



Pedagogical Merit Review of Animal-Based Teaching

Office of Administrative Responsibility: Office of Research, Research Risk

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Purpose

Animal Care Committees work closely with instructors to encourage them to carefully justify any use of animals and to use alternatives as much as possible. The institution also has an important role to play by ensuring that the value of using animals for the various courses is thoroughly reviewed to confirm that the animal-based teaching or training activity has been determined to have pedagogical merit.

This guideline outlines the process for reviewing the pedagogical merit of the use of live animal models in teaching and training.

Scope

This guideline applies to all University animal-based, teaching and training activities requiring an Animal Utilization Protocol.

Guideline

Responsibilities

Office of Research, Animal Care Services (ACS)

- Refer animal-based teaching projects requiring pedagogical merit review.



(Convenor) Office of Research, Research Risk Management

- Manage internal pedagogical merit review for animal-based teaching and training through the Pedagogical Merit Review Committee.
- Communicate the result of the pedagogical merit review to Animal Care Services.

Pedagogical Merit Review Committee

- Review animal-based teaching and training projects and assess if such projects are determined to have pedagogical merit.

Principal Investigators

- Develop teaching and training exercises considering the pedagogical merit of live animal use and provide such information for review.
- Respond in a timely manner to requests for additional information, clarification, etc.

Guidelines

Mandate of the Pedagogical Merit Review Committee

The Pedagogical Merit Review Committee provides the first level of review of the pedagogical merit of the use of live animals in teaching and training. The Committee will assess whether, the proposed use of live animals serves an educational purpose in consideration of:

- learning outcomes
- assessment methods
- activities
- alignment of the above
- efforts to identify suitable alternatives

A proposal receiving approval for pedagogical merit, must also have an Animal Utilization Protocol approved by the Animal Care Committee, or its subcommittee (the Animal Protocol Review Subcommittee), which will consider the specifics of the care and use of animals involved in the exercise(s).



Animal Utilization Protocols must be submitted and approved **before** live animals are used.

Membership of the Pedagogical Merit Review Committee

The Committee will be composed of a minimum of 4 reviewers:

- 3 members who use or have used live animals in their teaching
- 1 member who does not use animals in their teaching.

Preference for membership on the Committee will be given to those who are current instructors and/or those with pedagogical expertise. The Convener is an ex-officio member of the Pedagogical Merit Review Committee. Members cannot be a current member of the Animal Care Committee or ACS staff and are appointed by the Office of Vice President (Research).

The Committee typically performs on-line reviews and meets in person annually or more frequently if required.

Reporting Structure

The Pedagogical Review Committee reports to the Vice President (Research) through the Convenor.

Minutes of meetings will be available to the members of the Pedagogical Merit Review Committee, to the Co-Directors of Animal Care Services and the Chair of the Animal Care Committee, as well as to the Vice President (Research) and the Provost.

Review Process

Course instructors will be required to submit a Pedagogical Merit form outlining the merit of using the live animal model in the particular teaching or training activity.

The Committee will review and assess the Pedagogical Merit forms submitted and produce a documented decision in each case.

Full reviews will normally be assigned to at least 3 Committee members and will be considered final upon receipt and review of completed review forms from at least 2 members. Additional reviews may be requested on a case-by case basis. Decisions are reached by consensus.



Expedited reviews will be permitted for courses that are part of the veterinary, veterinary technician and veterinary assistant programs that are assessed through the accreditation process by professional associations (including the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians and/or National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America). Expedited reviews will require documentation and review of learning activities and replacement alternatives only. Expedited reviews will normally be assigned to one Committee member and will be considered complete upon receipt of a completed review form.

The Convenor will upload or otherwise document the final reviews and record the conclusion regarding Pedagogical merit within the e-AUP system.

Reviews are to be completed every 4 years, or when there is a significant change in the animal use.

Related University Policy, Procedures or Guidance

- [University of Guelph Animal Care Policy and Procedures](#)

Related External Legislation or Policy

- [CCAC – FAQ on the Pedagogical Merit of Live Animal-Based Teaching and Training](#)
- [CCAC policy: Pedagogical merit of live animal-based teaching and training](#)

Location of Research Guideline

This guideline is published at: www.uoguelph.ca/research

Review Frequency

It is the responsibility of the Office of Administrative Responsibility to initiate review of this document. This guideline is to be reviewed at least every 5 years.



Changes to Previous Version

- Inclusion of veterinary and veterinary technician courses within the scope of this guideline
- Inclusion of expedited review process for the above