

Title: Use and Welfare of Animals in Teaching Policy

Original Date:

May 25, 2017, August 18, 2020

Effective Date:

August 18, 2020

Approved By:

☐ Board of Governors

☒ President and Vice Presidents

Date of Approval:

August 18, 2020

Last review Date: August 18, 2020

1. Purpose

This Policy specifies requirements pertaining to the health, welfare, safety, and humane treatment of animals (as defined below) used for teaching or within teaching activities at, or on behalf of, The Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning ("Sheridan").

2. Scope

This Policy applies to but is not limited to, all Faculties, professors, instructors, students, and employees of Sheridan who do, or may at some point, use live animals for any aspect of teaching on behalf of Sheridan either on or off Sheridan property.

Animals that are brought onto campus but are not used for instructional purposes in academia or fall under Sheridan's responsibilities under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* or the *Ontario Human Rights Code* (e.g., service animals) are not under the scope of this policy. Please refer to the *Use of Animals on Sheridan Facilities for Non-Instructional Purposes* and *Sheridan's Accessibility Policy*.

Wildlife that exists naturally as part of the ecosystem of Sheridan Facilities are not within the scope of this Policy.

3. Definitions

Animal: Live, non-human vertebrate or specific higher-level invertebrates as identified by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC, as defined below).

Animal Care Committee (ACC): Sheridan committee which oversees all presence and use of animals used for teaching on Sheridan campuses, and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Animals for Research Act¹ and Canadian Council on Animal Care policies/guidelines².

Animal Welfare: The five freedoms of animal welfare include freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom to express normal behaviour, and freedom from fear and distress.

Ontario Animals for Research Act (ARA)¹: The Ontario Ministry for Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) oversees, monitors, and enforces the ARA, which outlines the treatment and care of animals used in education and/or research.

Animal Use Protocol (AUP): A document that outlines the purpose and benefits of the teaching project/activity involving animals and undergoes assessment of pedagogical merit by an independent referee and of ethical merit by the ACC.

Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)²: The national peer-review organization responsible for setting, maintaining, and overseeing the implementation of high standards for animal ethics and care in science throughout Canada.

Complainant: (An) individual(s) concerned with the care and/or welfare of animals being used for any project/activity under an approved AUP.

Humane endpoint: The point at which distress or pain in the animal species is eliminated or minimized to maintain humane and ethical care of the animal(s).

Sheridan Facilities: All Sheridan-owned, -rented or -leased land, facilities, buildings, structures, vehicles, and property located on or off Sheridan campuses.

Post Approval Monitoring: Visitation to all approved projects/activities by members of the ACC to ensure humane treatment of the involved animals and adherence to the AUP.

Project/Activity: Any activity related to curriculum, program outcomes, or student development conducted at, or on behalf of, Sheridan. This includes, but is not limited to, demonstrations, non-invasive or invasive procedures, models for the arts or computing, and grooming.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): A detailed, written description of any procedure that outlines the highest standard of care and conduct to be employed and/or demonstrated during that procedure.

Teaching: In the context of this policy, teaching refers to instruction for academic purposes as part of a program at Sheridan.

4. Policy Statement

Principles of this Policy are guided by the ACC Terms of Reference. Sheridan endorses and adheres to the principles espoused by the CCAC² and is committed to the ethical and humane treatment, care, and welfare of all animals utilized for teaching purposes on behalf of Sheridan and/or on Sheridan Facilities. Activities involving animals used for teaching are approved and

¹ Animals for Research Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A22, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a22>, (accessed April 2, 2020).

² Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), "Animal Care Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals", 1993, https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Experimental_Animals_Vol1.pdf (accessed April 2, 2020).

monitored by a Sheridan-appointed ACC in accordance with the requirements of the CCAC² and ARA¹.

4.1 Actions

4.1.1 The appointment of the ACC is outlined in the Terms of Reference. The ACC comprises representatives from Sheridan including, but not limited to, the designated ACC Coordinator, ACC Chairperson (who must be a non-animal user), ACC Veterinarian, Resident Veterinary Technician, a representative from Occupational Health and Safety, Resident /Veterinarian licensed to practise in the province of Ontario (who may or may not be a member of faculty), a minimum of one (1) community member, and at least one (1) Animal Sciences (Veterinary Technician or Animal Care) student representative.

4.1.2 The ACC Terms of Reference guides the principles of this Policy and includes:

- I. Teaching activities only use live animals when non-animal alternatives are unavailable or not feasible.
- II. Careful consideration and selection of the species of animal ensures the most effective and humane use of the animal
- III. The project/activity uses the least invasive technique(s) (ref. Animal Use Protocol form and ACC Terms of Reference).
- IV. The number of animal(s) is justified, and the minimum number required to achieve the objectives of the project/activity is used.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

4.2.1 The ACC approves all AUPs prior to the start of the activity in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the CCAC² and regulations established in the ARA¹.

4.2.2 CCAC SOP directions for completing an AUP provide the process and information required to submit and gain approval for use of (an) animal(s) for a project/activity.

4.2.3 All projects/activities involving the use of animals undergo review for pedagogical and ethical merit.

4.2.4 The ACC approves the AUP for the project/activity, in writing, prior to the acquisition of animals for the project/activity. This approval is available for review at any time.

4.2.5 The ACC completes post-approval monitoring of all approved projects/activities.

4.2.6 Faculty and students directly involved in the teaching activity adhere to humane endpoints and monitor the animals closely for pain, discomfort, and/or distress.

4.2.7 The ACC reviews and approves the housing and care of animals while on/in Sheridan Facilities in accordance with CCAC guidelines² and ARA¹ regulations.

