

Animal Care Standards Policy

Category: Research

Approval: Senate

Responsibility: Vice President, Research and Innovation

Date: January 15, 2019; revised May 18, 2023; November 26, 2024

1.0 Purpose of the Policy

This policy has been developed to ensure that the care of animals used in research and/or teaching at Trent University conforms to the most rigorous ethical standards compatible with the goals of science.

2.0 Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to all researchers (students, staff, faculty) and all animals deemed an essential component of a research, teaching, testing or monitoring project or program. This policy applies whether the animal is the subject of science (e.g. wildlife or farm animal studies), or is supporting science, either directly (e.g. animal model of disease or a biological process, animals used in clinical trials) or indirectly (e.g., breeding colonies, sentinel animals, animals used for training, animals used as food for other animals). Trent University will maintain the highest standards for all campus facilities and field settings involving animal research and/or teaching.

3.0 Policy Statement

Trent University's animal care standards will at minimum conform with those outlined in the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals and under the Province of Ontario's Animals for Research Act wherein Trent University is a registered research facility.

Trent University is committed to reducing, refining, and replacing the use of animals in research. While working towards these goals, Trent believes that animal research, conducted in a careful, humane and conscientious manner, is essential for understanding fundamental biology, animal-environment interactions, and diseases affecting all animal life. Trent University views animals as creatures of great intrinsic value, remarkable complexity and inherent dignity.

The policy is supported by the Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference and three procedures: the Procedure for Approval of Animal Use in Research and Teaching, Provision of Care for Resident Animals, and Animal Care Committee Animal Welfare Concern Identification and Response Procedures. Together this policy and these procedures are intended to ensure that animal use in research and teaching meets the standards of care as set out by the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the Animals for Research Act (Ontario).

4.0 Contact Officer

- Manager of Animal Care
- Coordinator, Research Conduct and Reporting

5.0 Date for Next Review

- January 2029

6.0 Related Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

- Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference;
- Provincial Guidelines – Animals for Research Act (Ontario);
- Federal Guidelines – Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC);
- Procedure for Approval of Animal Use in Research and Teaching;
- Provision of Care for Resident Animals;
- Animal Care Committee Animal Welfare Concern Identification and Response Procedures.