

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Animal Ethics and Care Program (AECF) Compliance Team
2025



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Animal Ethics and Care Program Compliance Team (AECPC Compliance Team)

Who we are

- Assistant Director – Compliance Assurance
 - *Veterinarian (DVM)*
- Two Post-Approval Monitoring Coordinators
 - Animal health professionals with Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) and Registered Laboratory Animal Technician (RLAT) qualifications



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

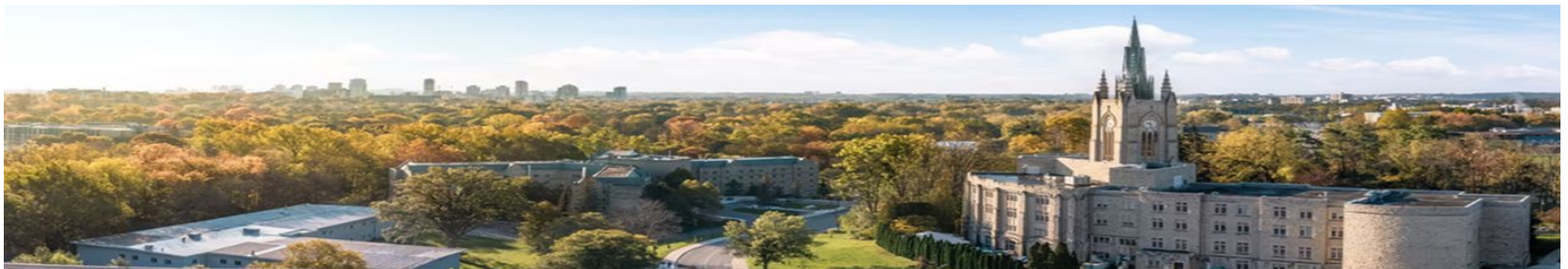
Purpose & Scope

- *Purpose* – To facilitate a proactive approach to animal-based science compliance and best practices within Western's Research community and its affiliated sites.
- *Scope* - Citywide
 - Western University
 - Lawson Research Institute (LRI)
 - London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI)

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Goals

- To be used as a **resource** to **proactively** resolve issues that may be identified more formally with regulators.
- Through education and training to assist research personnel with any questions or concerns, offering support to resolve issues.
- To promote new standards or “best practices”.
- To bring awareness to the **benefits** of compliance within Western’s Research Community.
 - Improving animal welfare facilitates the progress of research for scientific knowledge
 - Better animal welfare = better science
- To foster positive and effective communication, feedback and trust.



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Activities

1) Animal Use Protocol Visits

2) Facility Visits

3) Animal Welfare Assessments*

4) ACC-Directed Evaluations

5) Field Research Reviews

[PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals Policy \(POL-020\)](#)

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Visit Types

1) Animal Use Protocol Visits

- AUP procedures are assessed **at minimum once** during its four-year renewal cycle.
- **Animal Procedures** and associated **Animal Records** are directly observed to ensure alignment with the approved AUP and veterinary standards of care (CALAM).
- Visits provide an opportunity to interact directly with research groups to share best practices and resolve identified issues.

The AECP Team works closely with the Clinical Veterinarians, ACC, Facility Managers and staff, as well as all PIs and lab personnel involved in animal-based science to ensure ethical research is conducted with alignment to all institutional and external regulations.

AUP Visit

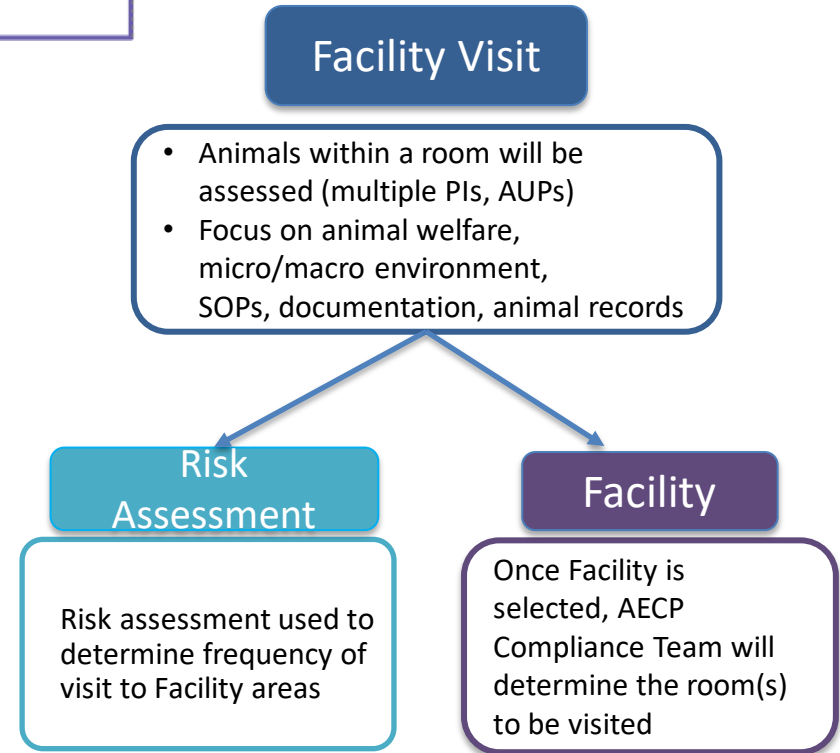
- Animal procedures listed under the AUP will be observed (PI/AUP Specific)
- Evaluation for AUP alignment, CALAM standards of vet care, technical competency, welfare outcomes that match category of invasiveness, and projected morbidity/mortality

