

Policy History
Policy No. RS6
Approving Jurisdiction: President
Administrative Responsibility: Provost and Vice President, Academic
Effective Date: September 17, 2025

Animal Use and Ethics in Teaching and Research Policy

A. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

KPU's Vision includes strategic goals to foster environmental sustainability through course offerings, research, and operations; to increase the levels of activity, funding, and intensity of research and scholarship; to increase innovation in teaching, learning, and curriculum; to ensure continuous improvement of all KPU programs and services; and to be accountable to its partners, governments, and communities.

Current teaching and research at KPU involving animal use, includes (for example) animal husbandry courses, wild animal surveys in ecology courses, and model organism use in research. This policy on Animal Use and Ethics at KPU will set out mandatory responsibilities, processes, requirements, and authority for all animal teaching and research conducted at KPU.

Through this policy framework, KPU has elevated its accountability by maintaining external certification of Good Animal Practice (GAP) from the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) for responsible use of animals, as required by the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research and the Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions. This will ensure the proper care, welfare, and ethical treatment of all animals used in teaching and research at any KPU campuses, off-campus sites, or field locations, as per the guidelines and standards set out by the CCAC. Further, this certification will foster innovation and improvement of courses and programs involving animal use at KPU, increased opportunities for collaboration in research, and greater accountability to the community.

The purpose of this policy and related procedure is to establish an ethical animal care and use program that meets CCAC standards, by;

1. maintaining CCAC's Good Animal Practice certification;
2. established hierarchy of responsibility for animal care at KPU, via Senior Administration, the Office of Research Services, an Animal Care Committee (ACC), and individual Principal Investigators, Course Instructors, and animal users;
3. ensuring through Senior Administration that adequate care facilities, services, staffing, and veterinary care access exist wherever animals are kept on KPU campuses and off-campus sites;
4. establishing an ACC that complies with CCAC requirements;
5. establishing multi-stage independent review, approval, and monitoring of all protocols and procedures furthering the care, welfare, and ethical treatment of animals used in teaching and research across KPU.

B. SCOPE AND LIMITS

1. This policy applies to all Employees, Students, visitors, contractors, and volunteers at KPU.
2. This policy governs all teaching and research at KPU that involves live animals as subjects, as defined by the CCAC. This includes fish, amphibians, reptiles/birds, and mammals, as well as live cephalopod invertebrates (see Section A of related Procedure). Such use includes the husbandry and housing of such animals at KPU; invasive or non-invasive experimental manipulations; naturalistic or non-intrusive systematic observation or measurement; non-lethal biopsy/fluid/tissue collection; and euthanasia with or without sample collection. This policy applies to wild animal use in field studies as well as animals housed at KPU. This also includes the use of embryos or fertilized eggs from such animals, where mandated by the CCAC. It also governs any other use of animals on all campuses and off-campus or field sites, with the sole exception of categories of animal use that are not covered by the mandate of the CCAC, such as preserved or non-living specimens, most invertebrate animals, personal pets, or service animals not used in research, teaching, or testing.
3. Refer to current KPU Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidelines regarding animals and personal pets within KPU buildings or vehicles.

4. This Policy and related Procedure shall be interpreted in harmony with up-to-date versions of related laws, agreements, policies, and external requirements (including CCAC requirements), as they may be amended from time to time.

C. STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

The use of animals in teaching and research is considered acceptable only if it promises to contribute to understanding of fundamental biological principles, or to the development of knowledge that can reasonably be expected to benefit humans or animals. Animals should therefore only be used in teaching or research when best efforts to find an alternative have failed, as dictated by the Russell-Burch “3R” tenets of “Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement” and as adopted by the CCAC.

CCAC guidelines establish the basic requirements for each institutional program within the Canadian system of oversight of animal ethics and care. Assessments of institutional animal ethics and care programs are based on CCAC guidelines and assessment policies. Given the goals outlined in KPU’s Vision of increased research activity, sustainability, quality improvement, and accountability, it is vital that KPU as an institution undertake compliance with CCAC guidelines and policies to receive and maintain the CCAC Certificate of Good Animal Practice.

