



## Required timelines for planning and conducting farm animal studies in the UCT-RAF

1. The number of animal procedures (e.g. surgery) that can be supported (per day and week) and all other support provided by the UCT Research Animal Facility is dependent on the UCT-RAF's operational circumstances, staff capacity, operational resources and other commitments at the time of request for support.
2. Invasive surgical procedures should be completed early in the day, so that clinical staff do not need to stay overnight or leave in the dark to complete post-operative care and monitoring. This is important for safety reasons and since after-hours (other than emergencies) are not included in the employment conditions of clinical personnel.
3. A maximum of one (1) invasive recovery (i.e. non-terminal) surgical procedure (e.g. device implant) can currently be supported per day, to take place first thing in the morning, so as to be completed at lunchtime or as soon as possible thereafter.
4. Non-recovery (i.e. terminal) procedures (e.g. device explants) should be scheduled so that they are completed by 5pm. This allows for up to two (2) explants per day in total.
5. Para-veterinary capacity at present allows for a maximum of three (3) days' invasive surgical procedures (e.g. device implants or explants) to be accommodated per week.
6. Changes to scheduling of days and times booked for procedures (e.g. surgery) cannot be accommodated at short notice, due to the broad range of other responsibilities of the UCT-RAF clinical staff, as required by their formal job descriptions.
7. Agreements as to scheduling of specific dates that the UCT-RAF will support or perform study-related procedures or functions, have to be agreed in advance between research teams and the UCT-RAF Farm Animal Unit Manager, with due consideration of the required advance notice periods for such scheduling as listed in the table below.

Procedure or Function	Notice period required
Submission of the Cost Estimate Request form	As specified on the form
Confirm whether there will be sufficient space available in the UCT-RAF farm animal pens to house experimental animals	1 month prior to transport of animals to the UCT-RAF
Sourcing of animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pigs: 4 weeks</li> <li>▪ Sheep: 5 weeks</li> <li>▪ Rabbits: 5 weeks</li> <li>▪ Guinea pigs: 5 weeks</li> <li>▪ Chickens: 5 weeks</li> </ul>
Placing an order for medicines required	1 month prior to procedures
Basic health screening of animals on the farm (supplier) prior to transport to UCT for acclimatisation	3 weeks
Blood sampling arrangements (schedules) or other sampling requirements on the farm	2 weeks
Transport of the animals to the UCT-RAF from offsite	1 week

housing (e.g. farm) for experimental procedures	
Booking days for performing surgical procedures, including formally advising the UCT-RAF of which animals to prepare for the surgical procedures	2 weeks
Booking for post-operative clinical examinations or blood sampling for animals not housed at UCT, e.g. on the farm	2 weeks
Booking for any required veterinary professional support or assistance, excluding attending to sick animals or emergencies	2 weeks
Notification for training/induction of SAVC-registered study participants (e.g. veterinarians or para-veterinary professionals)	2 weeks
Training of non-SAVC-registered persons in veterinary or para-veterinary procedures	1 month; and as per set SAVC authorisation application timelines
Booking of UCT-RAF vehicles	1 week
Booking time to discuss AEC protocol amendments, e.g. to medication, veterinary/para-veterinary procedures, changes to housing or any other amendments that require implementation by UCT-RAF veterinary or para-veterinary personnel	3 weeks