Human occupational health and safety is an integral component of any responsible animal care and use program. The mandate of this subcommittee is to identify the risks of working with animals and protocol-related hazardous radioactive, chemical and biological agents and substances, and to develop and implement safe practices to mitigate the risks.

1- MEMBERSHIP

The Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Subcommittee is appointed by the Chair of the UACC for a three year (renewable) term. Members are ex officio and will include:
   a) Veterinarian(s), one of which is the Chair
   b) Animal facility managers/supervisors (or designates) from each constituent of the McGill animal care and use program
   c) Occupational health and safety officers from the various constituents of the McGill animal care and use program
   d) An Animal Compliance Office Representative
   e) Others, including visitors deemed appropriate by the Chair

2- RESPONSIBILITIES

Working in close conjunction with the Environmental Health and Safety Offices of McGill and Research Institutes of the McGill University Health Centre (RI MUHC), and other relevant bodies:

1. To identify risks associated with working with animals that are administered hazardous radioactive, chemical and biological compounds; zoonotic diseases; allergies and physical injuries.
2. To create and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) in order to mitigate the identified risks.
3. To review accident/incident report forms submitted by individuals working with animals and to identify priority risks, document trends, seek corrective measures; create SOPs as required, and to assist local safety units to encourage safe working habits.
4. To receive occupational health and safety concerns from people working with animals.
5. To establish guidelines for safety inspections of animal facilities and areas where animal procedures are conducted to identify risks, offer guidance and share ideas to enable optimization and harmonization of safe work practices.

3- MEETINGS AND PROCESS

1. The Occupational Health and Safety Subcommittee will meet a minimum of two times a year, or on an “as needed” basis.
2. The Subcommittee shall report its activities to the University Animal Care Committee.
3. Decisions are made by consensus.

Approved by the UACC on June 2 2014.