

Algoma University Animal Care Committee	
#AU 0033 Training for Working with Aquatic Animals	
Issue date: October/2024	Last revised: May/2025

1) Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes acceptable procedures for the training required for individuals prior to working with aquatic animals.

2) Policy

CCAC guidelines and regulations

3) Responsibility

Principal investigator, their research staff, and their student investigators

4) Training Required

Animal Research Ethics

Handling/training in the relevant species

Bio-methodology training in the relevant technique and species

5) Materials Required

6) Training Procedures

Procedure: Initial Training

1. All animal users and animal care committee members should complete the first three modules of the CCAC program on training as part of the core competency
 - a. Includes legislative requirements, Occupational Health and Safety, 3 R's and Ethics
 - b. Includes quiz to track training success

Procedure: Secondary Training

1. Once all users have obtained the initial training, they are to receive additional training related to animals they are working with and the nature of the work
2. The Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for ensuring the training has been completed, either by themselves or a designate
3. In addition to the training detailed in each section below, all animal users are required to have read and understand Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) and associated SOPs for their work with animals

Procedure: Aquatics Training

NOTE: Prior to working with aquatic animals, users must be trained in the following areas as applicable

1. General Considerations
 - a. Relevant government regulations and policies, welfare considerations
 - b. Control of variation in animal-based studies

- c. Methods to calculate sample size: power analysis, resource equation method

2. Facilities

- a. General features of the animal facility, facility management – facility personnel and their roles
- b. Security, biosecurity and biosafety, physical and environmental parameters
- c. Variables potentially influencing research, common problems and means to address them
- d. Specialized facilities, additional considerations for genetically engineered animals

3. Husbandry

- a. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), identification, record keeping and documentation, housing management (including stocking density)
- b. Feed, environmental enrichment, health and disease control
- c. Handling and restraint routine, invasive husbandry practices, recognition and monitoring of pain and distress
- d. Additional considerations can genetically engineered animals (if applicable)
- e. Management and care in animal reproduction (if applicable)

4. Procedures

- a. Analgesia and anesthesia surgery special welfare considerations endpoints
- b. Additional considerations for genetically engineered animals (if applicable)

5. Euthanasia and Disposition of Animals

- a. Euthanasia (as part of protocol and in emergency situations), disposal of animals
- b. Additional considerations of genetically engineered animals (if applicable)

6. Human Safety Concerns

- a. Biohazards
- b. Occupational health and safety

Procedures: Working with Wildlife Training

1. General Considerations

- a. Relevant government regulations and policies welfare considerations
- b. Control of variation in animal-based studies
- c. Methods to calculate sample size: power analysis, resource equation method, public concern
- d. Reporting animal use

2. Natural Environment

- a. Variables potentially influencing research (e.g. animal health, disease transmission)
- b. Common field study challenges (e.g. weather hazards)
- c. Potential impacts on populations or ecosystems

3. Capture

- a. Capture
- b. Transportation

4. Husbandry (If animals are to be kept)

- a. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- b. Identification, record keeping and documentation
- c. Feed, water, and bedding
- d. Human contact, handling and restraint

e. Recognition and monitoring of pain and distress

5. Procedures

a. Analgesia and anesthesia, surgery, special welfare considerations

b. Endpoints

6. Euthanasia and Disposition of Animals

a. Analgesia and anesthesia, surgery, special welfare considerations

b. Endpoints

7. Human Safety Hazards

a. Biohazards

b. Occupational health and safety

REVISION HISTORY		
Revision #	Revision Date	Summary of Changes
1	October 2024	Created and submitted to the committee
2	May 2025	Reformatted to new SOP template
3		
4		