

# Animal Welfare Guidelines

## Swinburne University of Technology

### Purpose

These guidelines establish a framework to ensure: the ethical, humane and responsible treatment of animals in all aspects of teaching, learning and research at Swinburne; the ethical and responsible treatment of animal tissue in all aspects of teaching, learning and research at Swinburne; and the University's compliance with all relevant statutes, codes and guidelines.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) is the University nominee charged with ensuring that all care and use of animals is conducted in compliance with the [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes current Edition \(The Code\)](#) issued by the [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#) of Australia and relevant state legislation including the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act](#) and the [Wildlife Act](#).

### Scope

These Guidelines apply University wide to all Swinburne staff and students using or caring for animals for scientific purposes. These Guidelines also apply to those who propose to undertake scientific, educational or artistic work using animal tissue, whether extracted from a living or dead animal.

### Definitions

Word/term	Definition
Animal	As defined by the <a href="#">Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (8<sup>th</sup> Ed)</a> .
Swinburne Animal Ethics Committee (SAEC)	The SAEC works to ensure that the use of animals is justified, provides for the welfare of those animals and incorporates the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3R's). The SAEC advises research and teaching staff and students at the University regarding standards for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. The AEC monitors the welfare of animals. The approved research and teaching activities are reported to both state and federal governments as required.
Investigator	Any person who uses animals for research or educational purposes. Includes researchers, teachers, undergraduate and postgraduate students involved in research or teaching and people involved in product testing, environmental testing, production of biological products and wildlife surveys.
Research Teaching activity	As defined by <a href="#">The Australian code for the responsible conduct of research</a> As defined by the <a href="#">Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (8<sup>th</sup> Ed)</a> .

Tissue	Any part of an animal, whether extracted from a living animal or a dead animal. Tissue includes blood and blood products.
Use	Anything done to or with an animal for the purposes of research or teaching. "Use" does not imply a necessity for physical contact between the animal and the relevant human beings (i.e. it can include observation).

## Guidelines

1.	Respect for animals underpins all decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals for research and teaching. This respect is demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 using animals only when it is justified</li> <li>1.2 supporting the wellbeing of the animals involved</li> <li>1.3 avoiding or minimising harm, including pain and distress, to those animals</li> <li>1.4 applying high standards of scientific integrity</li> <li>1.5 knowing and accepting one's responsibilities</li> </ul>
2.	The principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3Rs) at all stages of animal care. These principles prompt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 the Replacement of animals with other methods where this is possible and suitable;</li> <li>2.2 the Reduction in the number of animals used to the minimum number required to achieve the research, teaching or artistic objective;</li> <li>2.3 the Refinement of techniques used to minimise the adverse impact on animals.</li> </ul>
3.	All people involved in the care and use of animals for research and/or teaching at Swinburne will be aware of, and comply with, the requirements of the <i>Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (8<sup>th</sup> Ed)</i> , and other relevant legislation or regulations, at all times.
4.	The care and use of animals for research and/or teaching at Swinburne will be subject to ethical review via the SAEC. All activities using live animals or animals killed specifically for the purpose of the activity will need to be approved by the Committee prior to commencing and will be subject to monitoring throughout their duration.
5.	A judgment as to whether a proposed use of animals is ethically acceptable must be based on information that demonstrates the principles in Item 1 of these Guidelines, and must balance whether the potential effects on the wellbeing of the animals involved is justified by the potential benefits.
6.	The obligation to respect animals, and the responsibilities associated with this obligation, apply throughout the animal's lifetime, including acquisition, transport, breeding, housing, husbandry, use of the animal in a project, and provisions for the animal at the conclusion of their use.
7.	Swinburne will provide ongoing support for animals' welfare during their use at the University, which includes inspections of housing conditions, monitoring of the wellbeing and health of the animals, and the taking of appropriate action to reduce or end suffering where this occurs.
8.	Swinburne will maintain a reporting system where animal welfare is regularly reported upon, including the reporting of adverse events affecting animals and an

	investigation of the reasons these events have occurred.
9.	Swinburne requires all people involved in the handling and care of animals, and the performing of procedures on animals, to be appropriately trained and competency assessed to perform these tasks competently and appropriately.
10.	The use of animal tissue (whether extracted from living or dead animals) will be conducted with regard to the appropriateness and necessity of the use, in line with the relevant principles under Guideline 1 above.
11.	Animal tissue use will be reported to the SAEC.
12.	All relevant permits and licenses must be obtained prior to animal use commencing.

## **Complaints and grievances**

For information about making a complaint or grievance regarding animal use, please refer to the Complaints and grievances information.