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Visit Types

2) Facility Visits

- All animal housing rooms are visited at the **frequency** outlined within the city-wide *Risk Analysis Record* (RAR).
- Facility visits are **announced** in advance.
- Visits **focus on animal welfare**, as it pertains to the environment (microenvironment, macroenvironment), study impact, animal-related records (AUP, cage card, monitoring sheets), and alignment with institutional policies and SOPs.



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Proactive & Reactive Reasons for AUP and Facility Visits

Proactive Reasons

- ACC Directed (during ACC meeting review)
- Annual Protocol Review
- AUP Categories of Invasiveness
 - COI 'E'
 - COI 'D', e.g., Sepsis, Diabetes , Major recovery surgery, Tumor/cancer models
- Primary animal holding / husbandry provided by research staff
- Risk Analysis Record (Facility Visits only)

Reactive Reasons

- SAR team referral
- Concern Report referral
- ACC Site Visit referral
- Veterinarian referral
- Facility Manager Reports

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals Involving Animal Welfare Assessments

AWAs during Visits

3) Animal Welfare Assessments*

- AWAs will be performed during AUP Visits and may also be initiated during other Visit types.
- Criteria for Animal Welfare Assessments are listed within the [AWA Policy](#).

Policy

The welfare of animals must always be prioritized over considerations of cost and convenience while maintaining human safety.⁴

AWAs must consider the lifetime experiences of the animal and account for its physical condition, psychological and behavioural well-being, environment, and the experimental procedures it has been and will be subjected to.

AWAs must be undertaken by teams involving AUP (Animal Use Protocol) Holders and their delegates as well as veterinary and animal husbandry staff.

AWAs must be undertaken for animals at a frequency proportional to potential animal welfare impact, and should include animals:

- identified as 'Directed' that are held longer term (greater than or equal to one year)
- associated with Categories of Invasiveness level 'D' or 'E'
- involved in a Pilot Study per the *PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals Policy (POL-020)*
- re-enrolled / used in more than one study, and/or
- associated with a 'Concern' per the *Concerns Policy (POL-004)*.

At minimum and with reference to the species-specific aide memoire (or alternative AUP-specific aide memoire), AWAs must be undertaken when animal welfare has been identified as severe and/or unacceptable and was not expected, per the approved AUP.

PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

Visit Types

4) ACC-Directed Evaluations

- Determined by Western's Animal Care Committee (ACC) during AUP reviews.
- May include Pilot Studies and any AUPs based upon perceived risk to animal health and welfare, e.g., invasive and/or novel and/or unfamiliar procedures.
 - For Pilot Studies, the [Animal Use Protocols-Pilot Studies Policy](#) (POL-002-D) will be followed.

