

UNIVERSITY ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

Policy on Pilot Studies

A Pilot Study is defined as an animal use protocol (AUP) where the outcome of what is being proposed is generally unknown. This could include the determination of a half-life of a compound; a new procedure/animal model to the University/Lab; or an evaluation of a new procedure against a known procedure. Pilot Studies are conducted to support the future methodological decisions needed to progress with a full study. A Pilot Study should contain the minimum number of animals to define statistical variability which will enable a power analysis for a more robust study, if warranted. The results of the study should also help define the humane intervention points as well as the experimental endpoints for any future studies.

Additional peer-review for scientific merit is not required if the purpose of the Pilot Study is to develop or evaluate a new method within the context of a peer-reviewed research program. Standalone peer-review is however required if the Pilot Study explores a new research direction that is not covered within the context of an existing peer-reviewed research program.

Pilot Studies are granted a 1-year approval period with a required progress report of the outcomes upon completion. Extensions can be granted with adequate justification. If further work is to be undertaken following the completion of a Pilot Study, a new AUP must be submitted.

Revision History:

Date	New Version
03/29/2023	Policy Created and Approved