

Document Name	<b>Animal Husbandry, Housing and Care</b>
Document Number	ACC.POL.009
Origin	Research Office   Committee on Animal Use and Welfare (CAUW)
Authority	Vice-President Academic and Provost
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Review/Retirement Date	2026
Responsibility for Revision	Research Ethics and Compliance Officer
Responsibility for Implementation	Associate Vice-President Research

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) shall **adopt** the guidelines of [Husbandry of animals in science](#) by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and summarized in this Policy.

The CCAC guidelines for husbandry of animals in science applies to husbandry practices for all animals held in institutions for scientific purposes. This includes wild animals brought into laboratory animal facilities for short or long-term holding but does not apply to wild animals in the field. Field studies are covered in the CCAC guidelines on the care and use of wildlife (CCAC, 2003a).

### 1) Scope

These guidelines describe the standards that are expected to be met. The standards have been developed based on expert peer advice and current interpretation of scientific evidence.

### 2) Purpose

CCAC guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the implementation of Russell and Burch's Three Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) (Russell and Burch, 1959), primarily the principle of Refinement. More specific information on husbandry

practices can be found in the CCAC guidelines developed for specific types of animals and on the CCAC website. These practices are constantly evolving and attention to this field should result in continual improvement in animal welfare.

### 3) Policy

Any person at MSVU that utilizes animals for scientific purposes (research or pedagogical) shall provide the relevant Animal Care Committee with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that provide succinct information on the husbandry, housing and care for animals that are species appropriate. Copies of these SOPs must also be submitted to the Research Office for placement on file. Investigators shall ensure that the SOPs meet the guidelines in Section 4 below and that the SOPs are kept up to date.

### 4) CCAC Guidelines

A summary of the applicable CCAC guidelines are as follows:

Guideline 1	The method for identifying animals should be appropriate for the type of animal and the requirements of the research project.
Guideline 2	Identification and marking techniques must be performed by trained personnel.
Guideline 3	Housing for animals in science should meet the physical and behavioural needs of the animals.
Guideline 4	Sufficient good quality food must be provided to all animals, and be suited to the species, age of the animals and research requirements.
Guideline 5	Fresh, clean drinking water should be supplied in a manner that makes it available to all animals at all times.
Guideline 6	Species-appropriate bedding materials should be provided.
Guideline 7	Measures should be sought to improve the welfare of the animals by enriching their environment in a manner that further addresses their species-specific and individual physical and behavioural needs.
Guideline 8	Animals should have opportunities to perform physical activities that allow the expression of species- specific behaviours.

Guideline 9	Any contact, handling or restraint must take into account species and individual animal differences and be conducted in a manner that minimizes stress for the animals and risks to the animals and personnel.
Guideline 10	Health and behavioural monitoring must be in place to ensure that sick or injured animals are identified quickly and treated, as appropriate, and that the health status of the animals is maintained.
Guideline 11	Records appropriate to the species and animal-based procedures must be accessible.

## 5) Acknowledgements

MSVU would like to acknowledge that this policy has been derived from the CCAC guidance document: [Husbandry of animals in Science](#).

## 6) Document Modification History

Policy Number	Key Changes	Effective Date
ACC.POL.009	Review for content; minor revisions; update to hyperlinks; formatting for accessibility	July 2023
ACC.POL.009	Original Version	November 2020

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