

## **Animal Ethics at Dalhousie University**

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- Dalhousie University has a policy on animal ethics (<https://www.dal.ca/dept/animal-ethics.html>), requiring that all research, teaching and other use of animals in the university or under the supervision of university faculty members be approved by one of the two university animal ethics committees
- The animal ethics committees operate in compliance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC; <http://www.ccac.ca/>), which is a national peer-review organization setting standards for animal ethics and care in science across the country. The mission of the CCAC is to ensure that animal-based science takes place only when necessary and that animal care is of high quality based upon research-informed standards. The principles of the three R's are applied to animal protocol approvals: Replacement of animals & use of alternatives where possible, Reduction in number while maintaining sufficient numbers to achieve goals, Refinement of procedures to minimize distress. The committees require that the following members be present when any protocol is approved: Faculty members who have expertise in the use of animals in teaching & research, a faculty member who does not use animals, animal care staff, a veterinarian and an external community member who does not work in animal-based science or agriculture.
- The Faculty of Agriculture is in the process of implementing a student animal welfare commitment; those working on the farm will be asked to review it & comply
- On this campus, all protocols must be approved by the Faculty of Agriculture Animal Care & Use Committee ( ACUC; <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/animal-science-aquaculture/about/animal-care.html> ), including undergraduate research project protocols
- Approval by the Dalhousie animal care committees requires that
  - The animal care program for animals used in research & teaching be in compliance with CCAC guidelines for that species and use
  - Researchers and animal care staff have appropriate training for the procedures they are expected to perform
  - Researchers and animal care staff have completed CCAC Modules 1,2,3,4,12 and appropriate sections of either the Farm Stream or Fish Stream
  - Research protocols, including undergraduate research proposals, have been reviewed for scientific merit by two external reviewers (Research Services arranges peer review for projects that do not have it, but it does take 3-4 weeks.

The proponent should include contact information for at least 4 potential reviewers or the process will be further delayed)

- In many cases undergraduate research projects are part of a larger research project that is covered by an existing research protocol; in those cases, the student may be added through an amendment form, which is a faster process
- Dal AC Animal Care & Use Contacts – if you have any question about animal care & use at Dalhousie, don't hesitate to contact one of us. If you question the care of a group of animals on campus, talk to the staff member or one of the contacts below:
  - Animal Ethics Coordinator: Cheryl Paris, [Cheryl.paris@dal.ca](mailto:Cheryl.paris@dal.ca) ; 902-893-2635
  - Chair, ACUC: Dr. Leslie MacLaren, [leslie.maclaren@dal.ca](mailto:leslie.maclaren@dal.ca); 902-893-6645
  - University Director of Animal Care: Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark, 902 494 1270

In summary, if your work involves animals, you will need to do the following and adjust the timing of your planned experiments to allow time for ACUC approval of your protocol.

1. Complete the CCAC modules 1,2,3,4 and farm/fish stream as appropriate.
  - a. Go to Brightspace (home), select Academic Support, select Self-registration then EAUT2017. *Note that the fish stream is not yet up – you may go to CCAC (<https://www.ccac.ca/en/training/modules/fish-stream.html>) to review appropriate materials related to fish work.*
2. Work with your supervisor to complete the RESM protocol or Amendment protocol (available at <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/animal-science-aquaculture/about/animal-care.html> )
  - a. Supervisor must submit protocol to the Animal Ethics Coordinator, Cheryl Paris ([Cheryl.paris@dal.ca](mailto:Cheryl.paris@dal.ca); phone 893-2635) at least one week prior to the Animal Care & Use Committee monthly meeting. Meeting dates & submission deadlines are circulated to faculty members regularly; for more information contact Cheryl Paris.
  - b. If the protocol has not been peer-reviewed, the supervisor must include 4 potential peer reviewers.