

ANIMAL CARE & ANIMAL USAGE POLICY			
Effective Date	October 14, 2010	Policy Type	Academic
Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President Academic	Cross-Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines • Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines
Approver	Academic Council	Appendices	
Review Schedule	3 years		

1. Policy Statement

1.1. Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) recognizes that it has the moral and ethical responsibility to provide exemplary care and use of animals in Polytechnic programs. The Polytechnic is committed to complying with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guidelines, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) accreditation guidelines, as well as related federal and provincial legislation and regulations which pertain to humane care, handling, and treatment of animals.

2. Background

2.1. Animals are essential requirements for the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Accreditation of the Polytechnic’s Animal Health Technology Program. Academic programs, learning opportunities or extension/business development short courses may also involve the use of animals.

3. Scope

3.1. This policy applies to all members of the Polytechnic community who are involved, directly or indirectly, in the care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing, on or off campus, and/or use of NWP equipment, facilities, or resources.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. **“Animal”** is defined as any living non-human vertebrate, and higher invertebrate with well-developed nervous systems (e.g. cephalopods), including free-living embryos.
- 4.2. **“Animal Care Committee”** is the local institutional animal care committee (ACC) set up by each participating institution according to the Canadian Council on Animal Care policy statement on terms of reference for animal care committees. Institutional ACCs are responsible for overseeing all aspects of animal care and use, working with animal users, animal care personnel and the institutional administration.
- 4.3. **“Canadian Council on Animal Care”** (CCAC) is the national peer review agency responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the care and use of animals used in research, teaching and testing throughout Canada.

5. Guiding Principles

- 5.1. NWP will establish, maintain and support an active Animal Care Committee (ACC) to ensure compliance with animal care legislation and CCAC assessment recommendations, and to prevent and/or mitigate animal care issues. The ACC will establish a Terms of Reference.
- 5.2. Animal Use Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures will be established to ensure appropriate care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibilities
Executive Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve and formally support this policy.
Provost and Vice-President Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee the implementation of this policy.
Animal Care Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow the established Terms of Reference.• Shall assist instructional departments and other animal use groups to comply with animal care requirements and regulations. The ACC is also responsible for reporting any infractions to the appropriate immediate supervisor and the Provost and Vice-President Academic.
NWP Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall be responsible for adherence to animal-based Standard Operating Procedures approved by the ACC.

7. Exceptions to the Policy

- 7.1. This policy shall be in force as written, except in cases where it contravenes current or revised Canadian Council on Animal Care Policies and Guidelines, which shall take precedence.

8. Inquiries

- 8.1. Inquiries regarding this policy can be directed to the Animal Care Committee Coordinator or designate.

9. Amendments (Revision History)

- 9.1. Updated: February 13, 2020
- 9.2. Recommended by Academic Council: May 11, 2023
- 9.3. Approved by Board: June 1, 2023