

**NEWS
RELEASE**



November 21, 2017

UCN Receives Certificate of Good Animal Practice

University College of the North is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice® from the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). This credential recognizes that UCN follows ethical and humane principles in all teaching or research activities that involve the use of live animals.

UCN has no infrastructural animal holdings such as labs. The only use of animals occurs within teaching and research activities during the Natural Resources Management Technology (NRMT) program's Fall Camp Practicum each September. Practicum activities take place at field sites such as provincial Crown land or lakes, at a remote camp owned by the Manitoba government, or on publicly-owned power transmission rights-of-way. Small numbers of fish and small mammals (e.g. mice, voles) are temporarily held for the minimum time necessary for students to develop the skills and competencies needed for employment in the natural resources management field.

“Achieving the Certificate of Good Animal Practice is an important milestone in the evolution of UCN's teaching and research programs,” says Dan Smith, PhD, Vice-President, Academic and Research. “This achievement reflects the strength of UCN's research practices and ensures UCN's continued eligibility for federal research grants,” Smith continued.

“Through the care and diligence practiced by our NRMT instructors, our students in this program are learning best practices regarding the handling and care of wildlife. This training prepares them well for employment once they graduate,” says Linda Melnick, Dean of Research & Innovation.

UCN submitted the required documentation for CCAC review in December 2016. This package addressed a range of requirements around Animal Care Committee functioning, Animal Care Program, Continuing Education & Training, Occupational Health & Safety, and Crisis Management. Assessment by the CCAC’s Associate Director of Assessment took place in May 2017, followed by a report that outlined seven recommendations. UCN submitted its implementation report on these recommendations in October. The effective date on UCN’s Certificate of Good Animal Practice is November 16, 2017. Certification is valid for 5 years, at which time a follow-up assessment will be done.

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