
Type:	C - Institutional	Last Approved:	March 22, 2018
Executive Responsibility:	President & Vice-Chancellor		
Administrative Responsibility:	Vice-President, Academic & Provost	Procedure:	31.07.001

STATEMENT:

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO ANIMAL CARE:

In all its teaching, research, and other activities, Vancouver Island University is committed to the humane care and treatment of animals. In this regard the University will follow all of the current policies and guidelines of the [Canadian Council on Animal Care/Conseil canadien de protection des animaux \(CCAC-CCPA\)](#). These responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that there are mechanisms in place to evaluate the merit of all animal use activities.
- Ensuring that an appropriately composed and well-functioning [Animal Care Committee \(ACC\)](#) is in place and accords to the most recent version of the CCAC-CCPA policy statement on *Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees*, and that this committee is provided with sufficient qualified staff to function effectively and ensure compliance with all relevant animal care and use standards.
- Providing appropriate and sufficient animal facilities and staffing wherever animals will be held within the institution.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL USERS:

When using animals, all those working under the aegis of the University or using University facilities must:

- a) Be responsible for minimizing the number of animals used, minimizing their pain and suffering, and ensuring that appropriate care is provided at all stages of the animal's life.
- b) Have an Animal Use Protocol approved by the Vancouver Island University Animal Care Committee (see [Procedure 31.07.001](#) for details) before beginning a research, teaching, or other project and before acquiring animals. This applies to all projects whether or not special financial support is involved and whether or not an ethical review is required by another agency.

- c) Advise the Animal Care Committee of any change to an Animal Use Protocol as soon as a change is made, and submit a new Protocol if the Committee decides that the change or changes are substantial enough to warrant a new approval process.
- d) Comply with all government legislation and all directives of the Animal Care Committee and be familiar with and guided by current professional standards and ethical guidelines, including the most recent CCAC-CCPA guidelines relevant to the species being used.

ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE:

Vancouver Island University shall maintain an [Animal Care Committee](#) (see Procedure 31.07.001). This Committee exercises the authority of the President, through the [VP Academic & Provost](#), in matters concerning animal care and is responsible to the President in all matters concerning animals kept for or used in research and teaching under the aegis of Vancouver Island University, either on or off campus

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF POLICY:

Any course, research project, or other activity using animals that begins without the required approval, or which deviates from an approved Protocol, can be suspended by the Animal Care Committee, or its Chair, or the institutional veterinarian, acting on behalf of the President. Serious, flagrant, or persistent violations of the need to have and abide by an approved protocol are grounds for disciplinary action, including limitations on teaching responsibilities and suspension of all research privileges. Penalties for students can include suspension from studies and a failing grade on the project.

LIABILITY:

Teaching, research, and other projects that follow the Protocols approved by the Animal Care Committee are covered, subject to the standard exclusions, under the insurance policy of the University. Failure to have the Committee's approval or to follow its post-approval procedures and regulations may attract personal liability to the instructor or researcher.