

# **Brock University**

## **Animal-Based Science Statistics**

### **2020 Review**

The unanticipated closing of Brock University in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a year of unprecedented challenges.

Animal Care Services staff were required to alter working schedules in order to accommodate the Covid-19 mandated regulations, however, the staff were able to maintain all animal colonies without reduction of animal numbers throughout this time.

In collaboration with the Brock Animal Care Committee, continued communications were provided to animal users during this time to advise regarding animal facility updates and ensure the well-being of their animals was an upmost priority. Following the response framework of the Brock University five stage recovery plan, research has resumed in restricted measures throughout the year following the Brock University pandemic guidelines.

A total of 544 animals were utilized in 43 active research and teaching protocols. All protocols have been reviewed and approved by the Brock University Animal Care Committee (BACC). The BACC is mandated to safeguard the welfare of animals involved in research and teaching and reports to the Vice-President, Research. The committee is also responsible for ensuring that all animal researchers follow the mandatory guidelines set forth by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), a national body responsible for setting, maintaining and overseeing the implementation of high standards for animal ethics and care in science throughout Canada and adhere to regulations enforced by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

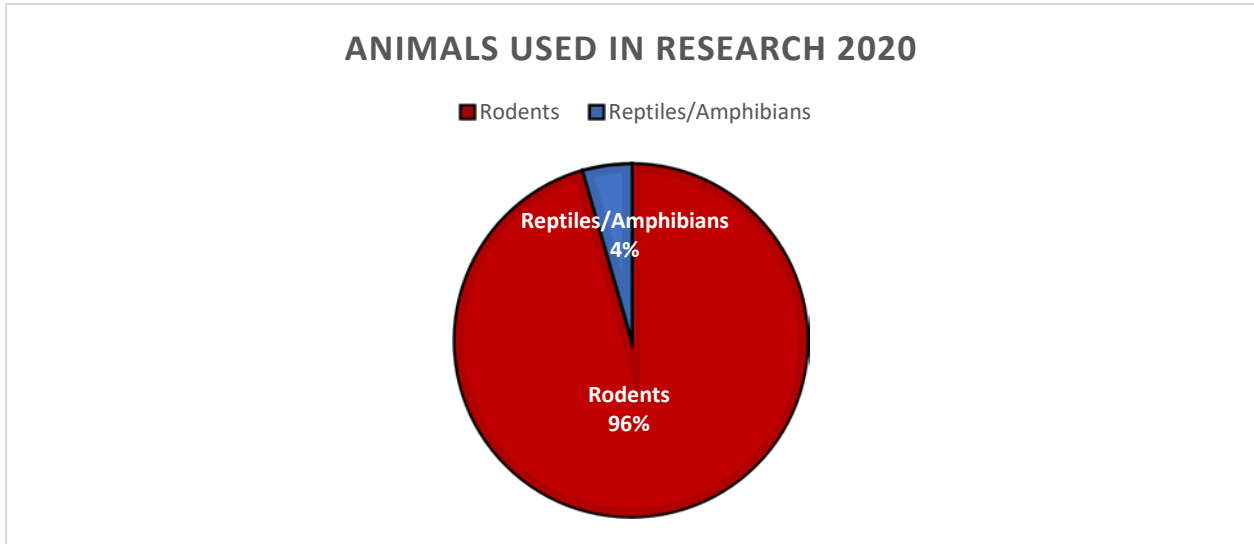
The BACC is composed of representative faculty members, health and safety personnel, community representatives, animal care staff, veterinarians, graduate and undergraduate students. BACC members are committed to ensuring that Brock's animal researchers conform to all pertinent regulatory guidelines and verify that all personnel working with animals are appropriately trained and qualified to care for the animals under their supervision.

In order for research projects to receive funding from granting agencies, such as the Tri-Agencies Canada (NSERC/CIHR/SSHRC) they are reviewed in a competitive environment by a panel of experts to determine the scientific merit of the proposed project and its methodology. Protocols go through revisions and refinements to meet the satisfaction and approval of the BACC. Each approved protocol is subject to an annual review by the BACC as well as routine reviews through the post approval monitoring program. There are multiple levels of monitoring and all research must comply and adhere to regulations enforced by the CCAC and OMAFRA. All

procedures and facilities at Brock involving animal-based science are rigorously reviewed, inspected and regulated at federal, provincial and institutional levels by these qualified specialists.

### 2020 DATA

Animal Type	Number Used	Percent %
Rodents	520	96
Reptiles/Amphibians	24	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>100</b>



### Animals Involved in Research:

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) assigns animal research into five Categories of Invasiveness (A to E).

[https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Categories\\_of\\_invasiveness.pdf](https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Categories_of_invasiveness.pdf)

Category A includes most experiments involving tissue cultures, eggs and single-cell organisms, and does not require annual reporting.

Category B and C, include invasiveness ranged from little discomfort and stress, to minor stress and pain. This could include observation in the wild, brief periods of restraint, taking blood samples and/or minor surgical procedures under anesthesia.

Category D Invasiveness, which involves major surgical procedures under general anesthesia with use of appropriate analgesia.

Category of Invasiveness	Number of protocols	Percentage
A	2	5
B	20	46
C	19	44
D	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

