

POLICY ON ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL CARE AND USE

Category:	Research
Number:	RE4
Responsibility:	Academic Dean
Approval:	October 2015, Senate
Amendments:	Every 5 years or as circumstances or legislation warrants

OVERVIEW

Algoma University is committed to ensuring the ethical and humane use and responsible care of animals in research, teaching and testing in accordance with applicable laws, including the Animal for Research Act from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF), the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guidelines, and Tri-Council requirements (Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of Federal Grants and Awards). At Algoma University, animals are used only for valid scientific studies with a reasonable expectation of obtaining knowledge and for the potential benefit of people and animals. Algoma University is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards in the care, well-being, quality of life and use of its animals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a. State the guiding ethical principles for research, teaching and testing involving animals.
- b. Ensure researchers, scholars, and educators and all others using animals for teaching and research purposes know the expectations of Algoma University.
- c. Identify non-compliance with this Policy.

See [CCAC policy on scientific merit and ethical review of animal-based research](#)

PREAMBLE

It is the responsibility of senior administrators to ensure that every research protocol being vetted by the Animal Care Committee for ethical merit has been deemed to have scientific merit (see [CCAC policy for senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs](#)). Should a protocol be submitted for a project that was not peer reviewed, then senior administration must select 2 independent scientists who are qualified in the proposed area of research to review the protocol for scientific merit. Once confirmation of scientific merit has been provided, only then can the protocol be reviewed by the ACC. Should any concerns arise during the peer review of scientific merit, the researcher may be asked to provide clarification or further details to assist the reviewers in their decision. Note that in the case of NSERC and CIHR, successful funding is indicative of scientific merit, and therefore further peer review will not be necessary.

POLICY

1. Guiding Ethical Principles of Animal Care and Use

- a. Animals used in research, teaching and testing by scientists and educators (researchers) must be cared for and maintained in accordance with the Animal for Research Act from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF), the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guidelines, and Tri-Council MOU requirements.
- b. Algoma University highly discourages studies where the expected outcome as a direct result of the animal use procedures is death.
- c. The Russell-Burch “3R” tenet of “Replacement, Reduction and Refinement” will be upheld in the design and review of animal use protocols.

2. Animal Care and Use Committees

- a. The Algoma University Animal Care Committee (AUACC) consists of the following members:
 - two faculty representatives who conduct research with animals and are therefore presumably knowledgeable in the care, welfare and ethical use of animals in research (one of which may be appointed as Chair);
 - *a representative of the Research administration, appointed by the Director of Research, to fulfill the role of coordinator (take meeting minutes, assemble and disseminate AUP’s and other forms, etc.)
 - two faculty representatives whose normal activities do not depend on or involve animal use for research, teaching or testing;
 - one person (not currently or formerly affiliated with the University, and not involved in animal use for research, teaching, or testing) who will represent the interests and concerns of the community;
 - one safety officer from the Safety Office on campus;
 - one student representative;
 - one consulting veterinarian.
- b. AUACC will oversee the ethical and responsible use and care of animals in research, teaching and testing. This will include review of all Animal Use Protocols, Renewals, and Modifications, as well as follow-up on each protocol (post-approval monitoring).

c. The AUACC will provide avenues for training for animal users and animal care staff, including the CCAC Core Stream training, CCAC Knowledge Stream training, and user-specific training as it applies to each researcher.

d. The AUACC, on behalf of the President of the University, delegates authority to the veterinarian to:

- i. stop any objectionable procedure if it considers that unnecessary pain or distress is being experienced by the animal;
- ii. terminate immediately any use of animals that deviates from the approved protocol;
- iii. humanely euthanise an animal if pain and distress caused to the animal cannot be alleviated; and
- iv. order the closure of facilities that do not meet CCAC standards and/or endanger the well-being of animals contained therein.

e. The AUACC and the veterinarian each report separately to the senior research administration.

3. Ethics Review for Animal Use

a. No person shall use an animal for the purposes of research, teaching, or testing at Algoma University before receiving written approval from the AUACC.

b. Senior administration is responsible for determining whether independent peer-review for scientific merit of the research was conducted. Research that is proposed to, and approved by, Tri-Council agencies can be considered as peer-reviewed and approved for scientific merit. All other Animal Use Proposals must be peer-reviewed for scientific merit. It is the responsibility of senior administration to seek two independent peer-reviewers who are qualified in the proposed area of research and to review the decision made by the peer-reviewers. Once scientific merit has been proven, only then can senior administration submit the Animal Use Proposal to the AUACC for evaluation of ethical merit.

c. If Algoma University is either the host or home institution for shared animal research protocols the [CCAC Guideline for Animal-Based Projects Involving Two or More Institutions](#) shall apply. Animal Use Proposals must still be submitted to the AUACC.

4. Animal Housing Facilities

a. Animal facilities must conform to the [CCAC guidelines on Laboratory animal facilities](#).

b. Animal users and animal care staff using laboratory-housed animals must obtain the necessary permits prior to capture/housing.

c. Training provided by the Principle Investigators, as well as via the CCAC website and the veterinarian must be documented prior to animal use and handling.

d. Regular-scheduled site visits must occur to ensure the health and well-being of laboratory-housed animals.

5. Accountability and Transparency

a. Every effort shall be made to cooperate with the Ontario Animals for Research Act, the news media, and the public regarding the use of animals in research, teaching and testing.

6. Non-Compliance

a. Conducting animal research that has not been reviewed and approved by the AUACC will constitute non-compliance.

b. Animal use that contravenes this policy constitutes non-compliance.

c. Non-compliance may represent research misconduct.