



## McGill University and Affiliated Research Institutes Animal Policy and Welfare Oversight Committee

### Policy on the use of suppliers of non-purpose bred animals

#### Preamble

McGill University and its Affiliated Research Institutes recognize the importance of animal research in our efforts to further our knowledge of natural processes, diseases and conservation. The institutions continue to develop and maintain guidelines and regulations, following the high standards established by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. It is committed to conducting the highest-quality teaching and research, and to providing animals with the best care. Attention is given to the sources of research animals to ensure that these animals are procured from suppliers adhering to strong ethical standards in animal care, among others, in accordance with Section 3.3 of [McGill University's Supplier Code of Conduct](#) (hereafter "The Code"). This policy addresses specific considerations regarding the purchase of animals from non-purpose bred suppliers.

#### Policy

McGill University and its Affiliated Research Institutes require that animals used for teaching and research be procured from certified suppliers that breed the animals for the purpose of scientific study. Such suppliers are known to meet or exceed the ethical standards outlined in The Code, and the provenance of the animals is verified.

Non-purpose bred animal suppliers do not necessarily meet these standards. Provenance of the animals can be from other breeders or from animal shelters. Their use is therefore not permitted, unless an exemption is obtained from the Facility Animal Care Committee (FACC).

The Veterinary Committee of the Animal Policy and Welfare Oversight Committee is mandated with identifying suppliers which meet the purpose-bred standard.

#### Exemptions

Exemptions from the requirement to procure purpose-bred animals from certified suppliers must be justified on scientific grounds in the protocol by the Principal Investigator or Principal Instructor (PI) and are subject to FACC approval.

In the event of an approved exemption, the supplier must meet certain criteria:

- The supplier must be assessed by Veterinary Care and/or Quality Assistance personnel to ensure that animal care standards are met.
- The supplier must provide evidence of provenance of the animals to be purchased by McGill University or its Affiliated Research Institutes. In case of animals that originally came from shelters, a document signed by the original owner agreeing to their former pets being used in science must be provided.

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*Approved by UACC Ethics Subcommittee – January 15, 2017*

*Approved by UACC – March 6, 2017*

*Revised and approved by APWOC – Feb 2, 2022*