4.2.8 Licensed veterinarians provide routine and emergency care for animals owned by Sheridan and used for teaching purposes in accordance with CCAC guidelines² and ARA regulations¹.

4.2.9 The administrative supervisor, the ACC Coordinator, and the senior administrator to which the ACC reports to ensure that individuals do not engage in an unapproved project/activity.

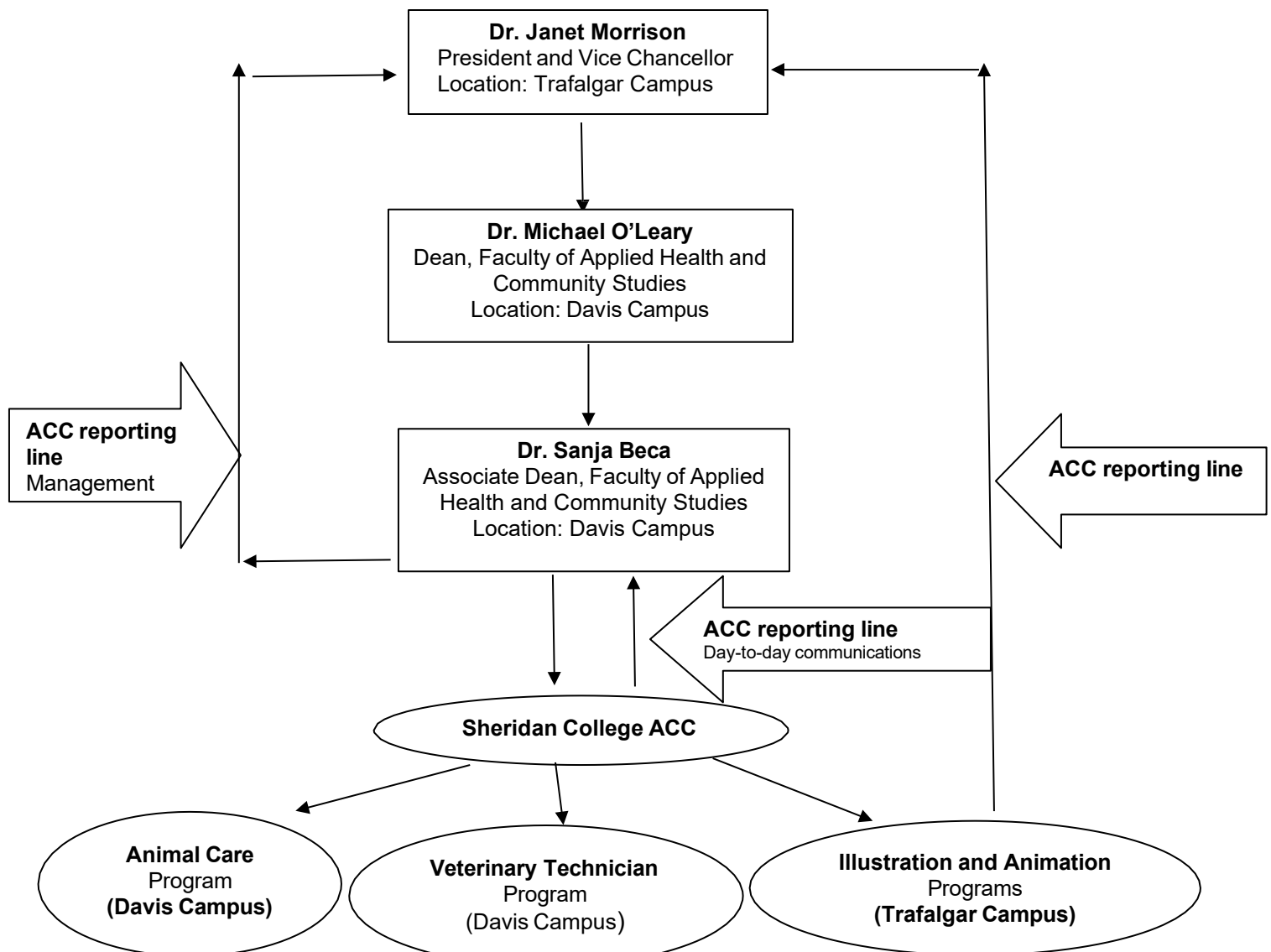
4.2.10 All dogs and cats on/in Sheridan Facilities require proof of up-to-date vaccinations including rabies. A binder of vaccination records resides in classrooms where teaching with animals takes place.

4.3 Exceptions

When a trained owner/handler is not present, all personnel working with live animals must have appropriate training in animal handling techniques, skills, and care required for the project/activity in the established and approved AUP. Training records for faculty teaching courses involving the use of live animals are maintained by the ACC.

4.4 Flow Chart

INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART ACC ANIMAL CARE AND USE



4.5 Responsible Office: The Institutional Official and ACC will interpret and apply the policy and have the responsibility to draft any associated procedures. The Provost and Vice President Academic has the responsibility to approve any associated procedures.

Responsible Executive: Provost and Vice President Academic

5. Related Documentation

- [Accessibility Policy](#)
- Animal Use Protocol (AUP) form
- [Monitoring humane endpoints in animals \(SOP ADM-06-19\)](#)
- [Research Integrity Policy](#)
- [Sheridan Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Post-approval monitoring of AUPs (SOP ACC-03-19)
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Reporting of animal welfare concerns (SOP ADM-8-19)
- [Use of Animals on Sheridan Premises for Non-Instructional Purposes](#)