



## Animal Care Committee Guideline

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Date Revised: -

# Use of Vertebrates and Cephalopods in Teaching

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## **Guideline**

1. In keeping with the University Animal Care Policy, an Animal Utilization Protocol (AUP) must be submitted for approval by the Animal Care Committee (ACC) for all teaching or teaching laboratory exercises which require the use of animals (alive or euthanized) as part of an exercise or project.
  - For all undergraduate courses where routine class exercises and any special projects involve the use of live animals or animals euthanized for tissue harvesting, the instructor in charge must submit an AUP for each course, on a 4 year basis, for approval by the ACC. Annual renewals are required. This AUP application must be submitted and approved before animals may be used for teaching exercises.
  - For fourth year and graduate courses, in which students might design their own projects calling for use of live animals or fresh animal tissue, an AUP must be submitted for each project by the instructor in charge of the course for approval by the ACC. The graduate students are required to complete the online animal modules as well as relevant hands-on courses offered by the Animal Care Services.
2. Every effort must be made to avoid mishandling of animals used for instructional purposes. Adequate training must be given, as well as on-site supervision of students during contact time. When large domestic farm animals are to be moved in and out of pens, elevated penning should be avoided. If this is not possible, guards must be mounted on the sides of ramps.
3. Responsibility for training and supervision of the students using animals lies with the instructor in charge of the course.
4. Housing and standards of care and use for all laboratory and wild animals used in teaching must comply with standards set for that species or group as set out in the Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines, as well as the University of Guelph Animal Care Policy and the Animals for Research Act (Ontario).

5. When animals are used as live demonstrations in lectures, laboratories or displays, instructors must conform to the following:
  - Animals must be protected from undue disturbances.
  - Hazardous species must be secured against escape or tampering and appropriate warnings must be posted. Hazardous animals must not be kept for display in the laboratory any longer than necessary and be under the supervision of a qualified instructor at all times.
  - Laboratory teaching which involves any intervention in the animal, including euthanasia, must conform to the following:

For First, Second & Third Year Courses:

- All invasive procedures should be avoided in these lower level courses.
  - Anesthesia or euthanasia should be done by the instructor or animal technician who is properly trained in the techniques being used.
  - Only acute procedures should be performed at this level.
  - The ACC recommends that frogs used in undergraduate courses be pithed by experienced laboratory technicians. Only under exceptional circumstances should students be allowed to perform this procedure, i.e. have considerable past experience or prior adequate pre-instruction and individual supervision throughout the procedure.
  - Recovery surgery should only be performed if no acute techniques will serve the intended purpose. Animals must be monitored during and after recovery procedures until the animal has regained normal activity. Appropriate post-operative analgesics must be provided.
6. Teaching exercises should be planned so as to minimize the numbers of animals used for invasive procedures. Special attention should be given to the CCAC's "3R's", replacement, reduction, and refinement, in devising teaching exercises that use the minimal number of animals necessary. See CCAC <http://www.ccac.ca/en/alternatives/index.html>. The numbers of students should be kept to a level that can be properly supervised by the instructor. Where possible, animals and animal tissue should be shared among lab sections or courses. Whenever possible, animals and animal tissue should be shared among students within a laboratory rather than each individual student using a separate animal or animal preparation.
  7. Live animals obtained from a University facility, purchased through the University, or collected in the field as a part of a University course, must be maintained in a registered animal holding facility on the University premises, either on campus or at a field site. No such animals may be housed in a private dwelling.
  8. Courses in which collection of wild animals is performed should conform to the following:
    - All collection must be done under the immediate supervision of the instructor
    - For fourth year and graduate courses, students may design and conduct their own collection studies provided that they have received adequate training, been properly instructed and that the project has been approved by the ACC. All collection must be done in full compliance with

applicable Federal and Provincial legislation.

- It is not acceptable to collect and/or kill wild animals solely in order to demonstrate techniques for specimen preparation. Existing material, such as euthanized laboratory animals and accidentally killed wild animals should be used whenever possible.

#### 9. Injured or Sick Animals

If moderate to severe injury occurs to teaching animals (this would include any injury, trauma, discomfort or distress that would be considered more than a superficial event and/or affects animal behaviour adversely; grade 3 or worse lameness, broken bone(s), injury requiring multiple sutures at treatment, puncture wounds involving eyes or other body organs, swellings that are debilitating, i.e. affecting over one third of a limb, severe depression or lethargy, complete anorexia over 1 day's duration, prolonged lateral recumbency over 1 day's duration, etc. then:

Primary consideration must be given to the animal. If medical treatment cannot be instituted to correct the medical or surgical situation, including analgesics to alleviate pain, then euthanasia must be performed immediately;

- The use of analgesics must not be curtailed because of withdrawal times of the drugs or the need to salvage the carcass for monetary gain. Primary consideration always goes to the animal;
- The ACC must be informed of 1) any moderate or severe injuries that occur in instructional laboratories due to student or instructor handling problems, 2) the action taken to alleviate animal suffering and ensure that appropriate action was taken on behalf of the animal. An Animal Incident Report should be completed. Form is available on the Animal Care Services website: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/forms\\_policies\\_procedures/animal.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/forms_policies_procedures/animal.shtml)
- The instructor must consult with the Attending Veterinarian, or designate, as to the appropriate treatment for the animal(s).

10. If animals are donated to the University which have moderate to severe disease conditions involving metabolic or other disease, and/or injuries as outlined under number 9, primary consideration must be given to the animal(s). If medical treatment cannot be instituted to correct the medical, surgical or injury problem, including analgesics given to alleviate pain or discomfort, then the animal must be euthanized immediately. Animals must not be kept any longer than is necessary and must be euthanized as soon as the educational needs of the students are met or the animal cannot be kept comfortable.

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**Guideline approved by the University of Guelph Animal Care Committee on: Feb 20, 2009**