

**RE04**

**Use of Animals in Teaching, Research, and Events**

Classification:	Research
Responsible Authority:	Dean, School of Wellness, Public Safety and Community Studies
Executive Sponsor:	Senior Vice President, Academic
Approval Authority:	Algonquin College Executive Team
Date First Approved:	2005-02-23
Date Last Reviewed:	2021-10-14
Mandatory Review Date:	2026-10-14

**PURPOSE**

To identify the standards to be respected when conducting teaching, research, promotion or events which involve animals, and to identify the process by which concerns about the care and use of animals will be addressed.

**SCOPE**

- College personnel, including students, who use animals in teaching or research.
- College personnel, including students, and members of the general public who use animals in other College sanctioned events, including College promotion, general public education or fundraisers.
- Anyone, including members of the general public, with concerns for the care and use of these animals.
- ***Only animals approved under an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) are covered by this policy. Service animals are not covered.***

**DEFINITIONS**

<b>Word/Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Academic Administrator	Program Chair, Course Chair, or Academic Manager
Animal	Any non-human vertebrate and a cephalopod (e.g. octopus, squid), or any other animals identified by the Canadian Council on Animal Care.
ACC	Animal Care Committee
AUP	Animal Use Protocol is a document outlining the precise details of how and by whom live animals will be cared for and used for projects that have received prior pedagogical or scientific merit review and approval.
CCAC	Canadian Council on Animal Care which is the National body responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use and care of animals in research and teaching in Canada.
College Personnel	Includes College staff, researchers, and students and any person using College facilities for the purpose of teaching, research, promotion or events.

Complainant	Any person raising concerns about the care and use of animals referred to on an AUP approved by the Algonquin College ACC.
General Public	Any non-college person who comes onto College property.
MAWI	Major Animal Welfare Incident - An event that leads to the unanticipated death of research or teaching animals, or poses an immediate and significant threat to animal health or welfare.
OMAFRA	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - Under the Animals for Research Act, the Chief Veterinary inspector from OMAFRA conducts inspections of Ontario facilities that house animals used for "research", which includes teaching. Registration is required by 'research' facilities to operate in Ontario. A registration certificate is applied for annually and issued based on successful inspections.
PMIF	Pedagogical Merit Information Form
PMRG	Pedagogical Merit Review Group
Service Animals	Refer to Policy AC05 Use of Service Animals on Campus

## POLICY

1. Algonquin College is committed to the highest ethical standards in projects involving the use of animals in teaching, research, promotion and events.
2. The College shall be compliant with:
  - The OMAFRA *Animals for Research Act*, Revised Statutes of Ontario. (R.S.O.) 1990 Chapter A.22.
  - The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)
3. As an institution that uses animals in teaching and research, the College shall maintain the Good Animal Practice (GAP) Certificate awarded by the CCAC. This certificate is awarded to those institutions that participate fully in the programs of the CCAC; have been assessed by expert panels composed of scientists, veterinarians and community representatives; and have been found by the panel and by the CCAC Assessment Committee to have standards of animal care and use which satisfy the CCAC's Guidelines and Policies.
4. The College shall have a local ACC that operates according to the CCAC Policy Statement on: Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees. Funds for research funded by the Tri-Council (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR) will only be released to an investigator whose research proposal has been approved by the ACC as part of an appropriately submitted AUP.
5. As an institution that uses animals in teaching and research, Algonquin College shall register with OMAFRA as stipulated in the Animals for Research Act previously cited and be compliant with the Animals for Research ACT and its regulations.

## PROCEDURE

Action	Responsibility
<b>1. Request to Use Animals in Teaching, Research or Events Involving Animals.</b>	
1.1 Contact the ACC Coordinator to initiate the submission process. Contact information can be found on <a href="http://www.algonquincollege.com/acc">www.algonquincollege.com/acc</a> .	Staff, Researcher
<b>2. For Requests to Use Animals in Teaching:</b>	
2.1 Submit a completed <a href="#">PMIF</a> along with the completed AUP and accompanying documents pertaining to animal use (the proposed course's lab manual or course materials or related Standard Operating Procedures) to the ACC Coordinator. The signature on the forms confirms the applicant is responsible for all activities using animals as outlined in the AUP.	Staff, Researcher
2.1.2 The ACC Coordinator will facilitate the pedagogical merit review process through the PMRG. The PMRG will review the documents and provide their conclusions on whether the proposed teaching has sufficient pedagogical merit for the use of animals. If the activity is deemed to have insufficient pedagogical merit, the activity will go no further.	ACC Coordinator, Pedagogical Merit Review Group (PMRG)
2.1.3 If the activity is deemed to have pedagogical merit, the AUP and related documents will be revised by the applicant as necessary based on the PMRG comments and the finalized documents resubmitted to the ACC Coordinator.	Staff, Researcher
<b>2.2 For Requests to Use Animals in Funded Research:</b>	
2.2.1 Submit a completed AUP to the ACC Coordinator. The signature on the form confirms the applicant is responsible for all activities using animals as outlined in the AUP.	Researchers
2.2.2 Funds released to College personnel with a commitment that they will adhere to CCAC guidelines, the Animals for Research Act, and their ACC approved AUP.	Director, Applied Research and Innovation, ACC
<b>2.3 For Requests to Use Animals in Events</b>	
2.3.1 Review the Animal Care Committee Position Statement on the Use of Animals for Entertainment or Recreational Events and Considerations for Planning Animal Events.	Staff
2.3.2 Submit a completed AUP to the ACC Coordinator. The signature on the form confirms the applicant is responsible for all activities using animals as outlined in the AUP.	Staff

