



Medicine Hat College Policy Use of Canines in Teaching

Policy #:	AC-13
Policy Authority:	Dean, Business and Continuing Studies
Executive Sponsor:	Vice-President, Academic
Approved by:	President and CEO
Effective Date:	August 22, 2022
Next Mandatory Review Date:	August 22, 2023
Frequency of Review:	Annual

1. OBJECTIVE

This policy provides guidance to align with the applicable legislation and regulations regarding canine care in educational programs.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to employees, students, and contractors, who are engaged in the use of live canines for educational purposes.

3. DEFINITIONS

- **Canine User:** anyone handling a canine for the program including employees, students, and contractors.
- **Medicine Hat College Animal Care Committee (MHCACC):** MHC's institutional animal care committee (MHCACC).

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Medicine Hat College (MHC) recognizes the importance of animal care and protection and strives to align with related Federal and Provincial legislation and regulations.
- 4.2 MHC acknowledges that canines play an essential role in the educational environment.
- 4.3 MHC instills instructors, contractors, and students with its moral and ethical obligation to ensure exemplary care and use of live canines under its care.

5. DIRECTIVES

- 5.1 MHC has implemented measures in the operation of its facilities and programs to protect live canines and contribute to the quality of maintaining humane practices in the handling and treatment of all canines used for educational purposes.
- 5.2 The MHCACC assists departments and/or the instructional programs to comply with the canine care regulations.

- 5.3 All protocols involving the use of live canines intended for teaching are submitted for review to the Dean of Business and Continuing Studies.
- 5.4 The Vice-President, Academic has broad oversight for the development, administration, and maintenance of protocols to ensure exemplary care and use of live canines under the institution's care.
- 5.5 The unique character and potential risks to canines used by each department and/or program of the institution will be reviewed and evaluated.
- 5.6 MHC considers the improper treatment of canines in education to be a serious offence subject to severe penalties, up to and including disciplinary action.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 **The Dean, Business and Continuing Studies** is responsible for:
 - (a) supervising the program to ensure appropriate application of the policy;
 - (b) ensuring qualified faculty and staff are hired; and
 - (c) managing the contractual relationships with suppliers of canines for the program and students.
- 6.2 **Students** are responsible for complying with the student requirements including the student contract and handbook.
- 6.3 **Instructors** are responsible for
 - (a) teaching the curriculum for the program; and
 - (b) reporting infractions to the immediate supervisor, Dean of Business and Continuing Studies, and the Vice-President, Academic.
- 6.4 **The MHCACC** is responsible for providing guidance on all aspects of canine care and wellbeing.
- 6.5 **Contractors** are responsible for complying with their contractual obligations.

7. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

Alberta Post-secondary Learning Act
Service Dog Act

8. RELATED POLICIES

HR-10 Code of Conduct
SD-04 Student Non-Academic Misconduct
HS-01 Occupational Health and Safety
AC-03 Program Advisory Committees

9. RELATED PROCEDURES

PR-SD-04-01 Student Non-Academic Misconduct

10. RELATED INFORMATION

Canine Provider Contracts
Student Contracts
Student Handbook (in development)
Student Residence Support Animal Guideline and Agreement

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Kevin Shufflebotham
President and CEO

Date: August 22, 2022

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Clay Bos
Acting Vice-President, Academic

Date: August 22, 2022

DOCUMENT HISTORY

2022 Policy approved