



## VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

### ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE Policy ACC-011 – Visitors to Animal Facilities

#### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this Policy is to provide direction for allowing visitors within VIU animal facilities, and those facilities that reside at affiliated research institutes / centres and that fall under the review of the VIU Animal Care Committee (ACC).

#### **SCOPE**

2. This Policy applies to animal care facility managers and their staff, and other approved animal facility users.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

3. Visitor: Any person who has not been provided with authorization to enter an animal facility as part of their employment or studies.

#### **POLICY STATEMENTS**

4. Visitors to animal facilities receive minimal training and orientation with respect to risks and procedures. It is therefore essential to protect visitors from the hazards of an animal facility, and to protect the animals and the facility from the potential hazards posed by visitors whose health status and judgment are unknown.
5. In order to ensure that the facilities, personnel and animals remain as safe and secure as possible, the ACC has developed the following requirements:
  - a) All visitors to any animal facility must be approved in advance by the facility manager before entry. This requirement does not apply to visitors viewing animals displayed in publicly accessible areas (e.g. display aquaria).
  - b) Approval will only be given to individuals believed to have a valid reason to visit and who are unlikely to pose a welfare or biosecurity risk to the animals within the facilities.

- c) All visitors entering an animal facility must be accompanied by the facility manager or an approved designate, who must record their access in a visitor log.
  - d) No visitor will be allowed in animal use areas where entry would represent a significant biosafety risk or if deemed not accessible for visitors by the facility manager or a Principal Investigator.
  - e) All visitors must be provided with a brief orientation and safety briefing prior to entering any animal holding areas.
  - f) All visitors must abide to any required safety and biosecurity procedures in effect within the facility (e.g. hand washing, foot baths).
  - g) No visitors under the age of 18 years will be permitted to enter an animal facility without appropriate adult supervision.
6. Breaches to this policy should be reported to the ACC for further investigation.