

WHEN IS ETHICS REVIEW REQUIRED (ANIMAL USE)?

ANIMAL USE: Determining “Category A Invasiveness” and “Other Use” Not Requiring ACUC Review

“Animal” Any living non-human vertebrate and any living invertebrate of the class of cephalopoda, including free-living and reproducing larval forms, used for research, teaching, breeding, or testing purposes at the University. Includes animals held within the bona fide University of Alberta Facilities, approved special requests for alternative animal housing, and animals used in field studies. Source: UAPPOL

Research, teaching and testing involving animals typically requires ethics approval. However, under certain circumstances ethics approval is not required.

- Experiments using most invertebrates and live isolates are considered Category of Invasiveness A and do not require ACUC approval. Examples include the use of tissue culture and tissues obtained at necropsy or from the slaughterhouse; the use of eggs, protozoa or other single-celled organisms; experiments involving containment, incision or other invasive procedures on metazoan.
- Circumstances that are not research, but still involve animal use, are not likely to require ACUC approval; however, there may be human and/or animal health and safety issues that should be addressed. A description of the event must be sent to REO, using the **Exceptions to ACUC Review** form. Examples include the Bar None parade, a petting zoo at University Open House, dog therapy for students at exam time.

To determine if your activity meets either of the above conditions, please complete the **Exceptions to ACUC Review** form.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CATEGORY A INVASIVENESS

- 1) **Is the activity considered research or teaching?**
Typically this refers to activities conducted by faculty members (academic research or University courses or training programs).
- 2) **Does this work involve OBSERVATION of live animals?**
In other words, there is no contact with the animals or interference with or modification of their environment or behaviour. Examples include use of motion activated cameras or video recorders to observe wild species, bird counting (without the use of recorded bird vocalizations), a class tour of the humane society facility, a demonstration of police dog duties.
- 3) **Does this work involve invertebrates below Class Cephalopoda?**
e.g. protozoa, insects, worms, clams, crabs, lobsters, snails, coral, sponges and starfish.

The University Animal Ethics Policy defines an “animal” as “any living non-human vertebrate and any living invertebrate of the class of cephalopoda, including free-living and reproducing larval forms.”

- 4) **Does this work involve live isolates?**
e.g. excreta/parasites collected from live animals, zebrafish embryos, chick embryos at less than 2/3 incubation, commercially produced cell lines.

5) **Does this work involve animal-derived tissues or cadavers?**

e.g. dead animals found in the wild or tissues obtained from a meat processing plant or from animals euthanized under an approved protocol.

If you have answered YES to any or all of questions, your proposed work is likely classified as Category A Invasiveness and will not require University ACUC approval. Please complete the [Exceptions to ACUC Review](#) form to submit your activity to the Research Ethics Office for review and confirmation.

If your activity is **University teaching, testing or research and you have answered NO** to any of the above questions OR if **changes to your work produce different answers to the above questions in the future, University ACUC approval is needed.** Please complete an Animal User Protocol using the [Research Ethics Management Online \(REMO\)](#) system.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Animal use that does not involved research or teaching does not generally require ACUC review, however there are other issues which may need to be addressed. Please complete the [Exceptions to ACUC Review](#) form to submit the details of your activity to the Research Ethics Office for review.

Activities considered “Category A Invasiveness” or “Other Activities” must be registered (and re-registered) on a yearly basis as needed.

Information on preparing an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) can be found on the [Research Ethics Office](#) website (<http://www.reo.ualberta.ca/AnimalResearchEthics>).

Links:

[Exceptions to ACUC Review form](#)