

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Committee on the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research

To: Head of Departments concerned
All Principal Investigators of current CULATR-approved protocols
Cc: Animal laboratory/facility in-charge & liaison persons

Extension of Validity Period of CULATR Approval

To coincide with the funding period of various research grants, the Committee on the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research (CULATR) approved during its meeting on November 29, 2018 that the validity period of all CULATR-approved research protocols be extended from three to four years. This change will take effect immediately. Validity period of teaching approvals will remain unchanged at one year.

Under the new arrangement, research approvals will be issued with validity of four years; Principal Investigators (PIs) with projects approaching the four-year mark may further apply for an extension of one year (effectively a total of five years) if required. PIs are advised to observe the below scenarios for specific coverage and transitional arrangements.

	Scenario	Arrangement
1	New applications (both new & amendment applications)	Approval letter will reflect the new validity period of "four years from the first approval date"
2	Existing protocols approaching the end of the three-year mark, with an extension request to four years from the first approval date	Protocols will automatically be adjusted to have four years validity. Request will be dismissed
3	Existing protocols which has already been extended for one year (i.e. with validity of four years from the first approval date)	Protocol will have validity of four years from the first approval date
4	As per scenario 3, and the protocol is soon approaching the four-year mark	PI may apply for a further extension of one year (i.e. to validity of five years from the first approval date) if required
5	Existing protocols which has passed the three-year mark, has not been extended for one year, but is less than four years from the first approval date	Same as arrangement 3*
6	As per scenario 5, and the protocol is soon approaching the four-year mark	Same as arrangement 4*

* PIs may resume work under the protocol if applicable and are reminded that no experiments on live animals should be performed without valid CULATR approval coverage

Related enquiries should be directed to the secretariat via culatr@hku.hk.



(Ms) Kimmy Liu
for Secretary

Committee on the Use of Live Animals
in Teaching and Research

March 7, 2019
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