

Research St. Joseph's – Hamilton (RSJ-H)		<b>Pages</b> 1 of 2	<b>Number</b> 009-RSJ-H
<b>Policy Title</b> 009 – RSJ-H - Care and Use of Animals in Research		<b>Date</b> 13 November 2024	
<b>Supersedes</b> 19 January 2015	<b>Cross Reference</b>	<b>Issuing Authority</b> RSJ-H Board of Directors	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charlton Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> West 5th Campus	<input type="checkbox"/> King Campus	

**Position responsible for developing and maintaining the policy:** RSJ-H Scientific Director

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Research St. Joseph's – Hamilton (RSJ-H) supports the McMaster University policy on *The Care and Use of Animals in Research and Teaching* for the responsible use of animals in research for the purpose of obtaining knowledge essential to the prevention and caring of human and animal disease, eliminating pain and suffering, and in teaching for the purpose of scientific and technical education. RSJ-H and McMaster co-operate and comply with all agencies regulating the use of laboratory animals.

## 2.0 PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL CARE

The provision of humane care of animals in research and teaching will be assured by adherence to the following principles:

- a) All projects involving the use of animals must be approved by the McMaster University Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB) and be in accordance with the regulations of the Animals for Research Act enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) and the Guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).
- b) Animals will only be used when alternative procedures are not feasible.
- c) The species will be carefully selected to ensure the most effective use of animals.
- d) The least invasive techniques possible will be employed.
- e) The number of animals used will be the minimum required to achieve the objective of the research/teaching program.
- f) Alleviations/reduction of pain and distress will be of prime concern during and following all procedures.
- g) All animals will be cared for according to current veterinary standards.

### 3.0 OFFICIAL POLICY ON INSTITUTIONAL USE OF ANIMALS

As a research institution, there will be extensive use of animals in biomedical research. An official policy is required for both internal and external reasons, as follows:

a) Internal

To enable the Animal Research Ethics Board and the university veterinarian to enforce the guidelines of the Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC) (necessary for compliance and awarding of grants) and the regulations of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) (necessary for maintaining registration as an animal facility) with the researcher/users.

b) External

To respond to potential challenges from animal rights/welfare groups, and to promote positive public relations with the community at large regarding our concern for appropriate care of animals.

### 4.0 REFERENCES

Animals for Research Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A22

Canadian Council on Animal Care – *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*, Vol. 1, 1993 (revised)

Canadian Council on Animal Care – *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*, Vol. 2, 1984