

# UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ANIMALS

January 2022

## SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the large number of Principal Investigators who took the time to respond to the UCLA survey, your feedback was appreciated. The UCLA committee heard you, we will be revamping our website and providing more regular updates to researchers on changes, guidelines, training, etc. related to animal research at Dalhousie. If you had indicated on the survey an interest in serving on the committee, please contact the office to discuss.

The UCLA is planning to put out a quarterly newsletter informing the animal research community of changes to policy, procedures, and general news in animal research.

## CHANGES TO PROTOCOL APPROVAL CYCLE – VALID FOR UP TO 3 YEARS GOING FORWARD

### **Animal Care Approval Cycle moves from 2 to 3 years effective Jan 2022**

For those conducting or intending to conduct animal related research in the future, the protocol approval cycle is moving from 2 years to 3 years. This should reduce the workload for Principal Investigators in protocol submission. Currently, each Form A – Animal Use protocol is valid for 2 years with a one-year renewal required on the anniversary of the start date. The committee has decided to allow 2 renewals for each Form A, allowing each protocol to be valid for up to 3 years. For example, if you have a protocol approved on October 1, 2021, a one-year renewal (account of animal numbers, progress, etc.) will be required on the anniversary date of the start date, so a renewal will be required for October 1, 2022, and a second renewal will be required on October 1, 2023. If the project is going to continue past the 3-year anniversary of the initial submission a new Form A will be due October 1, 2024. The forms have not changed, we will simply be accepting 2 renewals on each Form A going forward.

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## ANNUAL ANIMAL TRACKING

Each year we must report to the Canadian Council on Animal Care numbers of all animals used in research/teaching activities during the year. We capture animal numbers ordered centrally via animal care. For animals pulled from a breeding colony, researchers are required to report on those animals, so we can provide an accurate count of all animals used experimentally. Please complete the annual animal tracking request by February 4, 2022. If you have not received an email regarding tracking your animals bred for research, please contact [UCLA@dal.ca](mailto:UCLA@dal.ca) for details.

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## **REPORTABLE ANIMAL WELFARE INCIDENT REPORTING (RAWI)**

The Canadian Council on Animal Care has enacted a mandatory reporting scheme for all unexpected morbidity/ mortality that exceeds the limits of what is normally expected in experimental use of animals called Reportable (Formerly Major) Animal Welfare Incidents (RAWI). The details of the new program are in Section 3 of the linked CCAC document. (<https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Certification-of-animal-ethics-and-care-programs.pdf>) Typically RAWI applies when unexpected mortality levels in a study exceeds what was expected as part of the research protocol. Under RAWI , Dalhousie UCLA is obliged to officially investigate and submit a written report to CCAC within 10 days on the circumstances, and resolution, concerning all such incidents using a standardized report form. The identity of the lab and researcher in question are redacted by UCLA representatives involved in the reporting program. These changes will directly impact our current Form A, please stay tuned for information regarding potential/upcoming changes to the Form A on Romeo.

## **INVASIVE AND CONTROVERSIAL PROCEDURES**

The UCLA has identified several procedures are regarded as being highly invasive and/or controversial (e.g. LD50 studies) and/or may cause high levels morbidity and mortality (e.g. some surgeries). A new section under the 3 Rs portion of the Form A will be added in the new year requesting that if the investigator is proposing conducting any such procedures, there is a scientific justification and a requirement to take all reasonable measures to mitigate potential harms to animals. Researchers will be asked to provide additional attachments or to further clarify/justify any highly invasive and/or controversial procedures/experiments.

Also, in this new section all Principal Investigators will be asked to estimate percentage of morbidity and mortality that would ordinarily be expected under the proposed experimental procedures. This will be used as the basis for the application of the RAWI guideline described above.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please feel free to contact the office at any time for further information ([UCLA@dal.ca](mailto:UCLA@dal.ca))