



VICE-PRINCIPAL (RESEARCH)

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Dear Dr. Weisberg, Ms. Donaldson and Ms. Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter dated December 13th, and your interest in the Animal Care and Use Program at Queen's University. As a research-intensive university, we are always willing to receive feedback or suggestions from our wider community of supporters with respect to our research mission. To this affect, we would like to acknowledge receipt of the petition related to establishing a retirement and rehoming program for animals used in research at Queen's. Whenever decisions are made related to animals in research, teaching and testing, animal welfare has to be at the forefront. Queen's university has previously rehomed and adopted out animals, and continues to do so when permitted by the research program and it has been deemed appropriate and in the best interest of the animal in question. The decision to re-home an animal relies on evidence-based decision making, in addition to the guiding principles outlined in the Animal Use Protocols; in every case, the welfare of the animal is paramount.

Queen's is a holder of a certificate of Good Animal Practice (GAP) as assessed by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). The CCAC certificate of GAP is awarded to institutions that:

- a) Participate fully in the programs of the CCAC.
- b) Have been assessed regularly by assessment panels composed of scientists, veterinarians and community representatives selected by the CCAC.
- c) Have been found by the assessment panel and by the CCAC Assessment and Certification Committee to have standards of experimental animal care and use which satisfy the CCAC's standards and guidance.

In addition, we are a registered research facility with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs under the Animals for Research Act.

As an institution, Queen's is committed to the tenants of the 3R's: reduction, replacement and refinement, in all aspects of the animal care and use program. As in all CCAC assessed programs, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is the cornerstone of the program.

Here at Queen's, we have two very engaged community members, selected by the CCAC and not affiliated with the institution, that sit on the committee as well as 19 other members from across campus.

We are committed to the highest standards of animal welfare

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Liss', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steven N. Liss, PhD
Vice-Principal (Research)

c.c.: Dr. Daniel R. Woolf, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Alan Harrison, Provost and Vice-Principal
Dr. Andrew Winterbom, University Veterinarian