

PEDAGOGICAL MERIT REVIEW POLICY FOR ANIMAL-BASED TEACHING

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A. PURPOSE

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) policy entitled [*Pedagogical merit of live animal-based teaching and training*](#) requires that CCAC-certified institutions that conduct animal-based teaching or training have a formal Pedagogical Merit Review (PMR) process. The purpose of this policy is to set out the requirements for ensuring that all animal-based teaching and training conducted at Douglas College (the College) and affiliated research institutes, centres and hospitals undergoes PMR.

B. SCOPE

This policy applies to College employees with responsibility for or oversight of teaching or training activities that involve the use of live vertebrate animals, which activities fall under the oversight of the CCAC.

C. DEFINITIONS

Animal-Use Protocol (AUP): Written guidelines for the humane and ethical use of vertebrates in a teaching, training and/or research capacity; AUPs are reviewed for pedagogical merit by independent peer reviewers and must be approved by the DCACC prior to implementation.

D. POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Douglas College requires and affirms that any use at the College of live vertebrate animals for

teaching or training purposes will be subject to prior review for pedagogical merit, and will be permissible only when the educational goals of a course that relies on the use of live animals cannot be met effectively via an alternative manner.

2. An Animal-Use Protocol (AUP) must be submitted for approval to the Douglas College Animal Care Committee (DCACC) prior to the use of any animals by instructors, students or researchers; AUP applications to the DCACC must include a completed PMR.
3. The College will permit the use of live animals for the educational purposes of demonstrating principles and facts that are already well known, but prohibits the use of animals to discover, prove or develop new ideas or techniques.
4. Painful experiments or multiple invasive procedures on an un-anaesthetized or a repeatedly anaesthetized individual animal, conducted solely for the instruction of students, is not permitted.
5. The Vice President, Academic and Provost (VPA) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the PMR process and for ensuring that the process complies with [CCAC policy](#).
6. The PMR process will provide for a full or an expedited review, as appropriate:
 - a. An expedited PMR process may be used where training methods are dictated by external accrediting bodies (such as the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association) or where formal institutional training sessions for animal users are required.
 - b. A full PMR process will be used in all other instances.
7. The PMR process will provide an independent expert assessment of the proposed use of live animals and make recommendation to the DCACC. The purpose of this process is to assess whether
 - a. Effective alternatives exist (e.g., invertebrates, cadavers, illustrations) to the use of the vertebrates for teaching the particular skill(s) that the students need to acquire;
 - b. The use of the particular species and number of animals is justified based on the defined learning outcomes and number of students involved; and
 - c. The skill(s) will be taught in a way that ensures curricular alignment of learning objectives, method(s) of teaching/learning activities and method(s) of assessment/learning outcomes.
8. The DCACC will vet AUPs to ensure that any use of live animals for teaching or training is justified pedagogically.

E. PROCEDURES

[Standard Operating Procedures](#) (for internal users only)

- *Pedagogical Merit Review for Animal-Based Teaching*



F. SUPPORTING FORMS, DOCUMENTS, WEBSITES, RELATED POLICIES

- CCAC [Policy: Pedagogical merit of live animal-based teaching and training](#)
- CCAC [Frequently Asked Questions: Pedagogical merit of live animal-based teaching and training](#)
- [DC Pedagogical Merit Reviewer Form](#)
- [DC Pedagogical Merit Principal Investigators/Instructor Form](#)

G. RELATED ACTS AND REGULATIONS

N/A

H. RELATED COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

N/A