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|---|---|---|
| 2.4   | The ACC Coordinator will bring forth the AUP at the next ACC meeting, and the ACC will determine the final approval, conditional approval or non-approval of the request. Should the AUP not be approved, the ACC will provide recommendations to the applicant for changes to the AUP in order to obtain approval.                             | ACC, ACC Coordinator  |
| 2.5   | Remind the AUP applicant to submit an annual renewal form for ACC review in each of the next three years, after which time, if the activity is ongoing, the above process must be repeated for approval of a new AUP.   | ACC Veterinarian or<br>ACC Coordinator                                    |
| 2.6   | For funded research, recommend to the President that a grant application be signed or that funds be released to College personnel with a commitment that they will adhere to pertinent guidelines or regulations.   | Director, Applied Research<br>and Innovation<br>in communication with ACC |
| <b>3. Processes for Addressing Concerns Regarding the Care and Use of Animals Pursuant to this Policy</b> |   |   |
| <b>3.1 Concern(s) for the care and use of animal(s) under an approved protocol</b>                        |   |   |
| 3.1.1   | Concerns should be brought immediately to the attention of the person directly in charge of the specific animal use activity for discussion and resolution of the concerns raised. Student complainants may take their concerns to the Program Coordinator who will bring the concern to the attention of their Academic Administrator.         | Complainant   |
| 3.1.2   | If this person is implicated in the concern, or if the concern is unresolved, the concern should be documented (see Appendix 1 for form) and taken within 7 days to the Academic Administrator with oversight of the activity of concern.   | Complainant   |
| 3.1.3   | The Academic Administrator will inform the ACC Veterinarian of the concern. Together they will address the concerns raised and will strive to resolve the complainant's concerns in a timely manner. Solutions to the problem will be summarized in writing and a copy provided to the complainant, persons named in the complaint and the ACC. | Academic Administrator, ACC<br>Veterinarian                               |
| 3.1.4   | Complainants dissatisfied with the outcome should contact the ACC Chair.  | Complainant   |
| 3.1.5   | The ACC Chair will establish a sub-committee to review the complaint and provide a recommendation for resolution to relevant parties.   | ACC Chair, ACC Sub-<br>committee  |
| <b>3.2 Major Animal Welfare Incidents (MAWI)</b>  |   |   |
| 3.2.1   | Algonquin College must report MAWI to the CCAC within 10 days of the event. Staff or Researchers are responsible to ensure that all major incidents involving ACC approved animal use are immediately reported to the ACC Veterinarian and/or the ACC Chair.  | Staff, Researcher   |
| 3.2.2   | The ACC Veterinarian and/or the ACC Chair will consult the CCAC as needed to determine whether an event must be formally reported.  | ACC Veterinarian, ACC Chair   |

3.2.3 The ACC Veterinarian will work with the ACC Chair to send the MAWI report to CCAC. The Senior Vice President, Academic will be copied on these reports.

ACC Veterinarian, ACC Chair

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix 1 Animal Care and Use Concerns: Reporting Form

Appendix 2 Animal Care Committee Position Statement on the Use of Animals for Entertainment or Recreational Events

### RELATED POLICIES

AC05 Use of Authorized Animals on Campus

RE01 Research Administration

RE02 Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities

RE03 Research Involving Human Subjects

RE06 Use of Biohazardous and Radioactive Materials in Research and Education

### RELATED MATERIALS

[Animal Care Committee Website](#)

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines, policies and associated documents

[www.ccac.ca](http://www.ccac.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, (OMAFRA) Animals for Research Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario. (R.S.O.) 1990 Chapter A.22

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90a22\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90a22_e.htm)



## APPENDIX 1

### Animal Care Committee Animal Care and Use Concerns: Reporting Form

**1. Facility:**

Algonquin College

Campus: Ottawa  Pembroke  Perth

**2. Concerns Reported by:**

Name:

Contact Info:

**3. Date(s) Incident(s) of Concern Related to Animal Care and Use Occurred:** 3/26/2026

**4. Date of First Reporting of Incident(s):**

**5. Concerns Raised are About Animals Being Used in the following:**

Program Name:

Course Name:

Other:

**6. Description of Animal Care and Use Concern:**

Describe very clearly what your specific concerns are for the care and use of the animal(s). Describe clearly, step by step what you observed that concerns you about the care and use of animals.