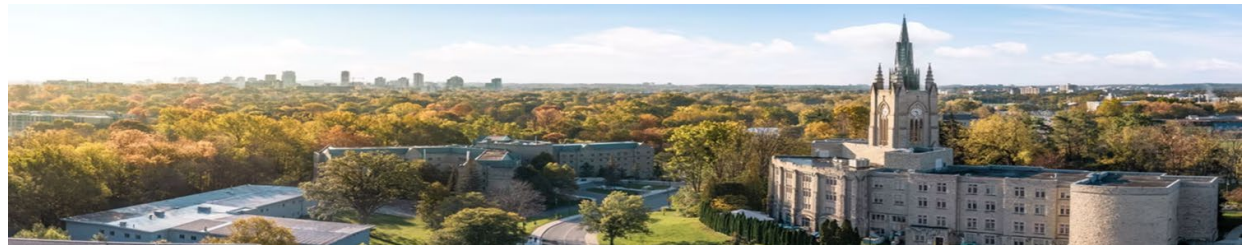


PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

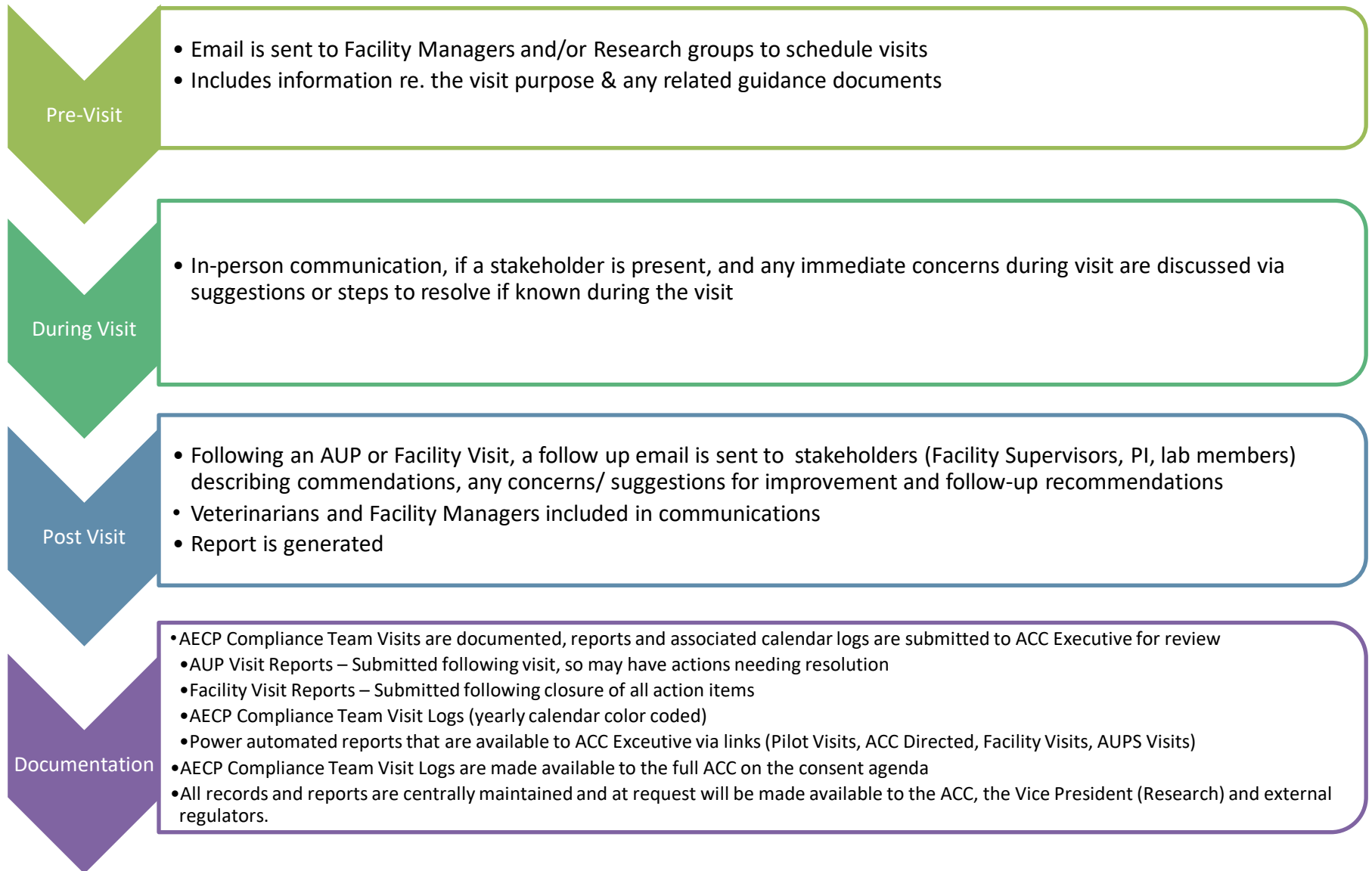
Visit Types

5) Field Research Reviews

- Reviews will be undertaken at minimum **every four years**.
- If on-site observation by an animal health professional is not feasible, a **meeting** is arranged between the PI Field Researcher and the PAM Coordinator to determine **AUP elements** – procedures and/or equipment - that require review.
- A PI Field Researcher will provide the ACC Executive via the AECP Compliance Team with **video, photographic** and/or **other pictorial records** of the following AUP elements:
 - capture techniques,
 - housing conditions,
 - sedations/euthanasia,
 - transportation,
 - manual handling/restraint, and
 - invasive procedures.



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals – The Process



PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals

References & Contact Information

References

- [POL-005 Post Approval Monitoring Policy](#)
- [POL-020 PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals Policy](#)
- [PROC-020 Procedures for PAM Visits by Animal Health Professionals](#)

Contact the AECP Compliance Team via
Acc-compliance@uwo.ca

Emergency Animal Welfare Concerns (Veterinary Emergency
Pager) – 519-661-2195

