



Background

There are chronic-use dogs and cats housed at several different locations across campus, including ARC. To ensure that their behavioural and exercise needs are met along with their health needs, a standard policy or Standard Operating Procedure For The Housing And Care Of Long-term Held Research Dogs and Cats At The University of Saskatchewan, has been developed.

Standard Operating Procedure for The Housing and Care of Long-term Housed Research Dogs and Cats at The University of Saskatchewan

1. Record Keeping.

Accurate records should be maintained on each chronically held dog or cat. All manipulations, both in terms of the actual research manipulations, and in terms of the routine annual examinations, vaccinations, etc., should be recorded.

2. Annual Vaccinations.

All dogs and cats should receive annual vaccinations as determined in consultation with the laboratory animal veterinarians.

For chronically housed dogs being exercised out of doors, consideration should be given to vaccinating for rabies as well as the other infectious diseases.

3. Annual Physical Examinations.

An annual physical examination should be scheduled, at which time the following things could/should be addressed;

- a) trim nails as appropriate,
- b) check and clean teeth as appropriate,
- c) check and clean ears as appropriate, and
- d) check anal glands.

This annual physical examination & vaccination process could perhaps be arranged in conjunction with the veterinary student third year medical exercises laboratory or clinical rotation, so that the students do all the related work as part of their learning experience.

4. **Parasite Control.**

Deworming annually if exposed to new dogs.

5. **Regular Exercise.**

Ideally each dog should be exercised outside of its pen at least once a day. Ideally this would be in the company of other compatible dogs. As a minimum, dogs should get out for a walk / exercise period at least three times a week for at least 1/2 hour per period.

For dogs going outside appropriate control should be maintained at all times, and it may mean keeping them on a leash unless they are in a confined pen area. All such dogs should be appropriately identified.

We have to be "environment friendly" when exercising dogs outside, and have to pick up any excrement and properly dispose of it.

Cats should be loose-housed. Exceptions to this must be justified to the UACC Protocol Review Committee.

6. **Enrichment Practices.**

Enrichment practices are strongly encouraged. Routine regular grooming should be done.

For dogs, providing treats such as rawhide chews, dog biscuits contribute to the enrichment of the dog's life. Giving dog treats after manipulations is a useful positive enforcement practice. Other things such as Kong toys, raised resting benches or resting tubs also enhance the dog's environment.

For cats, their environment should contain litter boxes, scratching posts (e.g., carpet covered), climbing trees, and toys. In addition, providing blankets and places to hide allow for a more enhanced environment.

SOP Approved by the UACC, 26 April 1995