

Policy on Sharing Images of Animals Involved in Research and Teaching

1. Purpose

This Policy describes the acceptable sharing practices on the use of images of animals in a procedure, housing, laboratory, wild and farm setting. It concerns photography, filming and recording by any method or device, and in the following statements, the term “image” includes, but is not limited to, photography, filming, recording and the use of virtual meetings.

The Institution and Institutes recognize that the use of images can provide valuable information that facilitates learning and the delivery of information. However, images of research and teaching animals, animal housing facilities, field research locations, and research laboratories may inadvertently result in privacy or security risks to those working with research and teaching animals, risks to field animals or habitat, or in facilities housing these animals. Further, the University and Research Institute’s reputation may be negatively affected if images are published such that they are inconsistent with the University’s policies and guidelines.

The widespread use of mobile devices equipped with photographic and recording capabilities permits almost anyone with access to animal areas to capture and store images of animals involved in research and teaching. This policy specifies the conditions related to the sharing of images of animals taken within animal research and teaching areas located on McGill and/or its Affiliated Hospital Research Institutes’ property as well as areas where wild animals are the subject of research studies, teaching projects and other activities.

This Policy also aims to ensure that ethical standards are maintained and the risk of unwanted publication of images of people, animals and confidential information are avoided. For this, the [Guidelines on the Use of Images of Animals in Research and Teaching](#) must be followed.

Violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action by the administrative office appropriate for the person involved. (Administrative offices include, but are not limited to, Disciplinary Officers, Department Chairs and Research Integrity Officers.)

Disclaimer: This Policy does not describe Guidelines and Policies related to images for Public Relations purposes or any other public activity organized by the institution or institute.

2. Responsibility

- 2.1. Everyone involved or in contact with research and teaching animals must be aware of, and follow, the Policy for the use of images as outlined here as well as the [Guidelines on the Use of Images of Animals in Research and Teaching](#). This includes visitors of restricted areas where animals are held or housed.
- 2.2. For images intended for publication in large-scale media for the public such as newspapers, newscasts or documentaries, the individual must seek written pre-approval from their institutional Media Relations Office.

- 2.3. Agencies, governments and other outside organizations that request images of animals, must obtain written approval by the appropriate office or committee in the institution/institute before images are taken.
- 2.4. Posting any images of research or teaching animals to social media outlets or any other public stage for entertainment purposes and/or for a malicious use is strictly prohibited.
- 2.5. All images taken inside an animal facility require pre-approval from the management of the animal facility.
- 2.6. For farm or wild animals undergoing procedures, prior authorization is required from the Macdonald Campus Facility Animal Care Committee or the McGill Media Relations Office as appropriate.

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