

Name: Policy on Animal Care and Ethics Training for Animal Users at Saint Mary's University

Approving Authority: Vice President Academic and Research

Approved: 23-OCT-2021

Responsible Office: Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Animal Care Committee

Responsibility: Associate Vice President Research

Revision Date(s): 3-NOV-2023

Supersedes: NA

Next Required Review: 2024

---

## 1. Preamble

- 1.1 As a certified institution of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), Saint Mary's University (SMU) is required to have training programs for faculty,

#### 4. Definitions

ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE (ACC)	The local representative of the CCAC responsible for ensuring that all animals used in teaching, research or testing at <del>SMU</del> treated ethically and in accordance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care's (CCAC) policies and guidelines.
ANIMAL USER	Any faculty, staff, or student who use animals for research or teaching covered under CCAC mandate (for more information, see <a href="#">CCAC Policy: Requirement for submitting an animal protocol</a> )
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	The faculty member who holds an approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP) and associated funding.

#### 5. Policy

- 5.1 All faculty, staff, and students at Saint Mary's University wishing to pursue research using animals are required to undergo training, testing, and certification on Animal Care and Ethics before using animals in their research
- 5.2 The training of animal users under this policy is oriented to the ethical framework for the use of animals in research, teaching, and testing; it is not detailed training in the handling and care of individual species or categories of animals.
- 5.3 The SMU ACC Policy on Animal Care and Ethics Training for Animal Users is consistent with the [CCAC guidelines on: training of personnel working with animals in science](#) which include:
  - a) All personnel working with animals in science must be knowledgeable about the principles of humane experimental science and ethical issues associated with the use of those animals, including the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement).
  - b) Institutions must strive to sustain an institutional culture of respect for animal life.
  - c) Institutions should ensure appropriate resource materials are available to support the delivery of comprehensive, up-to-date training programs.
  - d) Training programs must be designed to be consistent with the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement).
  - e) Access to training must be offered on a regular basis to ensure that all personnel working with animals possess the necessary knowledge, skills and competency to perform their required tasks prior to commencement of any work involving animals.
  - f) Institutions are responsible for providing evidence that all personnel working with animals have the appropriate knowledge, skills and competency to perform their required tasks.



replacement, and refinement).

6.1.2 'Knowledge Streams' associated with the specific kind of animals used in research. At the present time, only two Knowledge Streams of animal research is being pursued at Saint Mary's University:

- o (1) Fish (wild or captive);
- o (2) Wildlife (wild amphibians, reptiles, bats, birds, small mammals, large carnivores, ungulates, and marine mammals).

6.2 All animal users at SMU will undergo training in CCAC's three Core Areas. Each Core Area and link to the associated training module are listed here:

- [Ethics in Animals Experimentation](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety](#)
- [Three Rs of Humane Animal Experimentation](#)

6.3 In addition, animal users must take training in Knowledge Streams associated with the specific kind of animals used in their research. At SMU (and Mount Saint Vincent University), animal based research falls under two of these Knowledge Streams: (1) Fish (wild or captive fish), and

