1. Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) describes the terms of reference of the Veterinary Care (VC) subcommittee of the McGill University Animal Care and Use Committee (UACC). It ensures that this subcommittee works efficiently within its mandate.

2. Responsibility

2.1. UACC

2.1.1. Appointing members of this subcommittee.

2.1.2. Nominating a chair.

2.1.3. Reviewing/approving recommendations from the subcommittee.

2.1.4. Consult with VC subcommittee for issues having a veterinary care component.

2.2. Subcommittee members

2.2.1. Participate in the activities of the subcommittee.

3. Mandate

3.1. The mandate of the subcommittee is to promote consistent best veterinary practices and animal welfare all across the McGill University animal care and use program, by establishing standards, policies and SOPs.

3.2. The subcommittee's responsibilities cover, but are not limited to those areas:

3.2.1. Preventative medicine and health surveillance programs

3.2.2. Anesthesia, surgery, and post-procedural care

3.2.3. Pain assessment and analgesia

3.2.4. Animal wellbeing and environmental enrichment

3.2.5. Experimental procedures with potential for pain or distress (e.g.: blood collection, genotyping, water control)

3.2.6. Euthanasia

3.2.7. Zoonosis and other illnesses associated to animal exposure.

3.3. Initiatives may be proposed by members, mandated by UACC, or in response to CCAC guidelines or recommendations.

4. Composition:

4.1. The Veterinary Care subcommittee is composed of veterinarians providing regular and sustained services to McGill University and affiliated Research Institutes and a
representative from the Quality Assistance Subcommittee. Consulting veterinarians providing only occasional services will not be de-facto members.

4.2. Participation to this subcommittee is required as defined by UACC standard veterinary contracts.

4.3. The chair of the committee is nominated by the UACC, for 5 years, renewable.

5. Meetings:

5.1. The committee meets regularly generally 4 times a year, from September to May.

5.2. Decisions are made by consensus.

5.3. SOPs, policies, and recommendations from the subcommittee are presented to the UACC for approval.

5.4. Minutes are produced to document decisions of the subcommittee, and sent to UACC on a yearly basis.