

PURPOSE

The purpose of these procedures is to define the requirements for the reporting of all morbidity, mortality or welfare incidents involving animals used in the research and teaching programs at the University of Saskatchewan and its related facilities.

SCOPE

These procedures apply to all experimental and teaching animals (i.e. those animals identified on an animal use protocol) used by faculty/staff/students/research personnel at the University of Saskatchewan and its affiliated facilities.

Exemptions

These procedures do not apply to resident production and/or breeding populations of rodents, fish, poultry, cattle, and sheep, where a certain percentage of mortality is expected. For such populations, mortality is recorded and information is provided at the annual renewal of the animal use protocol associated with these animals. Any mortality beyond expected rates and all morbidity and other welfare incidents must be reported to the University Animal Care Committee (UACC).

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSIGHT

Responsibility for oversight of these reporting guidelines rests with the UACC.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Prompt reporting of morbidity, mortality, and animal welfare incidents will ensure relevant veterinary and animal care staff can tend to any affected animal(s) without delay.

The [Morbidity/Mortality/Animal Welfare Incident \(MMI\) Report form](#) is available on the [Research Services and Ethics Office website](#) and should be completed electronically with submission to the Research Services and Ethics Office. Any personnel associated with an animal use protocol (e.g. research personnel, animal care technician, Facility Manager, Facility Veterinarian) may complete an MMI report following the identification of a morbidity, mortality, or welfare incident.

The following outlines a general process when an animal health and/or welfare issue arises:

1. Upon identification of a serious animal health/welfare issue that requires immediate

attention, contact the Facility Veterinarian by phone. If unavailable, contact the Animal Welfare Veterinarian (AWV) or University Veterinarian (UV) by phone.

- a. The Facility Veterinarian (or AWV or UV) will determine the best resolution to the animal health and/or welfare issue.
 - b. The Facility Veterinarian (or AWV or UV) will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) and Facility Manager when the immediate health issue has been addressed.
2. If a non-life threatening animal health/welfare issue is identified contact the Facility Manager or delegate (in the Manager's absence) and Facility Veterinarian.
 - a. In a consultative process, the PI and FV will determine the best resolution to the animal health and/or welfare issue.
3. In all cases, complete a morbidity, mortality or animal welfare incident (MMI) report and include photographs if appropriate. The individual who first identified the MMI must complete the MMI and electronically submit it to the Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO).
 - a. The RSEO will forward the MMI report to the Facility Veterinarian and Animal Welfare Veterinarian.
4. The Facility Veterinarian reviews and comments on the MMI report and resubmits it to the RSEO.
 - a. The Facility Veterinarian contacts the PI to discuss the health or welfare concern and how best to address the issue (treatment/management plan), if necessary.
5. The MMI report becomes a health record for the animal and is included in the Animal Use Protocol file.
6. Continue to update the Facility Veterinarian on the effectiveness of any intervention and discuss alternative measures to alleviate the health or welfare concern, if necessary.

Approved by the UACC, 19 November 2012