

ANIMAL CARE: Respect for animals in teaching and research

Approval Authority	President
Responsible Executive	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Related Policies / Legislation	Human Research Ethics (54)

PURPOSE

The University of the Fraser Valley maintains the highest possible standards of animal care and use in research, teaching, and testing, and works to ensure that the rights of live animals are respected and protected by establishing protocols that must be followed. Protocols integrate the principles of both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems to ensure that animals are protected and preserved for future generations. and embedded within a holistic view of ecosystems. The University will follow all of the current policies and guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).

SCOPE

“Animal” refers to all non-human living vertebrates and higher invertebrates as defined by the CCAC.

POLICY

UFV recognizes the use of animals as a privilege and not a right.

All teaching, research, and testing that involves living animals requires review and approval by an Animal Care Committee (ACC) in accordance with this policy and the CCAC guidelines. Approval must be granted before beginning a research, teaching, or testing project, and before acquiring animals. The UFV Animal Care Committee (ACC) is responsible for the humane and ethical care and use of animals by those described in the scope of this policy and has mechanisms in place to evaluate the scientific and pedagogical merit of all animal use activities.

UFV expects all instructors and researchers to adhere to the principles described herein. The following core principles are outlined by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guidelines and Policies, and with the Russell-Burch three tenets of “reduction, replacement and refinement” (CCAC Training Manual).

- a) **Reduction** means a decrease in the number of animals used previously with no loss of useful information. This may be achieved by reducing the number of variables through good experimental design, by using genetically homogeneous animals or by ensuring that the conditions of the experiment are rigorously controlled.
- b) **Replacement** often means the use of an inanimate system as an alternative (e.g., a computer model or program, a mannequin). It can also mean the replacement of sentient

animals (usually vertebrates) with less sentient animals (usually invertebrates such as worms, bacteria, etc). It also includes the use of cell and tissue cultures. The cells must come from somewhere and often this means animals.

- c) **Refinement** means a change in some aspect of the experiment or use, that results in a reduction or replacement of animals or in a reduction of any pain, stress or distress that animals may experience. The establishment of early endpoints for intervention in a study that has the potential to cause pain or distress is an example of refinement.
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REGULATIONS

Animal Care Committee (ACC)

The UFV Animal Care Committee (ACC) is responsible for the humane and ethical care and use of animals by UFV administrators, faculty, staff and students, as described in the ACC Terms of Reference.

Ensuring the ethical principles are applied to teaching and research involving live animals is the responsibility of the UFV Animal Care Committee. The ACC has two primary roles - educative and review. In its educative role, the ACC serves the UFV community as a consultative body and thus, contributes to education and understanding of animal care. In its review role, the ACC has the responsibility for independent, multidisciplinary review of the ethics and care of animals to determine that animals are used only when necessary, that sufficient animal facilities and staffing are provided, and that appropriate care is conducted.

The ACCs operations and oversight of all are governed by its Terms of Reference.

- a. Animals may only be ordered for education and research after protocols have been approved by the ACC.
- b. The acquisition of the animals must be justified.
- c. The ACC must approve the use and care of animals before they are used in teaching and/or research.
- d. The ACC may delegate the responsibility to an interim approval subcommittee, which must include at least one scientific member, one veterinarian, and one community representative. Interim approvals will be used infrequently and when necessary. The interim review process, including exchanges between the ACC and the protocol authors, will be documented and then be subject for discussion and final approval at a full meeting of the committee.

Article 1.1 Responsibility and Appointment of the ACC

- a. The Vice-President, Academic, is responsible for the ACC, appoints members to the ACC, and appoints the Chair of the ACC.
- b. The Board of Governors, through the Administration, reserves the right to terminate any use of animals at the University of the Fraser Valley if the above conditions are not met to their satisfaction.

Article 1.2 Authority of the ACC

The ACC has the authority to:

- a. Stop any procedure if it determines that unnecessary distress or pain is being experienced by an animal.
- b. Stop immediately any use of animals that has not been approved by the ACC.
- c. Stop immediately any use of animals which deviates from the approved use, or any non-approved procedure.
- d. Have an animal euthanized humanely if pain or distress caused to the animal is not part of the approved protocol and/or cannot be alleviated.

Non-Compliance

Article 2.1 Improper care of use of animals in research, teaching, or testing is a serious offence, subject to severe penalties, including the withdrawal of animal use privileges and/or disciplinary action.

Article 2.2 Using animals in teaching, research, or testing that is not approved by the ACC constitutes non-compliance.

Article 2.3 the ACC must report breaches of compliance to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, and the Associate Vice-President of Research, Engagement, and Graduate Studies. They will work with and advise the ACC on corrective actions.

LINKS:

<https://ufv.ca/acc/terms-of-reference/>

<https://ccac.ca/>

<https://ccac.ca/en/standards/guidelines/>

<https://ccac.ca/en/certification/about-certification/policies-and-prerequisites.html>