

# UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ANIMALS

January 2023

Welcome to the first UCLA Newsletter of 2023! 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
- IWK Animal Facility News
- Expanded Minor vs Major Amendment Definitions

## RECENT CCAC NEWS ITEMS

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*CCAC New Website*

*The CCAC Resumes In-Person Assessment Visits*

*Updated Scientific Endpoints Guideline*

*Updated Amphibians Guideline*

*Animal Welfare Assessment Guideline and implementation guides*

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1. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has updated their website, please see: <https://ccac.ca/en/about/news-and-media/2023/01/03/new-year-new-website/>
2. The CCAC Resumes In-Person Assessment Visits as of January 16, 2022. The CCAC will continue monitoring conditions and public health recommendations over the coming months and will communicate with certified institutions if circumstances change. Should in-person assessment visits not be possible, virtual assessments will resume to ensure the health and safety of all participants.
3. Guideline – [Identification of scientific endpoints, humane intervention points, and cumulative endpoints](#) (PDF)
4. Guideline – [Amphibians](#) (PDF)
5. Guideline – [Animal Welfare Assessment](#) (PDF)
  - a. [Implementation](#) (PDF)

## HELPFUL PROTOCOL WRITING TIPS

New and updated Romeo User Guides Available:

- [Animal Care - Protocol Forms](#) [PDF 380 kB]
- [Animal Care - Amendments and Renewals](#) [PDF 157 kB]

## EXPANDED MINOR VS. MAJOR AMENDMENT DEFINITIONS

Minor amendment, a modification to the protocol or Form B amendment that:

- involves a change in personnel or training status
- involves a change in animal number of not more than 20% of the protocol
- can involve a strain change in mammal model (e.g., adding a different strain of mice) but not a species change (e.g., changing from mice to rats)
- adds treatments or procedures of similar invasiveness to the level and category previously approved without increase in harms
- does not involve an increase in harms done to an animal during study
- flows naturally from the scientific peer review basis of previous studies

Major amendment, which triggers the requirement for a new Form A:

- increase of more than 20% of previously approved animal numbers
- mammal species change (e.g., changing from mice to rats)
- increased category of invasiveness
- increased potential harms to animal, i.e., multiple surgeries/IP injections/compound toxicity
- represents a new research direction that does not naturally flow from previous approved studies, i.e., requires new peer review

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*This and more can be found on our [website](#).*

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## IWK ANIMAL FACILITY NEWS

Following the closure of the in Vivo lab at IWK to accommodate the new ER construction in 2021, a new animal facility with limited holding capacity up to Containment Level 2 (CL2) was constructed adjacent to the BIOTIC imaging facility. With key roles in support of imaging research and pre- CL3 study animal holding this facility is due to open in the first quarter of 2023 following commissioning.

## 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](mailto:UCLA@dal.ca)).

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