



**OFFICE OF THE
VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH &
INNOVATION**

904 KANEFF TOWER
4700 KEELE ST
TORONTO ON
CANADA M3J 1P3
T 416 736-5479
F 416 736-5512
vpri@yorku.ca
www.yorku.ca/research

September 16, 2026

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Animal Alliance of Canada
Attn: Kira Berkeley, JD
221 Broadview Avenue #101
Toronto, ON M4M 2G3

Dear Ms. Berkeley,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter, sent August 14, 2026. We write again to affirm York's animal care and oversight practices and to clarify one point from my previous correspondence.

The University's animal research program operates within a comprehensive framework of institutional and external oversight. All research involving animals at York must receive approval from the University's Animal Care Committee before research can begin. Our research teams diligently follow all requirements relating to animal care, veterinary oversight, training, monitoring and the use of the Three Rs — replacement, reduction, and refinement.

The University's program is also subject to independent external assessment. Through this oversight, York has maintained its CCAC Certificate of Good Animal Practice and provincial facility license.

I would like to clarify a point in the previous letter. In referring to the findings of the CCAC special assessment visit, the word "significant" was inadvertently omitted from the sentence describing the CCAC's finding. The CCAC stated that it "did not find *significant* deviations from CCAC policies and guidelines in the ethical use of animals in science." The CCAC report identified opportunities for improvement to the overall program and made recommendations to the University.

York welcomes these recommendations and is committed to implementation as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen animal care and oversight. Our commitment to the highest standards is reflected in the University's [Animal Care and Oversight webpage](#), which provides further information about the governance of animal research at York, the Three Rs, regulatory oversight and the findings of the most recent CCAC assessment.

We recognize that the nature of animal research can involve differing perspectives. I provide this additional information to ensure appropriate context regarding York's animal care and oversight practices, and our next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amir Asif', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amir Asif

Vice President Research & Innovation