1. Responsibilities of Senior Administration

The Provost and Vice President, Academic has designated the Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation (AVPRI), as the senior administrator responsible for this policy and procedure. In accordance with the CCAC policy statement for senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs (see links below), and working together with other departments across KPU, the senior administrator responsible for animal care shall:

- a. Ensure that there are mechanisms in place that the proposed animal-based work has scientific and/or pedagogical merit.
- b. Ensure that the ACC is appropriately composed and structured according to CCAC policy, and provided with sufficient human resources to function effectively.
- c. Ensure the availability of appropriate veterinary and animal care staff and financial resources, to provide appropriate and sufficient animal facilities and services for any animals to be held and for the types of work to be undertaken.

- d. Ensure that all animal users are well informed with regard to all aspects of the animal care and use program, and understand that using animals is a privilege that is granted with the understanding that institutional, provincial and national standards with respect to animal care and use, including CCAC policies and guidelines, are followed.
- e. Ensure that institutional programs for occupational health and safety and crisis management include measures to protect all those who may be exposed to animals or related hazards.
- f. Ensure that the institution prepares appropriately for every CCAC assessment visit.

2. Responsibilities of the KPU Animal Care Committee

In accordance with the CCAC terms of reference for animal care committees, the KPU ACC shall:

- a. Ensure that the KPU Standard Animal Use Protocol documents are in line with CCAC guidelines and meet the requirements of the CCAC for assessment of ethical animal use and standards of care.
- b. Review for approval all submitted Animal Use Protocols, following the CCAC guidelines for protocol review, prior to the commencement of any teaching and/or research using those animals, and follow up approved protocols with a system of routine monitoring.
- c. Ensure that all submitted Animal Use Protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) include only procedures that comply with best standards of practice, CCAC guidelines, regulatory body requirements, and current government legislation, and that all animal use has been independently reviewed for scientific and/or pedagogical merit.
- d. Ensure that all animals housed at KPU receive appropriate care at all stages of their lives, including appropriate methods of husbandry, housing, veterinary services, and euthanasia. This should involve at least annual site visits for all animal care facilities.

3. Responsibilities of Animal Users

In accordance with the CCAC terms of reference for animal care committees, all KPU Employees, Students, visitors, contractors, or volunteers involved in the use of animals shall:

- a. Familiarize themselves with and abide by all approved protocols and SOPs regarding the care of the animals they will be using, including completion of all relevant training.
- b. Familiarize themselves with and make appropriate use of reporting structures, including the submission of Standard Animal Use Protocols for approval by the ACC, regular reporting of animal use statistics, reporting of deviations in protocol, and any animal welfare incidents.
- c. Notify the ACC about the presence of all animals (including service animals) on campus when they are being housed in KPU facilities, even temporarily.

4. Liability

By ensuring KPU's compliance with CCAC guidelines, this policy will further help prevent exposure of KPU to potential criminal liability under the Criminal Code of Canada and the BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Individuals who fail to obtain approval of the ACC before commencing teaching, research, or any other activities involving animals at KPU, may be personally liable under such laws as may apply.

D. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Section A of RS6 Animal Use and Ethics in Teaching and Research Procedure for a list of definitions in support of this Policy.

E. RELATED POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION

AC1 Advisory Committees

GV7 Advisory Boards (Non-Program)

RS2 Integrity in Research and Scholarship

SR5 Insurance – Students

SR6 Insurance – Employees

SR7 Safety and Health

[KPU OHS Guidelines - Pets on Campus](#)

[KPU Service Animal Guidelines](#)

Committee Documents

ACC Terms of Reference

Related Legislation Includes:

1. Criminal Code of Canada (relevant sections are currently Sections 444 – 447)
2. BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
3. Health of Animals Act (S.C. 1990, c. 21)

Related Agreements Include:

1. Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions

[Related Standards and Guidelines](#)**F. RELATED PROCEDURES**

RS6 Animal Use and Ethics in Teaching and Research