

# University Animal Care Committee

## Policy on Animal Welfare Assessment

All animals that are used in Science at Queen's University must undergo a welfare assessment on a regular basis. As a guiding principle, all animals that participate in science should be healthy and express a high prevalence and diversity of positively motivated species-typical behaviour, along with low levels of abnormal behaviour. Animal welfare is assessed through multiple integrated programs and processes, taking into consideration the following aspects:

- 1) Physical condition of the animal
- 2) Psychological well-being of the animal
- 3) Impact of experimental procedures on the animal
- 4) Cumulative lifetime experiences (when appropriate)
- 5) Environmental parameters

The welfare assessment will draw upon information that is gathered through the research, veterinary, and husbandry practices within the facility. To effectively assess the welfare of an animal, the following general categories for each species will be assessed:

- 1) Observable health indicators
- 2) Behavioural indicators
- 3) Additional physiological indicators

The University Animal Care Committee (UACC) is ultimately responsible for overseeing the implementation of welfare assessments. The assessments however, are completed by a team of individuals including but not limited to research team members, veterinarians, and animal care personnel. All information gathered in relation to welfare assessments is accessible to the team of individuals, including investigators, veterinarians, animal care personnel and the UACC. The information provided through animal welfare assessments will be used by the UACC to identify systemic welfare risks, anticipate welfare implications, and inform future decisions concerning the ethical care and use of animals in science.

### Revision History:

Date	New Version
03/24/2022	Policy Created and Approved
03/26/2025	Triennial Review