



## Animal Care Committee Guideline

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# Designated Veterinarian on AUP – Role and Responsibility

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## **Background**

This guideline outlines the role and responsibility of the Designated Veterinarian listed in the Animal Utilization Protocol (AUP) and applies to all AUPs for research, teaching and display at the University of Guelph.

## **Guideline**

### **Responsibility**

The Principal Investigator/Instructor (PI) enlists the services of the Designated Veterinarian for a project as it is the responsibility of the PI to assure that appropriate standards of veterinary care are provided for all animals involved in the project.

### *Role of the Designated Veterinarian*

1. The **Designated Veterinarian** (previously 'Attending Veterinarian') is defined in the AUP, Section #1- Personnel, as *'the veterinarian who will be attending to the animal health during this project'*; therefore must be a licensed veterinarian and have adequate expertise in the species to be used under the protocol.
2. To avoid any perception of conflict of interest, the Principal Investigator/Instructor (PI) or other members of the research/instructional team should not assume the role of Designated Veterinarian.
3. The Designated Veterinarian must be familiar with the project documentation, including the approved AUP and related Renewal/Amendment/s, Animal Care Committee's (ACC) approval letter/s, and the Assessment score sheet (if applicable).

### *Areas of Responsibility*

When assuming the role of the Designated Veterinarian he/she agrees to:

1. Identify and give advice on biohazardous materials and zoonoses associated with the project.
2. Be familiar with the project's assessment score sheet (if applicable) in regards to:
  - 2.1. observation of clinical signs or other parameters
  - 2.2. frequency of observations
  - 2.3. emergency veterinary care

3. Provide veterinary care and advice throughout the project and liaise with other veterinarians e.g. facility veterinarian or other clinical veterinarians, to optimize animal care. This will include:
  - 3.1. clinical treatments
  - 3.2. troubleshooting in the event of unexpected outcomes
  - 3.3. withdrawal and/or immediate euthanasia of an animal. NOTE: in an emergency situation and in the absence of the PI, the Designated Veterinarian, or ACC (Chair, and Director of ACS) can order a cessation of work, or removal, treatment, or euthanasia of animals in the AUP
4. Participate in Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) including:
  - 4.1. monitoring distress in animals
  - 4.2. address significant deviations from the approved protocol in delivery of anesthesia or analgesia, medical or surgical procedures, or study endpoints.
5. Participate in the development of the AUP and animal model therein, including but not limited to:
  - 5.1. anesthesia and analgesia regime
  - 5.2. medical and surgical procedures
  - 5.3. endpoints, i.e. humane intervention points and euthanasia
  - 5.4. provide emergency contact information and make arrangements for veterinary coverage in the event of scheduled absences
6. Provide additional training support, as needed, to the research or instructional staff in animal handling, care and procedures associated with the species of use
7. Provide information, as needed, for the filing of an Animal Incident Report
8. Complete the training requirements for animal users at the University of Guelph, including the online core modules and any other required training.

### **References**

- CCAC. 2008. Policy Statement for: Senior Administrators Responsible for Animal Care and Use Programs. CCAC, Ottawa, ON. [www.ccac.ca](http://www.ccac.ca)
- CALAM/ACMAL. Standards of Veterinary Care. 2007. [www.calam-acmal.org](http://www.calam-acmal.org)

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