

## CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING

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<b>AUTHORITY</b>	<b>BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT</b>	<b>ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES</b>

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### **POLICY**

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) regards the use of animals in research, teaching, testing and production as a privilege and not a right. All individuals involved in the use of animals for research, teaching, testing and production must care for their animals in compliance with the Thompson Rivers University Animal Care Committee protocols, the most current Guidelines published by the Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC) and in accordance with Sections 444-447 of the Criminal Code of Canada and Section 24 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The body authorized to oversee the administrative aspects of research involving animals shall be the Thompson Rivers University Animal Care Committee (ACC). It shall be the responsibility of the ACC to establish and oversee appropriate procedures to ensure ethical conduct of research involving animals and compliance with CCAC standards.

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### **REGULATIONS**

#### **I. ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE OF TRU**

1. TRU establishes the ACC to ensure that TRU upholds the highest standards in the care of animals used for teaching, research, testing and production. The ACC is established in compliance with the CCAC policy statement which requires that institutions conducting animal-based research, teaching or testing establish an animal care committee, and that it be functionally active.
2. The ACC's operations and oversight of all are governed by its Terms of Reference.
3. The ACC reports directly to the Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies (AVP RGS) who is the senior administrator of TRU responsible for

ensuring that all animal care and use is conducted appropriately, according to institutional and CCAC policies and guidelines. The AVP RGS shall receive copies of all of the ACC meeting minutes and site visit reports, and meet regularly with the Chair of the ACC to ensure that any concerns are addressed and that the committee is functioning appropriately.

## **II. APPEAL PROCEDURES**

The intent of the ACC is to resolve concerns of the committee with the investigator. The ACC Chair will invite the investigator, if necessary, to meet with the committee. The investigator has the right to appeal if the final decision of the ACC is to reject a protocol. The request for appeal is made to the AVP RGS, who shall ensure that a separate, fair and impartial review of the protocol is made by at least three external reviewers, with the appropriate expertise, who do not collaborate with the investigator. Reviewers shall be agreed upon by the ACC and the investigator.