
Animal Ethics Procedures

Policy Sponsor:	Vice-President, Academic
Name of Parent Policy:	Animal Ethics Policy
Policy Contact:	Research Ethics Officer, Research Centre
Procedure Contact:	Research Ethics Officer, Research Centre
Effective Date:	October 17, 2016
Review Date:	Annually

Purpose

To outline the process for the approval of animal-based research, teaching and testing conducted by Athabasca University (University) researchers.

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.
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.

Procedures

Animal-based research, teaching and testing

1. All research, teaching and testing that involves the use of animals must be approved by the relevant University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee prior to commencement.
2. Researchers contemplating the use of animals in research, teaching or testing should first consult the Athabasca University Research Ethics Officer.
3. Researchers, including trainees, are required to complete the animal care and use training provided by the University of Alberta prior to commencing their research.
4. The animal user must submit a written animal use protocol to the relevant University of Alberta Animal Use and Care Committee for review and approval.
5. The Animal Care and Use Committee will review the protocol in accordance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care standards and inform the animal user of the approval decision in writing. Any appeal shall follow the Animal Care and Use Committee protocols.
6. Approvals expire one year from date of issue and must be renewed annually.
7. Funds to support animal-based research, teaching or testing may be released upon receipt of written confirmation of approval, or annual re-approval, of the animal use protocol by the relevant University of Alberta Animal Care and Use Committee.
8. Non-compliance with the standards set for animal care and use may represent research misconduct and may be subject to sanction.



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 Financial Administration Guide](#) (2015, and as amended from time to time).
[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, and as amended from time to time)

Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Animal Ethics Policy](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)
[Breach of Research Integrity Procedures](#)

History

Executive Group, October 17, 2016 (associated policy approved)