1. PURPOSE

1.1- To provide details on feeding and watering research animals at the large animal research unit (LARU).

1.2- To provide balanced nutrition for research animals.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

2.1- Technical staff.

3. MATERIALS

4. PROCEDURES

4.1- Food:

4.1.1- Alternate diets may be given only in accordance with an approved protocol or the approval of the facility veterinarian.

4.1.2- Bimonthly: Check all diets (grower/lactating) for expiry dates or the date the feed was manufactured (stamped on the bag). Do not use feed that is older than 6 months.

4.1.3- Dry food must be stored in closed containers away from heat.

4.1.4- PROCEDURE FOR DAILY FOOD INTAKE MEASUREMENT:

a. Fill the food dish following the procedure in the protocol.

b. Calibrate the balance.

c. Weigh the dish with the food in it and record the weight.

d. At the next feeding, weigh the dish with the remaining food.

e. Record the weight and calculate and record the weight of food consumed.

f. Repeat 1-5 as needed for the duration specified by the protocol.

4.1.5- PROCEDURE FOR WEEKLY BODY WEIGHT MEASUREMENT:

a. All body weight measurements are taken on the same day of the week and at the same time of day for a given study.

b. Calibrate the scale (if necessary).

c. Tare the scale to zero (0.00 kg).

d. Place the animal on the scale.

e. Record the weight, once the animal has stopped moving and the weight has stabilized.

4.2- Water:

4.2.1- All water is from the City of Montreal municipal water supply unless otherwise required by protocol.

4.2.2- No animal is to be deprived of free access to water at any time unless specifically required by protocol. When this is the case the veterinarian must be notified to monitor for signs of dehydration in the animal.

4.2.3- No animal should be without water for more than 3 hours.

4.2.4- Automatic watering systems must be checked daily to ensure that the filters have not become plugged and that there are no malfunctions.

4.2.5- It is important to observe carefully during the 1st few days for water intake.
5. RELATED SOPs

5.1- Husbandry Schedule Swine – LARU#1