
Animal Ethics Policy

Policy Sponsor:	Vice President Academic
Policy Contact:	Research Ethics Officer
Policy Number:	N/A
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Approval Date/Motion #:	October 17, 2016
Approval Group:	Executive Group
Review Date:	Annually
Procedure:	Animal Ethics Procedures

Purpose

To provide a framework for animal-based research, teaching and testing conducted by Athabasca University researchers. Animal users are responsible for acting in strict accordance with the standards set by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), federal, provincial or municipal statutes that may apply, as well as related policies and procedures.

Definitions

Animal	Any living non-human vertebrate and any living invertebrate of the class cephalopoda, including free-living and reproducing larval forms, used for research, teaching, or testing purposes by Athabasca University (University) researchers.
Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)	The national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use and care of animals used in science.



Principal Investigator A member of the academic staff who is responsible for the design, conduct, supervision and oversight of the care and use of animals in research, teaching or testing as described in an approved animal use protocol.

Researcher Anyone who conducts research activities.

Includes, but is not limited to, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and other personnel involved directly or indirectly in research, including research assistants/ associates, technical and support staff, adjunct professors, visiting professors, and institutional administrators.

Policy Statements

Animal-based research, teaching and testing

1. Athabasca University has entered into a formal animal care agreement with the University of Alberta by which the University of Alberta provides all animal related services including, but not restricted to oversight of Athabasca University's animal care and use program, use of University of Alberta facilities, and animal care and husbandry.
2. No animals shall be acquired, held or used for the purposes of research, testing or teaching at any Athabasca University facility.
3. All research, teaching and testing that involves the use of animals must be approved by the applicable University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee prior to commencement and must comply with any and all conditions of approval and post-approval monitoring requirements.
4. Funds to support animal-based research, testing or teaching shall not be released until such time that the animal use protocol has been approved by the applicable University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee(s). If the activities involving animals will only take place in a subsequent fiscal year, funds may be released, on a pro-rated basis, for activities up to the start of the work involving animals, at which time the review of the protocol must be completed before further funds can be released.
5. Should a project in progress be found to contravene the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards, violate any relevant legislation, or fail to meet any University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee condition of approval, funding shall be suspended until the contravention has been resolved to the satisfaction of the applicable Animal Care and Use Committee(s).



6. Breaches of compliance shall be referred to the Athabasca University Associate Vice President, Research.
7. The Athabasca University Associate Vice President, Research shall inform the applicable University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee about any breaches of compliance reported directly to him/her and any sanctions to be taken by senior university administrators in the event of serious breaches of compliance.

Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The care and use of animals in research is to be carried out in accordance with federal and provincial legislation and regulation, including the most recent versions of the following.

[Canadian Council on Animal Care \(CCAC\)](#)

Tri-Agency Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards (2012, December and as amended from time to time).

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45201.html>

[University of Alberta Animal Ethics Website](#)

Agreement on Animal Research Ethics Review between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the Governors of Athabasca University (2016, Month and as amended from time to time)

Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Animal Ethics Procedures](#)

[Research Integrity Policy](#)

[Breach of Research Integrity Procedures](#)

History

Executive Group, October 17, 2016 (Approved)