Definitions of Recommendations Made in Quality Assistant Reports

LEVEL 4
Applies to situations of immediate danger or impact to animal welfare or to the safety of personnel and requires immediate action due to its severity. Failure to take appropriate action will result in immediate suspension or termination of the Animal Use Protocol. A follow up QA assessment visit may be warranted to ensure good practices and the execution of corrective measures.

Examples:
Animal Welfare: Severe morbidity requiring immediate euthanasia (e.g. Unrelenting pain and/or distress, moribund state).
Personnel Health and Safety: Unprotected exposure to biocontainment level 3 infectious agents, carcinogens, radioisotopes/ Working with non-human primates without OHP participation and inappropriate PPE.

LEVEL 3
Applies to situations that present a potential danger to animal welfare or to the safety of personnel if not corrected in an expeditious manner. The actions taken, or planned by the Researcher/ Facility Manager in response to these recommendations must be specified, in writing, to the Facility Animal Care Committee/ Quality Assistant (QA) within the timeline specified by the QA. Failure to take such action would further jeopardize animal welfare/ personnel health & safety, and may result in Animal Use Protocol suspension and/or withholding of funds. A follow up QA assessment visit may be warranted to ensure good practices and the execution of corrective measures.

Examples:
Animal Welfare: High potential for pain and distress amenable to treatment/ ignoring clinical endpoints (e.g. Body Condition Scoring of less than 2.0) can lead to moribund state.
Personnel Health and Safety: unprotected exposure to biocontainment level 2, toxic chemicals risk of injury (i.e. burns, cuts), absence of or inadequately stocked first aid kits.

LEVEL 2
Applies to situations that have no real or potential threat to animals and humans but must be addressed in a timely manner in order for the Researcher/ Facility Manager to comply with McGill and CCAC policies and guidelines. The actions taken, or planned by the Researcher/ Facility Manager in response to these recommendations must be specified, in writing, to the Facility Animal Care Committee/ Quality Assistant (QA) within the timeline specified by the QA. Failure to take such action would further jeopardize animal welfare / personnel health & safety, and may result in Animal Use Protocol suspension and/or withholding of funds.
Definitions of Recommendations Made in Quality Assistant Reports

Examples:

Animal welfare: Failure to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)/Deficient record keeping/Minor deviation from McGill SOPs / Overcrowded cages/ Lack of necessary cage card information/ Inadequate aseptic technique.

Personnel Health and Safety: Ergonomic issues/ Material or equipment storage above eye level/ inappropriate storage of substances (i.e. Chemical cabinet), Expired certification or calibration of equipment (hoods, anesthetic machines,) Inappropriate use of PPE (containment level 1), Inaccessible safety data information(MSDS).

LEVEL 1

Applies to optional changes aimed at enhancing animal care and welfare at McGill University, in accordance with CCAC policies and guidelines, promoting best practices and refinement of techniques (e.g. Use of optimal animal models, new techniques/ technology).

COMMENDATORY

Applies to excellent conditions, practices (enhancing or optimizing animal welfare, reduction, refinement) or personnel.

OBLIGATIONS:

Principal Investigator: Responsibility to follow the above reporting requirements corresponding to Animal Use Protocol-related activities and provide the FACC with additional information (follow-up reporting) as warranted.

Facility Manager/ Supervisor: Responsibility to follow the above reporting requirements corresponding to Animal Facility-related activities and provide the FACC with additional information (follow-up reporting) as warranted.

Quality Assistant: Assists investigators, research staff, students, veterinary and animal care staff, FACCs, and administrators in remaining compliant with animal care and use regulations, policies and guidelines (McGill University Policy on the Study and Care of Animals). Reports all animal-related activities to the local FACC and UACC.

Facility Animal Care Committee: Ensures the humane care and use of animals in research, teaching or testing, according to CCAC guidelines and policies and are responsible for monitoring compliance with approved protocols. The FACC has the authority to suspend any activity involving animals that does not comply with the applicable laws, regulations, policies and/or guidelines (McGill University Policy on the Study and Care of Animals).