What species and how many animals were involved?

Were there any other witnesses to this incident? If yes, who? Please provide a name and contact information.

7. In order, list the steps you have taken to date to try to resolve your concerns and what have been the outcomes of these actions?

Signature of person reporting concerns (Complainant):

**For ACC Sub-committee use only:**

Recommendations for resolution of concerns for animal care and use:

Steps taken to resolve concerns:

Date of Resolution of Concerns:

Acknowledgement by complainant of full resolution of concerns:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Algonquin College Animal Care Committee Chair:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Copies of document to:

Complainant:

Program Coordinator:

Person(s) against which the complaint was made:

Other information:

## **Appendix 2: Animal Care Committee Position Statement on the Use of Animals for Entertainment or Recreational Events**

### **ACC POSITION STATEMENT**

The Algonquin College Animal Care Committee is opposed to the use of animals in the name of entertainment if such use entails practices that produce pain, injury or distress to the animals in the process of acquiring them for this use, training them to perform, transporting them to performance venues, housing and caring for them for the duration of their period of performance, and disposing of them when their usefulness as an animal performer has ended. The ACC is opposed to using animals for entertainment in any circumstance where their physical, social or psychological needs cannot be appropriately met.

The Algonquin College Animal Care Committee accepts the participation of animals in appearances for public entertainment or recreational events only when the following criteria are met:

- All aspects of the animal's Five Freedoms (see Definitions following) are addressed.
- All activities are designed with the animal's health and safety as the first priority.
- The animal handler has qualifications and experience with the species as well as in animal behaviour and animal training.
- Humane training methods are used.
- Animals no longer used for these purposes receive humane care and are not euthanized simply because they can no longer perform.

In all events where animals are kept or used, humane and ethical treatment is essential and animals must be depicted and utilized with respect.

College personnel wishing to organize an event involving animals must submit a protocol to the ACC as per Policy RE-04: Use of Animals in Teaching, Research, and Events. Please see Appendix I – Considerations for Planning Animal Events prior to submitting a protocol application.

### **RATIONALE**

For any activities in which animals are used, steps must be taken to ensure the animals are treated humanely; with dignity, respect and with the well-being of the animal at the forefront of consideration. Animals must be raised and kept in an environment that promotes and maintains their emotional and psychological needs in addition to their physical needs.

The ACC will only consider proposals to host organizations and events that abide by guidelines or standards that ensure humane treatment and respect for the animals involved, as well as provide ongoing veterinary care and oversight and allow external review and/or assurance of animal welfare standards.

The ACC believes it is possible to participate with animals in certain events that, when conducted in a humane manner, are pleasurable for both people and animals and that such interaction may contribute to learning and enhance the human/animal bond.

The ACC does not support:

- The infliction of pain or suffering upon any animals.
- Any activities that portray or force animals to behave in ways that contradict the Five Freedoms.
- Animals performing or on display in a predominantly travelling environment as they are deprived of a normal existence and may lack proper attention to their needs.
- The use of abusive, cruel or stressful training techniques or devices/agents employed to cause animals to perform (e.g. whips).
- Disarming (e.g., removing teeth and/or claws) or any other procedure which alters the conformation or function of an animal for the purpose of entertainment.
- The use of substances and/or drugs to mask pain, enhance performance, or cause sedation for non-therapeutic purposes at the expense of health and well-being.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Distress**

As per Ontario animal welfare law, the state of being in need of proper care, water, food or shelter or being injured, sick or in pain or suffering or being abused or subject to undue or unnecessary hardship, privation or neglect.

### **Five Freedoms**

A core concept in animal welfare that originated in a UK government report in 1965 and was then refined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. The Five Freedoms are considered applicable to all animals. It states that an animal's primary welfare needs can be met by safeguarding the following five freedoms:

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. Freedom from Discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

## **REFERENCES AND SOURCES**

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/use-of-animals-entertainment-recreation>

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Animals-Used-In-Entertainment-Shows-and-Exhibition.aspx>

[https://www.cfhs.ca/position\\_statements](https://www.cfhs.ca/position_statements)

<https://reginahumanesociety.ca/about-us/about-the-rhs/position-statements/domestic-animals-entertainment-recreation-competition/>

<https://www.americanhumane.org/app/uploads/2016/08/Guidelines2015-WEB-Revised-110315-1.pdf>