

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ANIMALS**

December 2024

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:

- Introduction of Dr. Jessica Rock, Associate Director of Animal Care, Dalhousie
- Annual Animal use request
- CCAC News

### **INTRODUCTION OF DR. JESSICA ROCK, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL CARE**

This October Dalhousie University welcomed Dr. Jessica Rock, DVM, to the Office of the University Veterinarian.

With a passion for learning and sharing ideas Dr Rock has enjoyed teaching and training roles in veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, and special interest groups with areas of interest in comparative physiology, wildlife health, communication and veterinary nutrition. Dr Rock's clinical background is broad and includes general and emergency practice with companion animals, wildlife, and laboratory animals.

In this new role, Dr. Rock will play a key part in helping our research community fulfill evolving responsibilities across Dalhousie's three campuses. This work aims to align Dalhousie University with emerging guidelines in areas such as training, animal welfare assessment, the development of cumulative animal welfare indices, and post-approval monitoring.

Dr. Rock is looking forward to working with our researchers and will be available for consultations and guidance as we adapt within the changing regulatory landscape. Dr. Rock's primary areas of responsibility will include the IWK-Grace Hospital, Studley, and Truro campuses, as well as shared on-call clinical duties with our veterinary team.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Rock to a successful and fulfilling career at Dalhousie University. The best way to reach Dr. Rock is by email, [JRock@dal.ca](mailto:JRock@dal.ca).

### **ANNUAL ANIMAL NUMBERS REQUEST UPDATE**

This year we will be asking all researchers to review their animal use data numbers recorded in Romeo. Please note that if you do all your animal ordering through animal care, then the numbers should be updated by animal care staff, if they are not accurate, please report updated numbers.

Please report the following by January 31, 2025:

- Animals used from in house Breeding Colony: Report animals used from January 1 to December 31, 2024, excluding those already included in your annual renewal.
- Field Studies: Report any animals observed, tagged, or recorded during the same period.
- Corrections to animal use

If you had submitted a renewal, report experimental animals used since the date of submission of the renewal. For breeding-only protocols, report only breeder animals used in colony maintenance.

Note: Exclude centrally ordered animals and those reported in your 2024 renewal. Full instructions will be sent in late December/early January. For questions, contact [UCLA@dal.ca](mailto:UCLA@dal.ca) or call 902-494-1270.

## **CCAC NEWS**

### **CCAC Virtual Learning Series**

Effective training for all personnel involved in animal-based science is an essential component of any institutional animal care and use program. To support this, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is introducing a virtual learning series, aimed at improving the ethical care and use of animals in Canadian science. These sessions will bring together program participants within CCAC-certified institutions to discuss best practices and address the challenges associated with the implementation of CCAC guidelines and policies. For more information: <https://ccac.ca/en/about/news-and-media/2024/09/24/ccac-virtual-learning-series/>

### **Save the Date for the CCAC National Workshop 2025!**

We are pleased to invite you to the CCAC National Workshop 2025 in Richmond, BC, which will be held on April 30-May 1, 2025, at the Westin Wall Centre, Vancouver Airport.

### **The CCAC Launches Transparency Initiative**

Transparency and clear communication about ethical animal research, teaching, and testing are vital to improving animal welfare and achieving better public understanding and trust. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is pleased to launch its transparency initiative that will make more information about Canadian animal-based science publicly available, while encouraging certified institutions to become more open and transparent regarding their animal-based scientific activities.

The three-phased initiative will be implemented over several years, beginning today with the publication of the names of all CCAC-certified institutions and the creation of a transparency section on our website. The other two phases of the initiative will be rolled out in 2025 and 2028. For more information:

<https://ccac.ca/en/about/news-and-media/2024/09/05/the-ccac-launches-initiative/>

### **The CCAC Has Revised Its Confidentiality Policy**

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has revised the [CCAC policy: Confidentiality of assessment information](#).

With the launch of its transparency initiative in September, and Phase 1 of the plan requires changes be made to this policy. These amendments include the publication of non-identifiable aggregated data, as well as the publication of all names of CCAC-certified institutions on the CCAC website.

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