

Policy Title: **Animal Care and Use**
Policy Approver: Senate
Policy Holder: Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Category: Academic
Original Date: February 2014
Last Revised: March 2023
Next Review: March 2025



Policy Statement

Yukon University is committed to the highest standards of ethical compliance in the use of animals and recognizes that the use of animals in research, teaching and testing is a privilege and not a right. Animals are used only for valid scientific studies with a reasonable expectation of obtaining knowledge for the potential benefit of people and/or animals. All individuals involved in the use of animals for research, teaching and testing must use and care for animals in compliance with YukonU Animal Care Committee (ACC) protocols, the guidelines and policies of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) including the Russell-Burch three tenets (three Rs) of “reduction, replacement and refinement”, and guiding principles of local First Nations, including, but not limited to the Umbrella Final Agreement.

The body authorized to oversee the use and care of animals in research and teaching shall be the YukonU Animal Care Committee (ACC). It shall be the responsibility of the ACC to establish and oversee appropriate procedures to ensure ethical conduct of research and teaching involving animals in compliance with CCAC standards.

Approval Statement

With the approval of Senate, this policy is hereby deemed in effect the 15 day of March, 2023.

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|  _____ Co-Chair, Senate | _____ April 4th, 2023 Date |
|  _____ Co-Chair, Senate | _____ April 11, 2023 Date |

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| Version: | March 2023 | Revised: |
| Original Date: | February 2014 | Revised: |
| Next Review: | March 2025 | Revised: |
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1. Purpose of Policy

The policy has been developed to ensure the highest possible standards in the care, well-being, quality of life and use of animals that are involved in teaching, research, or testing activities at Yukon University. Yukon University is committed to developing and maintaining these standards in accordance with applicable laws, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines and policy statements and the Tri-Agency Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions and in addressing any instances when these standards are not met.

2. Governing Legislation and Relevant Documents

Canada Council on Animal Care Guidelines and Policies
Yukon University Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference
AR 2.0 Research Integrity
BOG 3.0 Yukon University President Responsibilities
Chapter 16 of any applicable Yukon First Nation's Final Agreement
Yukon Animal Protection and Control Act
Yukon Wildlife Act
Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research
Tri-Agency Agreement of the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions

3. Scope

3.1 Activities

This policy applies to University course work, course related activities, research conducted by faculty, Instructors, staff, student and affiliated research; and all additional activities involving the care, use or study of animals regardless of where the study is conducted.

The input of the ACC shall be sought whenever there is doubt about the applicability of this Policy to a particular activity involving animals.

3.2 Jurisdiction

The ACC jurisdiction includes all animals in all University programs for teaching and research purposes. For animals in the wild or in facilities other than at YukonU an animal

use protocol must be submitted and approved before the project is initiated. Visiting researchers are required to comply with the animal care and use policy of this University.

3.3 Personnel

This policy applies to all University faculty, instructors, staff, students, and visitors using or proposing to use animals for research, teaching or testing.

4. Responsibility

4.1. Senior Administration

- 4.1.1. The **President** is the policy holder and has executive authority over all matters relating to animal care and use at the University for University purposes and appeals. The President delegates responsibility for implementation of the animal care and use program to the Associate Vice President Research Development.
- 4.1.2. The **Vice-President Academic & Provost** serves as the designated senior administrator responsible for ensuring appropriate animal care and use in partnership with institutional members and with the CCAC. The institution bears responsibility for its animal care and use program through institutional leaders, the senior administrator shall coordinate efforts, ensure that all organizational responsibilities are met, and ensure the institution provides adequate resources to fulfill its commitments. Other institutional leaders will share accountability for supporting the Provost in fulfilling these responsibilities including VPs, Deans, and Chairs/Directors.
- 4.1.3. The Provost shall support the role and work of the ACC through communications and oversight of policy compliance, staffing and animal facility matters. In consultation with the ACC, the Provost ensures appropriate operations are in place for animal care and use.
- 4.1.4. **Deans and Chairs** have a general responsibility for the research and teaching carried out by their faculty/school and to support the Provost to ensure compliance with applicable University policies and procedures for ethical use and care of animals.

4.2. Faculty, instructors, researchers, animal users and handlers

- 4.2.1. **Faculty and instructors** must design and carry out their research and teaching in accordance with the applicable University, federal and territorial requirements. Faculty and instructors are also responsible for educating students as to the rationale for, and the application of, relevant requirements, and for ensuring that students working under their supervision respect and observe the relevant requirements.
- 4.2.2. **Researchers, animal users and handlers** must abide by guidelines set forth by the ACC in all projects in which they are involved.

