

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ANIMALS

April 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
- Changes to the Surgical Training Workflow Guideline
- Annual Animal Numbers Request Update
- Science Article: Suffering in Silence

RECENT CCAC NEWS ITEMS

*CCAC National Workshop May 4-5, 2023, Montreal, QC
New Wildlife Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions*

1. The CCAC National Workshop 2023 in Montréal, QC, which will be held on May 4-5, 2023, at the Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel.
2. New Wildlife Guideline and FAQ available:
https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_Guidelines-Wildlife.pdf
https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_FAQs_on_wildlife.pdf

HELPFUL PROTOCOL WRITING TIPS

1. Never include grant information in the protocol, focus on what is happening to the animals throughout the study.
2. Always review your animal use before renewing, if more animals are needed for the upcoming year an amendment must be submitted to request/justify the additional animals needed.
3. Animal numbers are not automatically updated in Romeo, there is a total approved number per strain/species and that is the total approved for the duration of the study. If more animals are needed, please amend to request additional animals.
4. **Pro tem requests** (a request to complete an expedited review of an amendment before the next UCLA meeting): must accompany an amendment to a protocol, please note you cannot request pro tem approval without a corresponding amendment to be reviewed along with the pro tem request. The justification for the pro tem request must be emailed to UCLA@dal.ca to send to the chair for review. Pro tem requests are only for urgent needs, and an email must be sent to UCLA@dal.ca justifying the request, including the reasoning for the request on the amendment via Romeo is not sufficient.

5. Always ensure your flowcharts, project description, and animal number request are consistent through the protocol. Before submitting, please review the file to ensure your animal number request is accurately reflected on the *animal care tab*.

CHANGES TO THE SURGICAL TRAINING WORKFLOW GUIDELINE

A new guideline has been added to the practice portion of the surgical training, under the heading 'Becoming Proficient' there is a new requirement for analgesia:

The mice used for non-recovery surgery practice must receive preemptive analgesic meloxicam.

ANNUAL ANIMAL NUMBERS REQUEST

The UCLA sends out the request for animal use numbers for animals used from in-house breeding colonies annually (usually in Dec/Jan), the researchers are required to track all in house breeding and to report back accurate animal use for the calendar year (Jan 1- Dec 31, including any renewals/amendments that have happened during the year). Each year we must report to CCAC regarding the use of all animals in research/teaching activities. We capture animals ordered centrally via animal care, and for animals used experimentally from a breeding colony the Principal Investigators are required to report their animal use from their breeding colonies, so we can provide an accurate count of all animals used experimentally on an annual basis. It is considered to be minor non-compliance with UCLA guidelines when animals are overbred, and the lab uses more animals than approved on the breeding protocol. Please regularly review both the approved animals on the Animal Care Tab > Animal Use Summary, as well as the number of produced animals noted on your approved Attachment F's. Using the breeding record sheets provided by the UCLA will help both the lab and animal care monitor in-house breeding to prevent over-breeding.

SUFFERING IN SILENCE

Article: *Suffering in Silence: Caring for Research animals can take a severe mental toll. Is anyone listening?*

https://www.science.org/content/article/suffering-silence-caring-research-animals-can-take-severe-mental-toll?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=00ccefc7c-briefing-dy-20230314&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-00ccefc7c-43275013

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 latest installment of the UCLA newsletter!