DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ANIMALS

October 2022

Welcome to the third UCLA Newsletter! We hope that as researchers, staff, and students involved in animal related research you find the following newsletter helpful in navigating the changing landscape of animal welfare and ethics guidelines.

Topics covered in this issue:
- Recent CCAC News
- Protocol Writing Tips
- Reminder for Renewals/Animal Numbers

RECENT CCAC NEWS ITEMS

CCAC Animal Use Data Report

CCAC National Workshop May 4-5, 2023

Replacement schedule for non-compliant Rodent housing

1. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has released the CCAC Animal Data Report 2021, which provides a national overview of animal-based science in CCAC-certified institutions from January 1 to December 31, 2021.
   The CCAC thanks all those responsible for compiling and submitting their institutional data. Quick Facts from 2021

   A total of 3,692,479 animals in research, teaching, and testing were reported to the CCAC
   The three animal types most often used were mice (34.1%), fish (33.9%), and birds (12.0%)
   The largest proportion of animals (56.5%) were used in studies of a fundamental nature in science relating to essential structures or functions, or Purpose of Animal Use (PAU) 1, representing 2,167,077 animals
   For more quick facts, consult the CCAC Facts & Figures, which provides a visual overview of the number of animals involved in Canadian science for the purposes of research, teaching, and testing, as well as general information about the CCAC and the Canadian system of oversight. It is important to note that there are many external factors that may influence the numbers of animals from year to year. Caution should be used when comparing numbers of animals over time or when tracking progress towards the Three Rs.

2. The CCAC National Workshop 2023 is in Montréal, QC, and will be held on May 4-5, 2023 at the Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel.

The CCAC workshop will also once again be held in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) Annual Symposium. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to network and benefit from all the activities held during the week:
- May 4, 2023 – CCAC Evening Reception
- May 4-5, 2023 – CCAC National Workshop 2023
- May 6-9, 2023 – CALAS Annual Symposium

3. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has determined that all existing, non-compliant mouse and rat cages within certified institutions must be replaced by the following schedule: 33% by April 21, 2025, 66% by April 21, 2028, and 100% by April 21, 2031. This decision is based on fairness, consistency, animal welfare considerations, and current supply of larger cages. Please note that all newly acquired mouse and rat cages must meet the housing guidelines described in the CCAC guidelines: Mice (2019) and the CCAC guidelines: Rats (2020). Moving forward, the CCAC will actively seek updates from program participants on their progress toward these goals during assessment visits and communications.

Guidance on implementation timelines will also be removed from the above-mentioned guidelines documents, and a document will be published shortly exploring some of the most frequently asked questions regarding behavioural and engineering expectations for housing conditions.

HELPFUL PROTOCOL WRITING TIPS

1. Reminder to always ensure that your protocol Form A submission indicates whether peer review has been completed under the scientific merit tab.
2. When renewing a protocol, and submitting a new Form A, an Attachment B – Progress report must be included with your submission.
3. Animal use tab tips for adding additional animals via amendment. If the lab wishes to amend for more animals, there are a couple of choices: the lab can only note the requested animals on the amendment section of the form b amendment. Once approved the UCLA coordinator will update the animal use tab on your behalf.
4. If the lab wishes to make changes to the animal use tab in addition to submitting the amendment form, please see the following examples of best practices. If the lab is adding a new strain of animal, you can select 'ADD NEW' on the animal use tab and create a new line for each new strain. If the lab is adding to an existing strain already approved and listed on the animal use tab, you can complete the amendment form as well as edit the 'requested' number of the desired strain. See examples below:
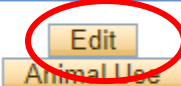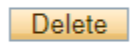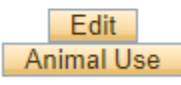
Animal Use Summary:

		Species	Strain	Source	# Anim
Edit Animal Use	Delete	mice	SCID		0
Edit Animal Use	Delete	mice	C57Bl/6	Charles River	0

Click 'Add new' to add a new strain to my protocol, add the known details: strain, gender, source, and # of animals requested must match the amendment section 1.5 of the form. Once approved, the UCLA office will update the approved number and send the approval notice to the lab.

Species :	mice
Species Keywords :	altered environmenta
Strain :	C57Bl/6
Weight :	
Gender :	male/female
Source :	Charles River
Source Contact :	
Transportation :	
Housing Building Room :	
Experimental/Procedure Building Room :	
PAU :	1 - (fundamental stuc (*By default it will be
CI :	D - (experiments whi (*By default it will be
Comments :	
# Animals Requested :	50
# Animals Approved :	

If you wish to add more animals to an existing strain, on the animal use tab of the amendment form, click 'Edit' next to the strain:

Animal Use Summary:

And then simply, change the requested number of animals to the number requested on the amendment form to be the approved number + amended animals, the UCLA coordinator will check if these numbers are correct, if they are not, they can be cancelled, and edits to the animal use tab will be completed by the coordinator at the time of approval:

Comments :

Adding requested 50 animals to the approved 125

Animals Requested : 175

NOTE: when editing the animal use tab, do not over-write/edit Animal use data already entered by animal care or the UCLA officer, these edits will be deleted. You can add animal use data noted on a renewal on a separate line by choosing "ADD NEW" at the bottom of the strain information page.

Animal Use Per Year Details:

	Year	# Animals Used	# Re-Used from Previous Year	Number of Animals Re-Used
No records to display.				
				Sum :

Complete the following fields: year, # Animals used, # of Animals re-used (if applicable), and comment should you wish to note "animal use reported for renewal", but this is not required.

NOTE: Do not over-write/edit Animal Use data already entered by animal care or the UCLA coordinator, these edits will be deleted. You can add the animal use data noted on a renewal on a separate line.

REMINDER REGARDING RENEWALS AND ANIMAL NUMBERS

With the new 3-year cycle, you may have used up all your animals in year 1 and 2, make sure to check before you renew again to determine if additional animals are needed. If additional animals are required for year 3, please complete an amendment along with your renewal indicating/justifying the need for additional animals for the 3rd year of the project.

QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact the office at any time for further information or if you have suggestions for future newsletter topics you wish to see covered, please email (UCLA@dal.ca).

Thank you for taking the time to review this installment of the UCLA quarterly newsletter!