



## PURPOSE

The purpose of these procedures is to indicate the responsibility and general process for the review of animal-based teaching for pedagogical merit at the University of Saskatchewan (UofS) and its related facilities. Consistent with CCAC guidelines, the UCACS requires that all academic programs undertake and document a careful review of the importance and value of animal use in courses and workshops offered by the University of Saskatchewan.

## SCOPE

These procedures apply to all animals used for teaching at the University of Saskatchewan. Teaching AUPs that are *Category of Invasiveness A* are not subject to review for pedagogical merit.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW

Responsibility for the assessment of pedagogical merit of animal-based teaching falls on the Curriculum Committee of the instructor's affiliated Department, College or School. The Research Ethics Office will conduct the review when off-campus organizations use University owned animals.

## PROCESS FOR REVIEW

The Animal Ethics Facilitator of the Research Ethics Office will coordinate the process of obtaining a review for pedagogical merit of existing and new teaching AUPs. At the time of the four-year renewal or on submission of a new teaching AUP, the course instructor will provide the name and contact information of the Chair of the Curriculum Committee of his/her respective Department, College, or School in the designated area on the form. The Animal Ethics Facilitator will contact the Chair and request a pedagogical merit review of the proposed animal-based teaching protocol and identify a deadline for the review (alternatively, the Facilitator may contact the Department Head, Dean, or Director). The Curriculum Committee will conduct an assessment for pedagogical merit of the animal-based teaching according to the *General Principles* identified below and will return a completed Pedagogical Merit Review Form to the Animal Ethics Facilitator. The Facilitator makes available the review to the Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB) for review at their next scheduled meeting. Reassessment of pedagogical merit will occur every four years, concurrent with the four-year renewal of a teaching AUP.

The AREB cannot review for approval any new or four-year renewal teaching AUP until a review for pedagogical merit is complete. The Research Ethics Office will issue a Certificate of Approval only when satisfied of pedagogical merit and the AREB has conducted an ethical review of the proposed animal-based teaching.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Peer review for pedagogical merit of a proposed AUP for teaching will involve the following considerations:

- a. The AUP should clearly identify the pedagogical objectives/learning goals of the course and how the students benefit. This should involve direct query of the students through the use of such mechanisms as exit surveys or class discussions.
- b. The proposed animal use must contribute to an understanding of fundamental biological/physiological processes and/or to the acquisition of knowledge that will have future benefit to humans or animals.
- c. The pedagogical objectives cannot be met through other non-animal mechanisms as evidenced by a careful review of the *CCAC Three Rs Microsite*, and provision of a sound justification for the animal use over alternatives such as computer simulations, videos, models, etc.
- d. The curricular approach (eg., use of an investigative approach versus a demonstrational model; hands-on approach to teach manual skills and techniques associated with a specific profession) to the use of animals positively impacts students' attitudes regarding animal use in teaching.
- e. The types of experiments/teaching exercises and methodology(ies) are appropriate to meet the teaching objectives.
- f. The level of experience/competence of the instructors is adequate to assure successful teaching outcomes and the student/instructor ratio is appropriate.
- g. The level and type of training of the students is appropriate such that the student will clearly benefit from the proposed animal use and the student/animal ratio is appropriate.
- h. The course must incorporate discussion on the ethical issues and responsibilities associated with animal use in teaching to instill in students an appropriate sensitivity to this issue.

*Approved by the UCACS, 11 January 2012*