

Purpose

Identify formal procedures regarding the process to adopt animals used in research, teaching and production at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). USask animals with no significant health concerns may undergo adoption as companion animals. Suitability of USask animals for adoption is at the discretion of the UACC Veterinarians.

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 (AUP). The Office of the Vice-President Research (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.

I. ADOPTION ELIGIBILITY

- a. Animals in good health and with appropriate behaviours may undergo adoption. Animals with underlying health conditions or behavioural concerns will be assessed by the Facility Veterinarian; any conditions/concerns will be discussed with the potential adopter who will agree to the adoption of the animal with these identified conditions and will agree to pay for any necessary treatment.
 - 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 and to the potential adopter for their reference.
 - The UACC Facility Veterinarian will conduct a physical examination to determine the clinical health and disposition of the animal.
 - The animal must not be actively involved in an UACC approved animal use protocol.
- b. The Principal Investigator and the UACC Facility Veterinarian must approve the adoption of animals deemed in good health and with acceptable behaviour. Exceptions may be made, on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the UACC Facility Veterinarian.
- c. The adopter must agree to adopt the animal as a companion animal only, i.e., must not sell or use as food (for human or animal consumption). 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 (exceptions for large animals based on the UACC Facility Veterinarian discretion)
 - Genetically engineered (transgenic) animals
 - Animals exposed to infectious agents
 - Animals considered a potential invasive species or endangered species
 - Animals on a restricted wildlife permit

- Animals for which the Principal Investigator, Facility Veterinarian, and/or Facility Manager identifies any issues or risk that excludes them from adoption

II. ADOPTION PROCEDURE

a. 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 'Adoption Eligibility' above.

b. Identification of Prospective Owner

- The UACC or other members of USask will advertise available animals internally to the animal care and use program (including external, UACC-affiliated organizations). Advertising through internal, USask managed listservs may be approved by the UACC in some cases. Advertising to the general public in any form, including but not limited; to posted flyers, online advertisements (i.e. Kijiji, craigslist, etc.), social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.), holding of animals for viewing, advertising with local shelters, etc. is not allowed.
- The Principal 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 interviews the prospective adopter to determine their reasons for adoption and the adopter's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare, assess their suitability and knowledge of appropriate care required for the animal, and address questions the adopter may have regarding the animal.
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian must identify to the prospective adopter any potential health/behavioural concerns that might arise from the teaching or research use.
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian and/or Facility Manager interview the prospective adopter to determine reasons for adoption and the adopter's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare, and address questions the adopter may have regarding the animal.
- The interview will cover specific questions including: prospective residence, other pets at the residence and their health status, children at the residence and their ages, and experience with having pets. The interview will also establish the prospective owner's expectations for the animal they are adopting and suitability of the animal as a pet.
- The UACC Facility Veterinarian or Facility Manager completes a 'Companion Animal Transfer Agreement' form. The owner receives the original form, the UACC maintains a copy of the original in electronic format in the AUP file and in a separate adoption of animal's file.

III. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

- a. The adopter completes an 'Animal Adoption Agreement'. A signed agreement is copied and the adopter receives the original copy; the UACC maintains an electronic copy in the animal use protocol file and in a separate adoption animal 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, USask assumes no further responsibility for the animal or any health care or behavioural issues. A follow-up communication will occur between the Facility Veterinarian and the adopter at regular intervals during the first two months of adoption to facilitate a smooth transition. If severe issues are identified which preclude the adopter from being able to maintain the animal at their residence, alternative arrangements will be identified including potential of previously identified and approved foster care or return to the USask animal facility.

*Approved by the UACC, May 26, 2016
Reviewed and approved by the UACC November 25, 2021*

Companion Animal Transfer Agreement

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

(male or female)

(species)

(ID/number)

(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 USask this animal is sound and healthy at the time of transfer, or abnormal conditions have been disclosed and discussed with the above-named party.

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 (print name & title)

Adopter (print name)

University of Saskatchewan (signature)

Adopter (signature)

Date

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 for breeding, reproductive, or food (human or animal consumption) purposes nor 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 and/or Facility Manager.

Species/Breed	Sex	Age	Description	Animal ID

Examining Veterinarian’s Statement: I have examined the above-described animal(s) and, to the best of my knowledge, have found it/them to be in good health and temperament at the time of examination and suitable for adoption.

Health and vaccination records are attached

Special Remarks (add additional pages if necessary):

Printed Name (Examining Veterinarian)

Signature

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

Telephone Number

Address: _____

University of Saskatchewan Veterinary Contact information:

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the USask veterinarians by email or phone.

Email: uacc.office@usask.ca

Phone: 306-966-4126