Policy on Visitors within Animal Facilities

From the CCAC’s Guidelines on Laboratory Animal Facilities (2003):

‘Facilities for the care and use of all animals in research, teaching and testing must be conducive to the well-being and safety of the animals, provide an appropriately-appointed and safe workplace for personnel, and establish a stable research environment.’

Visitors to animal facilities receive minimal training and orientation with respect to risks and procedures. It is therefore essential to protect visitors from the hazards of an animal facility, and to protect the animals and the facility from the potential hazards posed by visitors whose health status and judgment are unknown or questionable.

In order to ensure that the facilities, personnel and animals remain as safe and secure as possible the University Animal Care Committee (UACC) has developed a policy regarding visitors to any of the animal facilities on Queen’s Campus.

The UACC has declared that:

- All visitors to any animal facility must be approved by the University Veterinarian and the facility manager before entry.
- Approval will only be given to individuals believed to have a valid reason to visit.
- All visitors entering an animal facility must be accompanied by the facility manager or an approved designate.
- No visitors under the age of 18 years will be permitted to enter an animal facility.

Breaches to this policy should be reported to the University Veterinarian or the UACC for further investigation.

Requests for exemption to this policy can be submitted for University Veterinarian review and UACC approval.

**For the purposes of this policy a visitor is defined as a person who has not been provided with authorization to enter an animal facility as part of their employment or studies and an animal facility is defined as a facility for the care and use of animals in science.**