



Policy

Policy Name	<i>Use of Animals in Teaching and Research</i>		
Policy #	RI 12.0	Category	Research & Innovation
Policy Owner	VP Academic and Provost	Effective Date	March 17, 2021
Policy Lead	Associate Vice President, Polytechnic Education and Student Success	Review Date	March 17, 2024
Approved by	Executive Management Committee	Approval Date	March 17, 2021

1.0 Policy Statement

NAIT will implement proactive measures in the operation of its facilities and programs to protect live animals, and contribute to the quality of maintaining humane practices in the handling and treatment of all animals used for educational or research purposes. To this end, NAIT has established a process to comply to the applicable legislation and regulations; and to identify animal care concerns or potential concerns, recommend preventive measures and remedial actions, and promote animal care education programs.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students, and contractors who are engaged in the use of live animals for the purposes of education or research. The use of animals shall be conducted in strict compliance with the standards of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR Framework). NAIT further requires that all aspects of animal husbandry shall also comply with the guidelines as specified by the CCAC.

All protocols involving the use of live animals, whether intended for teaching or research shall be submitted for approval to the NAIT Animal Care Committee (NACC). This requirement applies even to procedures of a non-terminal nature. No protocols involving live animals shall be enacted without the approval of the NACC.

3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
Animal	Any living non-human vertebrate and cephalopod used for research, teaching, breeding or testing purposed at NAIT. This includes animals held within NAIT facilities, approved requests for animals at alternative housing, and animals used in field studies.
Animal User	Anyone handling the animal under a protocol including Principal Instructors/Investigators, students, etc.

Animal Husbandry	The practice of breeding, raising and caring for animals in accordance with standards of nutrition and environmental control.
Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC)	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.
NAIT Animal Care Committee (NACC)	NAIT's institutional animal care committee (NACC) set up 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.
Principal Instructor/ Investigator	The instructor or researcher with overall responsibility for the direction of a protocol or an applied research project or contract.

4.0 Guiding Principles

- 4.1 Animals play an essential role in research and training in the life sciences. NAIT recognizes its moral and ethical obligation to ensure exemplary care and use of live animals under its care.
- 4.2 The Institute recognizes the importance of animal care and protection and is committed to complying with the guidelines of the CCAC, the principles cited in the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR Framework), and related Federal and Provincial legislation and regulations.
- 4.3 The NAIT Animal Care Committee shall assist departments and/or the instructional programs to comply with the animal care regulations. It is also responsible for reporting any infractions to the appropriate immediate supervisor, Dean/Director, and to the Vice President Academic and Provost (collectively senior leadership).
- 4.4 The Vice President Academic and Provost has broad oversight for development, administration and maintenance of procedures in accordance with the Animal Care and Protection Procedures.
- 4.5 The unique character and potential risks to animals used by each department and/or program of the Institute shall be reviewed and evaluated.
- 4.6 The Institute considers the improper treatment of animals in education and research to be a serious offence, subject to severe penalties, including but not limited to the withdrawal of privileges to use animals in teaching and research or disciplinary action.

5.0 Other Related Documents

- Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (2016)
- Canadian Council on Animal Care Standards
- RI 2.0 Integrity and Responsibility in the Conduct of Applied Research & Scholarly Activity
- RI 11.0 Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Conduct of Research
- RI 13.0 Research Involving Bio-hazards
- RI 14.0 Research Involving Radioactive Materials

Document History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action/ Change</i>
Jan 1, 2021	4.2 referenced Tri-Council framework Minor wording changes