

## **Success Story: Utilizing Research Support Fund for Achieving Good Animal Practice (GAP) Certification with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)**

At Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), we have always prioritized the ethical treatment of animals in our research. However, as the demands of scientific inquiry evolved, we saw the need for not only enhancing our existing practices but also formalizing our commitment to animal welfare in line with national standards. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) offers the [Good Animal Practice \(GAP\) certification](#) as a mark of excellence, but achieving this certification required investment in infrastructure, staff training, veterinary services and ongoing improvement processes. The certification presented an ideal opportunity to formalize and elevate our approach to animal welfare, as it provides both recognition and a framework for continuous improvement.

### **Return on Investment - The Outcome:**

With the support of Research Support Fund, we successfully completed the rigorous CCAC certification requirements and the process and received the GAP certification. This achievement not only elevated our institution's reputation but also bolstered the confidence of our research community, as well as the public, in our commitment to animal welfare.

Achieving CCAC GAP certification has had far-reaching benefits:

1. **Enhanced Research Quality:** By focusing on the well-being of animals, we've observed an improvement in the quality of our research data, as healthier animals yield more reliable and reproducible results.
2. **Increased Funding Opportunities:** As a certified institution, we became more competitive in securing future research grants and now make KPU eligible to apply for tri-agency funding.
3. **Improved Collaborations:** Achieving CCAC GAP certification positioned us as a leader in responsible animal research. This recognition not only boosted the reputation of our institution but also made us a more attractive partner for collaborative research projects, both nationally and internationally.
4. **Positive Public Perception:** With growing public scrutiny of animal research practices, our CCAC certification gave our stakeholders—students, faculty, donors, and the general public - confidence that our research was conducted ethically and in compliance with the most rigorous standards.
5. **Long-Term Sustainability:** The continuous investment in staff training, infrastructure, and ethical processes has positioned us for sustainable, long-term improvements in animal welfare. This ongoing commitment ensures that animal care remains at the forefront of our research practices for years to come.

In conclusion, utilizing our Research Support Fund effectively to achieve CCAC's GAP certification was a transformative experience for our institution. Not only did it provide us with a structured approach to enhancing animal welfare, but it also reinforced our commitment to ethical research practices. This success story exemplifies how Research Support Fund, when strategically invested, can lead to long-lasting, positive changes that benefit both society and the future of animal care in research.