

Purpose

Identify formal procedures regarding the process to adopt animals used in research, teaching and production at the University of Saskatchewan. University animals with no significant health concerns may undergo adoption as companion animals.

Background

The UACC exercises the option to implement a formal adoption process for any animal used in research, teaching, and production that has reached its non-terminal experimental endpoint or is no longer appropriate for use as defined in an UACC approved animal use protocol. The OVPR supports the option for adoption in accordance with applicable institutional and national regulations.

Responsibility

1. The UACC Facility Veterinarian to assess the health status of the animal up for adoption.
2. The Facility Manager and UACC Facility Veterinarian to identify potential behaviour or health related concerns regarding the animal up for adoption.
3. The principal investigator/course director to provide information on all manipulations and interventions applied to the animal up for adoption.
4. The principal investigator, Facility Manager, UACC Facility Veterinarian, and animal care staff to seek a potential home for the animal up for adoption.

Procedure

This procedure document outlines the process for adoption of university animals as companion animals only. A companion animal is defined as any animal kept solely as a personal pet and not for other purposes.

The procedure for adoption must consider eligibility, adoption procedure, and transfer of ownership.

ADOPTION ELIGIBILITY

- a. Only animals in good health and with appropriate behaviours may undergo adoption under this procedure document.

- Information about the experimental procedures or interventions that might result in persistent health concerns must be made available to the UACC Facility Veterinarian for assessment.
 - The UACC Facility Veterinarian will conduct a physical examination to determine whether the animal is clinically healthy and has appropriate disposition.
 - The animal must not be actively involved in an UACC approved animal use protocol and must not be eligible for transfer to another approved protocol.
- b. The Principal Investigator and the UACC Facility Veterinarian must approve the adoption of animals deemed in good health and with acceptable behaviour.
- c. The adopter must agree to adopt the animal as a companion animal only, i.e. must not sell or use as food. Furthermore, the adopter must agree to be solely responsible for veterinary care and behavioural management at the time of 'Transfer of Ownership'.
- d. The adopter must agree with the assessment of health of the animal and is responsible for all future veterinary care at the time of the 'Transfer of Ownership'. If applicable, the adopter must agree to have the animal spayed or neutered prior to its acquisition.
- e. Animals not eligible for adoption include:
- Reproductively intact, genetically engineered animals
 - Animals exposed to infectious agents
 - Animals considered a potential invasive species or endangered species
 - Animals for which the Principal Investigator, Facility Veterinarian, and/or Facility Manager identifies any issues or risk that excludes them from adoption

ADOPTION PROCEDURE

a. Identification of Prospective Owner

- The UACC or other members of the university community will not advertise available animals to the public. All communications remain internal to the animal care and use program, i.e. advertising to the general public in the form of posted flyers, holding of animals for viewing, advertising with local shelters, etc. is not allowed.
- The Principle Investigator/Course Directors, Facility Veterinarian, Facility Manager, and animal care staff are allowed to identify a prospective adopter.
 - The UACC Facility Veterinarian and/or Facility Manager interview the prospective adopter for their suitability and knowledge of appropriate care required for the animal.
 - The UACC Facility Veterinarian must identify to the prospective adopter any potential health concerns that might arise from the teaching or research use.

b. Veterinary Examination

- A UACC Facility Veterinarian reviews the research protocol and animal's clinical record to understand the animal's suitability for adoption as identified in the 'Eligibility for Adoption' above.
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian and/or Facility Manager interview the prospective adopter to determine reasons for adoption and adopter's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare, and to address questions the adopter may have regarding the animal.
 - The interview will cover specific questions including: prospective residence and other pets at the residence and their health status
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian may recommend the spay or neuter of sexually intact animals.
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian or Facility Manager completes a 'Companion Animal Transfer Agreement' form.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

- a. The adopter completes an 'Animal Adoption Agreement'. A signed agreement is copied and the adopter receives the original copy while the second copy is included in the animal use protocol file.
- b. Once a signed copy is available to the UACC, the owner may leave the facility with the adopted animal. Once in the full possession of the new owner, the University of Saskatchewan assumes no further responsibility for the animal or any health care of behavioural issues. Under no circumstance will the animal be returned to the University of Saskatchewan.

Approved by the UACC, May 26, 2016

Companion Animal Transfer Agreement

By this agreement, the University of Saskatchewan transfers ownership of a

(male or female) (species) (number)

To: _____
(print name)

(address)

The University of Saskatchewan acquired this animal for research, teaching, or production purposes and now deems the animal eligible for release for adoption according to *UACC Procedures on Adoption of University Animals*. To the best knowledge of the University this animal is sound and healthy at the time of transfer.

The above named party hereby represents and warrants that the animal will remain a companion animal, as a personal pet in their immediate family, be treated in a humane manner, and will be provided housing, nutrition, and veterinary care at a level consistent with good animal husbandry practices.

The University, upon receipt of relevant information, shall inform any prospective owners at the above noted address of any animals that may be asymptomatic carriers of zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans. The University makes no representation or warranty that this animal is not infected with zoonotic diseases.

The above named party agrees to accept the animal "as is", and shall be solely responsible for the animal from the date hereof.

University of Saskatchewan

Adopter

Date

Date

Witness

Date

University of Saskatchewan, Animal Adoption Agreement

I, _____, am adopting an animal from the University of Saskatchewan and agree to be fully responsible for the care, treatment, and well-being of this animal. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I am adopting this animal solely as a personal pet for my immediate family and not for use in any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal or on the University of Saskatchewan.

It has been explained to me that the animal referenced below has been given a veterinary examination, as evidenced by his or her signature below. Any health conditions or abnormal conditions known to exist at the time of the adoption have been fully explained to me and I affirm that I am capable of handling all the obligations connected with the care, treatment, and responsibility for the animal in light of these conditions. I have had an opportunity to ask the examining veterinarian any and all health and care related questions and each question has been answered to my satisfaction. I am fully aware that this animal has been the subject of a research study or used in teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, the specifics of which have been discussed between myself and the UACC Facility Veterinarian or Facility Manager.

Species: _____

Breed/Strain: _____

Gender: _____

Color/Markings: _____

Identification No: _____

Signature of Examining Veterinarian

Date of Examination

I agree to accept full responsibility for this animal, including any and all future costs related to the animal's care, well-being, and actions. I have completely and thoroughly read this Acknowledgement and agree that all terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted for the purpose of making a full and final adoption of the above animal.

Signature of Adopting Owner

Date of Adoption Agreement

Address

Telephone