

Purpose / Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline institutional requirements for directly involving a Registered Veterinary Technician* when undertaking specific procedures identified within Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) under the authority of Western's Animal Care Committee (ACC).

Rationale

According to CCAC's Policies and Prerequisites web page, one of three main requirements for obtaining and maintaining a Good Animal Practice (GAP) certificate is ensuring *"trained, qualified personnel in sufficient numbers to care for all groups of animals seven days a week."*¹

According to Section 17 of Ontario's *Animals for Research Act*, the Animal Care Committee (ACC) must ensure the prevention of unnecessary pain, oversee the standards of care relating to animal procedures, and ensure adequate qualifications and training associated with those directly involved in the care of animals.²

Policy Statements

Appropriately trained and experienced Registered Veterinary Technicians must be directly involved in the following:

- All AUPs involving cats, dogs, non-human primates, pigs, rabbits, and sheep to provide expertise for:
 - Anesthetic induction, monitoring, and recovery; multiple anesthetics,
 - Aseptic practices for surgical procedures; multiple surgical procedures,
 - Long and/or difficult recoveries,
 - Health monitoring, e.g., general, post-procedure,
 - Blood collection and/or catheterization,
 - Mentoring personnel to develop competencies required per the AUP and/or core species-specific training requirements, e.g., handling, health monitoring, non-vascular substance administration.

Registered Veterinary Technicians associated with this policy must:

- Consult with Institutional Veterinarians on any unexpected or negative outcomes.
- Maintain and demonstrate a high degree of technical proficiency through continuing education.

*Registered Veterinary Technician – A highly trained animal health professional graduate from a post-secondary institution recognized by the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) who is an OAVT member in good standing.

¹ Canadian Council on Animal Care. Certification of Ethical Animal Care and Use Programs (Feb2022). Appendix I, P. 5. Retrieved 18JAN2024 from https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Certification_of_ethical_animal_care_and_use_programs.pdf

² Animals for Research Act. R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.22. Sect. 16. 18JAN2024 Retrieved from <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a22/v6#BK16>

- Maintain animal records in accordance with the *Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)*.
- Undertake sick animal response in accordance with the *Sick Animal Response Policy (POL-009)*, and
- For animal health and welfare concerns that cannot be readily resolved between the Registered Veterinary Technician and their supervisor, the concerned party must forward the concern to the ACC Executive, as per the *Concerns Policy (PROC-004)*.

Exemptions

Exemptions to the requirement for Registered Veterinary Technicians, as outlined above, must be pre-approved by the ACC via its Working Group through submission of the *RVT Exemption Request Form (Appendix 1)* and following the *Procedures for Requesting Exemption from the Inclusion of Registered Veterinary Technicians in AUPs (PROC-006)*.

References

MAPP 7.12 – Animal Ethics and Care Program

Animal Care Committee

Procedures for Requesting Exemption from the Inclusion of Veterinary Technicians in AUPs (PROC-006)

Animal Care and Use Records Policy (POL-003)

Sick Animal Response Policy (POL-009)

Concerns Policy (POL-004)

Canadian Council on Animal Care

Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Animals for Research Act. R.S.O. 1990

Revision History

Version	Approval Date <i>dd-mm-yyyy</i>	Description of Changes	Author(s)
01	10-11-2012	Update 'criteria;' 3. Add 'exemption process' and 'Exemption Request Form'	LT / TDL
02	30-05-2018	Update Purpose & Policy statements; add definitions, roles & responsibilities	LT
03	08-02-2024	Update formatting; remove roles & responsibilities; update Purpose & Policy Statements; replace VT with RVT designation; define 'RVT'	LT / JSN / NH / HCP