

ANIMAL USE AND CARE

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish required approvals for animals used in teaching Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) curriculum and to establish the use and care of those animals. This policy applies to all WDTC employees, students, and affiliates who use animals in teaching for WDTC.

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. Animals used in teaching WDTC curriculum must be approved by the President or VP for Teaching and Learning.
- B. All teaching activities involving animals will be done in a safe and humane manner and must be conducted in accordance with applicable federal laws, state laws, local laws, and accrediting agency requirements.
- C. Program Directors are responsible for ensuring that all animals used in their program's curriculum are approved by the President or VP for Teaching and Learning and that all animals are handled, housed, treated, cared for, and transported in a humane and ethical manner and in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulations, as well as institutional policies.
- D. Animals protected under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) will require the establishment of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), establishment of policies and procedures by the College for AWA compliance, and strict adherence to all applicable laws and regulations.
- E. Program Directors are responsible for maintaining animal use and care manuals for live animals not covered under the AWA that are used in teaching in their programs and ensuring all faculty and students are properly trained in the use and care of animals used in the curriculum. Animal use and care manuals must be reviewed and approved by the VP for Teaching and Learning and the WDTC Cabinet at least annually.
- F. Any person with reason to question the treatment of animals may report incidents involving perceived non-compliance or concerns regarding animal welfare to the VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success or file a Public Complaint per WDTC Policy 2023.

- G. Violations of this policy and improper use or care of animals by employees, students, or affiliates may result in disciplinary action including, loss of privileges in the use of animals up to suspension, termination, or expulsion.

III. Definitions

- A. “Animals” means any live or dead vertebrate animal used or intended for use in teaching.
- B. “Animals Protected Under the AWA” means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any warm-blooded animal used for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. By definition, cold-blooded species (amphibians and reptiles) are exempt from coverage under the AWA. The AWA further excludes the following: Birds; Rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research; Horses not used for research purposes; Farm animals, including livestock and poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber or in agricultural research; Fish; and Invertebrates (crustaceans, insects).

IV. Reporting Procedures

- A. Program Directors must submit their use and care manuals and their documented training of employees and students to the VP for Teaching and Learning annually.

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDTC website.
- B. Program Directors are responsible ensuring all faculty and students are properly trained in the use and care of animals used in the program’s curriculum.

Legal References: Animal Welfare Act

Board Approved 8/12/2020; Committee Reviewed 10/31/2022; Committee Reviewed 11/21/24