

SMU ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM: Quarterly Newsletter

January 2025

We hope that as researchers involved in animal use you find the following newsletter helpful in navigating the changing landscape of animal welfare and ethics guidelines. Questions and further discussion are always welcome via animalcare@smu.ca

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- New SOP: Endpoints
- Animal Use Protocol Forms updated
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- Annual Animal Use Data

SMU ACC SOP: Humane, Scientific, and Cumulative Endpoints

A new SOP was created to ensure our procedures are aligned with the latest [CCAC Guidelines Identification of Endpoints](#), released in 2022 along with a helpful [FAQ page](#). The Endpoints SOP was introduced and discussed during the October ACC AGM, and updated and approved at the December 2024 ACC review meeting.

The SOP is attached to the email communication and is available in the OneDrive SOP Library. This is a great resource to reference during initial protocol development and protocol renewal.

Animal Use Protocol Forms updated: See [SMU ACC Forms section on website](#)

AUPF – Laboratory, AUPF – Fieldwork, and Amendment/Renewal forms have all been updated to incorporate changes discussed during the October 2024 ACC AGM. These changes were a direct response to CCAC assessment panel recommendations. **Note: Submission of old forms will no longer be accepted.**

- AUP Forms summary of changes:
 - Animals to be used: Expected baseline mortality is no longer optional, but mandatory.
 - Description of Project and Procedures: Addition of questions directly related to animal welfare assessment and tracking use/cumulative use.
 - Humane Intervention Points, Scientific Endpoints, and Cumulative Endpoints: New section to list cumulative endpoints.
- Amendment form:
 - Animal numbers: Mandatory expected baseline mortality
 - Procedural changes: Question re changes to endpoints.

- Renewal form:
 - Animal numbers: Mandatory expected baseline mortality
 - Progress report: Question re changes to endpoints

CCAC Virtual Learning Series: Animal Welfare Assessment webinar

The last webinar in the CCAC Virtual Learning Series is on Animal Welfare Assessment on **January 29, 2:00pm-3:30pm AST**. If you are interested in attending, contact animalcare@smu.ca to register at no cost.

The *CCAC guidelines: Animal welfare assessment* was developed based on the recognition that animals used for scientific purposes should have good welfare, which is characterized by maximizing animals' positive experiences while minimizing their negative ones. This approach to ensuring good welfare is already at the core of many existing practices including formal welfare assessments. This session will explore the details of the 2021 guidelines and discuss the implementation of animal welfare assessment in research, teaching, and testing. This will be followed by a general discussion and Q&A.

Annual Animal Use Data

An early reminder that Animal Use data should be submitted to animalcare@smu.ca by March 17, 2025. The AUDF should include all animal use that took place from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 (excluding Purpose of Animal Use 0: breeding colonies, herd, holding protocols, etc.). See Best Practices Info Sheet: [Annual Animal Use Data](#) for guidance

Thank you for taking the time to read the SMU ACC Newsletter!