

9.4T MRI FACILITY
SOP #405-03 ANIMAL USE IN THE 9.4T MRI FACILITY

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. **Everyone** (Principle Investigators, scientists, research staff, veterinarians, building maintenance staff, etc.) wishing to obtain security card access to the 9.4T MRI Facility is required to read all SOPs and to produce their signature declaring that they have read, understood and agree to abide by ALL pertinent SOPs.
- 1.2. Any person deviating from the prescribed SOPs will be notified in writing (as will their supervisor) as to their improper behaviour and a copy of the incident will be kept on file. If disregard for the SOP is repeated, access will be denied and their Security Access card will be cancelled immediately.
- 1.3. The SOPs in place are to be followed precisely in order to ensure the safety of all staff, the health of the animals, the research being conducted and the integrity of the entire facility.

2. TRAINING

- 2.1. All personnel who are directly involved in using animals for research must undergo appropriate training as outlined in SOP#200 "Safety and Training of Personnel".

3. ANIMAL USE PROTOCOLS

- 3.1. All personnel who are directly involved in using animals for research must be listed on an approved UWO Animal Use Protocol. Work involving animals cannot commence until the Animal Use Sub-committee (AUS) has approved the protocol. Documented proof of an approved protocol may be required. Please refer to <http://www.uwo.ca/animal/website/> for more details.
- 3.2. All animal related procedures that will occur in the 9.4T prep room, surgical suite or magnet area, must be included in the Animal Use Protocol. A modification to the Original Protocol must be submitted to the AUS if this information is not included in the current protocol. Details to be included are : facility room numbers, facility staff, monitoring and recovery details, any agents used on the animals while in the facility, approximate length of time spent inside the magnet.
- 3.3. All animal related procedures must be in compliance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care standards of animal use.

4. TRANSPORT AND ANIMAL HOLDING AREA

- 4.1. There is to be no 'holding' or 'storing' of animals in the 9.4T MRI Facility except for those animals that will undergo experiments or procedures that day.
- 4.2. Any animals awaiting an experiment or procedure should be kept separate from animals currently undergoing procedures. Surgery should not be performed in the direct presence of fully awake animals. Similarly, animals coming out of anesthesia should be kept separate from surgical animals, and fully awake animals.

- 4.3. When moving animals from or through one common area to another (elevator, hallways, etc), cages must always be covered with a blanket or towel. Animals must be transported using an approved container, cage, or cart.
- 4.4. Animals should arrive at the Facility using the rear door, which enters the prep room. This door backs onto Robarts External/Experimental housing area, and also leads to the loading dock.

5. SCHEDULING & BOOKING EXPERIMENTS

- 5.1. The Animal Technician should be consulted when scheduling any experiments. This ensures all equipment is available and in working order for all users; that there are not conflicts in health status' of animals being scanned; and also to coordinate with some of the time sensitive studies that occur.
- 5.2. The current schedule can be found at www.cfmm.robarts.ca and clicking on the tab at the far right (CFMM Schedule) and selecting the 9.4T MRI on the left hand side of the page. Please note that not all studies/information is booked for MRI, and therefore it is always best to verify availability with the Animal Technician

6. OVERNIGHT HOUSING

- 6.1. Unless otherwise specified on the Animal Use Protocol, animals must return to their originating housing room upon recovery. Animals are NOT to be housed in the 9.4T MRI Facility overnight.