilization Protocols and Animal Facilities

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## Guideline

### **Rationale:**

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and the Animals for Research Act of Ontario (ARA) clearly specify the requirements for veterinary supervision of animals either while subject to an approved animal use protocol (AUP), or while housed in approved research facilities. To clarify any uncertainty that might be apparent in current University of Guelph animal care procedures and policies, the Animal Care Committee (ACC) would like to suggest the following team approach to ensuring appropriate veterinary supervision, care and access:

### **The Team:**

- 1) **Principal Investigator (PI).** The principal investigator has the primary responsibility for care of animals being used under an approved AUP. It is anticipated that the PI or delegate, is trained and prepared to deal with all and any expected aspects of managing the AUP.
- 2) **Designated Veterinarian (DV).** The designated veterinarian acts as a consultant to the PI in the development of an appropriate AUP and, as necessary, during the execution of the AUP. In this latter context, the DV provides for that veterinary care and advice required by the PI in response to unforeseen health/welfare complications and as required by policies stemming from the CCAC, ARA and the local ACC. Such service must include a willingness to assist with decision-making regarding the treatment, withdrawal or immediate euthanasia of animals used in the protocol (based on their suitability for future data/alleviation of suffering).
- 3) **Facility Veterinarian (FV).** The facility veterinarian is designated via the Vice-President Research and acts as a consultant to the facility manager in ensuring that the facilities and standard animal care protocols are in accordance with the requirements of the CCAC, ARA and local ACC. The FV and facility manager work together to provide the best possible environment and animal condition so that the work under the AUP can proceed. Once the animals/space are/is assigned to an AUP, first responsibility for veterinary care will transfer to the PI and the DV.

**Operation of the Team:**

- 1) In many circumstances, it might be expected that the DV and FV are the same veterinarian, respecting the separate roles.
- 2) If the PI is a veterinarian, this does not alter the requirement for an appropriate DV or FV.

In the absence of the PI, the DV can order a cessation of work, or removal, treatment or euthanasia of animals under the AUP. In the absence of the PI and DV, the FV, or his/her designate assumes these responsibilities.

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**Guideline approved by the University of Guelph Animal Care Committee on: January 2008**