OVC Ontario Veterinary College

OVC RESEARCH

Sept 4, 2013

Policies for Animal Use for Clinical Research

The following policies regarding the use of animals (either healthy or affected by disease) for clinical research within or outside of the HSC have now been clarified.

Types of animals involved in clinical research:

- Purpose-bred designated research animals (handling and welfare is regulated by CCAC)
- Client-owned patients affected by disease and receiving clinical care and enrolled in clinical trials with informed patient consent (practice standards must be maintained as regulated by CVO)
- Healthy client-owned healthy animals (see questions below)

Summary of Procedures for Animal Use in Clinical Research at OVC:

- If a sick or healthy animal enters the HSC as a participant of a clinical research project, then it needs a medical record and a patient registration fee will be charged
- If the animal is not in the HSC per se (e.g. in a research lab, a clinical trials room or the CCRF), then no medical record is needed and no HSC charges will be incurred
- If sick animals come in for a non-standard-of-care visit because of participation in a research trial, then a Clinical Research Consultation fee of $50 will be charged.

Use of healthy client-owned animals for research

Questions from: Tony Ogg, Small Animal Clinic Head, OVC
Responses from: Glenn Pettifer, Senior Partner, Quality Practice, College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO)

Q 1. Do healthy client-owned animals participating in clinical research project need to be registered in the HSC?

A 1. An animal that is coming to the University or OVC for the purpose of participating in a research project does not need to be registered as a patient since it is not being presented for the purpose of obtaining veterinary care.

Q 2. Does the Comparative Clinical Research Facility (CCRF) or other non-hospital research space need to be accredited as a clinical practice demonstrating it is maintaining minimum standards if healthy client-owned animals are undergoing procedures related to a clinical trial (e.g. sedation or venipuncture etc.)?

A 2. Research facilities are accredited under the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and Animals for Research Act (ARA). If a pet owner is participating in a research program as in #1 above, there is no need for the work be carried out in an CVO-accredited facility.

Q 3. What CVO rulings or guidelines are there for client-owned animals that are affected by disease coming in for special testing that would not be part of normal standard-of-care?

A 3. The over-arching concern is that of informed owner consent. As long as the owner understands what is occurring, where it is occurring, who is doing it, what the attendant risks are, and what the owner should do and who they should contact if problems arise, then they should be left to decide if they want to proceed or not.

Q 4. Would there be a CVO requirement to maintain a standard-of-care medical record for client-owned healthy animals?

A 4. Since the research is not taking place in an accredited facility, nor is it proceeding under the Veterinarians Act, the requirements for record keeping will be determined by the Institutional ACC, CCAC guidelines and the ARA - whichever applies.

Q 5. What if the research is occurring within the teaching hospital - e.g. a blood sample is drawn in an exam room, and the animal is not presented for veterinary care, but the sample is being drawn in an accredited facility?

A 5. If the procedure is done within a CVO-accredited facility, then there should be a record of this made in the medical record of the animal that the facility holds.