4.3. Animal Care Committee (ACC)

- 4.3.1. The ACC shall review all animal use protocols and ensure that CCAC guidelines are followed.
- 4.3.2. The roles, responsibilities, membership and accountability of the ACC are documented in the ACC Terms of Reference and associated procedures.
- 4.3.3. The procedural responsibilities of and the ethical principles guiding the ACC are in accord with CCAC and shall be reviewed by the ACC and AVPR as appropriate, whenever there are new recommendations on ethics and/or procedures.

4.4. Research Services Office

- 4.4.1. The Research Services Office must ensure that scientific merit review is completed for all animal research projects. The ACC may recognize review conducted by the granting agency if such granting agency commonly conducts a peer review based on its own established procedures (e.g., Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council).
- 4.4.2. The Research Services Office will ensure that pedagogical merit review is completed for all teaching projects.

5. Definitions

- **ACC** is the Animal Care Committee.
- **Animal** is any living non-human vertebrate and any living invertebrate of the class of Cephalopoda, including free-living and reproducing larval forms, used for research, teaching, or testing purposes by Yukon University staff, students or associates.
- **Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)** is the national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use and care of animals used in science (research, teaching and testing) in Canada.
- **Investigator** is a member of the academic staff who is responsible for the design, conduct, supervision and oversight of the care and use of animals in research, teaching, or testing as described in an approved animal use protocol (AUP).
- **Research** includes pure basic Research, applied Research, creative activities and knowledge exchange and is an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation.
- **The Three Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement)** is the tenet that guides investigators on the ethical use of animals in **Research**
 - **Replacement** refers to methods which avoid or replace the use of animals in an area where animals would otherwise have been used.
 - **Reduction** refers to any strategy that that will result in fewer animals being used.
 - **Refinement** refers to the modification of husbandry or experimental procedures to minimize an animal's pain and distress.

6. Guiding Principles

- Guiding principles of First Nation partners will inform Yukon University's relationship with Animals, including for greater certainty, harvesting, handling, care for and disposal or repatriation of animals or parts of animals which are no longer living.

- Animals used in research, teaching and testing by Yukon University staff and students must be cared for and maintained in accordance with applicable laws, CCAC guidelines and policy statements, and the requirements of the Tri-Council Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants by Research Institution.
- Three Rs Replacement, Reduction and Refinement principles will be upheld in the design and review of animal use protocols.
- All projects and teaching involving the use of animals must hold a valid Animal Utilization Protocol (AUP) approved by the Animal Care Committee (ACC).
- Animals will only be used when alternative procedures are not feasible.
- Species will be carefully selected to ensure the most effective use of animals.
- The least invasive techniques possible will be employed.
- The number of animals used will be the minimum required to achieve the objectives of the research/teaching program.

7. Non-Compliance

- 7.1.** Non-compliance of this Policy may constitute research misconduct in accordance with AR 2.0 Research Integrity and the Tri-Agency Statement: Responsible Conduct of Research (2021).
- 7.2.** Improper care or use of animals in research or teaching is a serious offence, subject to penalties including but not limited to the withdrawal of animal use privileges and/or disciplinary action.
- 7.3.** Using animals in teaching or research that is not approved by the ACC constitutes non-compliance.
- 7.4.** The ACC must report any breaches of compliance with approved animal use protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) or other standards of practice to the Provost.

7.5. The ACC must advise the Provost of all non-compliance issues and work with the Provost on decisions to withdraw or suspend approval of any project. The Provost may advise the ACC on corrective actions and decide if further action is warranted depending on the circumstances.

8. Implementation

ACC guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) shall be developed to assist in the administration of this policy.

9. Other Related and/or Accompanying Documents

Addendum A – Policy Communication Checklist

10. Document History

Include all updates here, including housekeeping changes, beginning with formal approval.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Update</i> |
|----------------|---|
| June 2014 | Approved by Yukon College President. |
| March 7, 2023 | Recommended to Senate by Academic Standards Committee of Senate |
| March 15, 2023 | Approved by Senate |
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ADDENDUM A - POLICY COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

Policy Name: Animal Care and Use Policy

Number: AR 4.0

Submitted by: Bronwyn Hancock

List those consulted with in preparation of this policy:

| Name | Department | Date |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Associate Vice-President, Research | Research | April 2021 |
| Animal Care Committee | | March 12 and 26, 2021, June 4, 2021 |
| Policy Review Committee | | April 27, 2021 |
| YukonU faculty and staff | | May 3, 2021 |
| First Nations Initiatives | | May 31, 2021 |