

Animal Care Committee Guidelines for Reporting Animal Welfare Incidents

Animal Incident Report Instructions

Incidents that may have compromised the health or safety of an animal must be reported. As a Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) certified institution we are required to notify CCAC of reportable animal welfare incidents within 14 days of occurrence, whether resolved or not, as outlined in the CCAC policy: Certification of ethical animal care and use programs.

Some examples of incidents include:

- unplanned mortality,
- unplanned euthanasia,
- major injury or disease outbreak
- repeated occurrences of minor injuries of the same nature

Incidents must be reported within 48 hours of occurrence by completion of the ACC Incident Report (YukonU Animal Care webpage <u>Forms and Guidelines</u>).

When an Animal Incident occurs, protocol personnel should:

- Promptly inform the primary researcher and/or instructor for the protocol if he/she is not present.
- Promptly contact the consulting veterinarian for advice for animal care if needed.
- Retain any animal carcasses until consultation with the Veterinarian,
- Conduct an initial investigation of the nature and possible causes of the Incident, in consultation with the ACC veterinarian and ACC coordinator. In the case of animal death for unknown reasons, necropsy should be considered.
- Develop a plan of action to treat ill or injured animals (if applicable) and to prevent reoccurrence of the Incident; again, this should be done in consultation with the ACC veterinarian or ACC Coordinator.
- Submit the Animal Incident Form to ACC Coordinator via e-mail wwalker@yukonu.ca
 - (Note: In the event of an animal incident, a <u>YukonU incident report</u> should also be submitted following YukonU's submission processes within 24 hours of the incident if possible. This YukonU incident report form is available on the <u>website</u> or access the form <u>here</u>.)
- Information should be submitted within 48 hours of the incident, even if the researcher/instructor and/or final plan of action are not yet complete. If in the field, complete the form immediately upon returning from the field.
- The Initial Report should include whatever is known about the incident and any preliminary plans to treat animals and to prevent reoccurrence. This may include



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temporary halting or altering procedures until the incident has been more fully investigated.

- If the initial report contains complete information on the Incident and Plan of Action, no further reporting is required, but the form should be submitted and signed by all parties listed on form.
- A follow up report must be submitted if the initial report was incomplete with regards to either the nature of the incident or the Plan of Action. The follow-up form should be submitted as soon as the investigation is completed, and the Plan of Action is developed and should be signed by the primary instructor and Supervisor of your section. The report should include the Plan of Action for any continuing treatment and to prevent recurrence of the Incident.

For additional information see the <u>CCAC Frequently Asked Question for CCAC Reportable</u> Animal Welfare Incidents

Questions about these procedures should be address to the ACC Coordinator (wwalker@yukonu.ca) or ACC Chair (vvyan@yukonu.ca)