

UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE
POLICY 023
Allowable Procedures in Animal Housing Spaces

Date Approved: August 29, 2016
Date Revised: November 17, 2025

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline procedures that are permitted in animal housing spaces for animals used for Research, Teaching or Breeding under the auspices of the University of British Columbia (UBC). The policy is accompanied by an Appendix that provides additional details.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all animals housed in animal facilities or alternate housing spaces (as defined by UBC ACC Policy 009) and all UBC Persons who work with animals in Research, Teaching or Breeding within the UBC Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP), which falls under the review of UBC's Animal Care Committee (ACC).

3.0 DEFINITIONS

UBC animal facility: An animal use space that houses research, teaching or breeding animals at UBC or an affiliated research institute, centre or hospital that falls under the review of the UBC ACC.

Alternate housing space: any ACC approved spaces outside of a UBC animal facility where animals are housed for longer than 24 hours.

Negative welfare impact: any condition or experience/procedure that negatively affects the physical and/or mental state of an individual animal and impacts how it is experiencing the conditions in which it lives. The severity, frequency, and duration of these negative experiences determine the extent of the welfare impact on the animal.

4.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Procedures which cause no to minor negative welfare impacts to other animals may be conducted in the animal housing spaces. Measures must be taken to minimize the potential impacts of the procedures on other animals in the space.
2. Procedures which may cause moderate to major negative welfare impact to other animals must be conducted in a designated procedural space separate from other animals. Exceptions must be ACC approved.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the responsibility of any UBC Person involved in the care and use of animals to follow this policy.
2. The Principal Investigator is responsible for:
 - a. Indicating the location of all procedural spaces on an approved AUP
 - b. Ensuring any alternate housing spaces are not used for procedures that fall outside those permitted by this policy.
3. The UBC Animal Care Committee (ACC) is responsible for:
 - a. Approving the use of any housing spaces for procedures which may cause moderate to major negative welfare impact.
4. Facility Management is responsible for:
 - a. Providing appropriate procedural spaces separate from housing spaces
 - b. Enforcing use of appropriate procedural spaces for procedures that may have negative welfare impact on animals.

6.0 REFERENCES

1. UBC ACC Policies (<https://animalcare.ubc.ca/animal-care-committee/sops-policies-and-guidelines/acc-policies>)
 - a. 009 Alternate Animal Use Spaces
 - b. 015 Management of UBC Animal Care Facilities
2. CCAC Guidelines:
 - a. Laboratory animal facilities
(https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_guidelines-Laboratory_animal_facilities.pdf)
 - b. Categories of Welfare Impact
(https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_guidelines-Categories_of_welfare_impact.pdf)
 - c. Animal welfare assessment
(https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_guidelines-Animal_welfare_assessment.pdf)
 - d. Scientific procedures, Part A
(https://ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC_Guidelines-Scientific_procedures-Part_A.pdf)

APPENDIX 1: Procedures considered to have no to minimal welfare impact (e.g. procedures that are of low severity, low frequency or short duration):

1. Weighing and body condition scoring
2. Observation
 - a. Daily by facility staff
 - b. Research related (experimental, breeding, other)
3. Cage changing
4. Breeding colony management
 - a. Setting up breeding animals
 - b. Weaning
 - c. Organization of housing groups
5. Special food or water changes
6. Tumour measurements (without anesthesia)
7. Application of topical medications
8. Supportive care for animals with unexpected morbidity
9. Telemetry monitoring
10. Experimental changes to housing cages
11. Brief restraint for physical examination
12. Positive reward-based training. E.g. training for tasks, not for getting used to an aversive procedure