



University of Victoria Animal Care Committee Policy Document Alternative Housing of Experimental Animals

Purpose

It is the policy of the University of Victoria (UVic) Animal Care Committee (ACC) that animals used for research, teaching, and testing are housed in purpose-built UVic animal facilities on the campus. Housing of animals outside of these facilities can increase the risk to the animals and to the people around them, particularly those individuals who have animal allergies. Thus, the alternative housing of experimental animals for more than 24 hours will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and will only be granted when scientifically justified and when the [housing conditions](#) meet UVic and Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards.

ACC Policy

In cases where a Principal Investigator (PI) requires alternative housing of experimental animals outside of UVic purpose-built animal facilities, the PI will provide care as specified by UVic and CCAC policies. This includes the ability of the Veterinary Director and his/her delegates to have unlimited access to the alternative housing, and their authority to deal with animal welfare issues as described in the [ACC Terms of Reference](#). Formal application to the UVic ACC will be made prior to the provision of alternative housing.

Procedures

When a PI identifies a requirement for housing arrangements involving non-purpose-built space (e.g. laboratories) for more than 24 hours, the [Alternative Animal Holding/Housing Request Form](#) will be completed and submitted to the ACC. In completing the form, particular attention should be paid to the justification for the alternative housing and description of the alternative housing space. In reviewing the application, the ACC may choose to inspect the alternative housing location in advance of providing approval. Further, the alternative housing space will be inspected by the ACC at least once every 12 months in the period during which the space is being used for alternative housing. All per diem fees and other relevant charges will be applicable to the animals in the alternative housing.