

## Psychology Animal Neglect Policy

### Neglect of Animal Care Responsibilities

The Psychology Department takes the care of all research animals seriously. They are living creatures, and as such, must be treated with care and dignity. The use of animals in student research is not a right, but a privilege. Students are responsible for the maintenance and care of their research animals during all stages of their research. Prior to starting a research project, each student is required to attend a meeting with the animal care staff and discuss the appropriate animal husbandry protocol with their research advisor.

In the event that a student does not tend to his/her research animals appropriately, defined below as “neglect”, the Psychology Department will follow this general system of three “strikes” as necessary:

1. The first time neglect is discovered, an e-mail will be sent to the student in question, the Animal Review Committee (ARC) chair, and the research advisor alerting them to the problem.
2. If the problem is not corrected, or if a new problem arises, a second e-mail to the above parties will be sent, and there will be an automatic 1 letter grade penalty for the semester.
3. Should problems continue after the above warnings, a third e-mail will be sent. In addition, the Animals will be taken away, ARC will terminate research approval, and the student will fail for the semester.

The Psychology Department defines “neglect” as being remiss in the care or treatment of research animals, regardless of intention. Neglect includes, but is not limited to:

- Not feeding or watering animals to the satisfaction of the Psychology Department
- Not providing clean living spaces for animals, including water or bedding changes
- Allowing animals to become ill or diseased\*
- Allowing animals to die\*
- Not checking on the health and well-being of the animals
- Not logging feedings, health, etc. in logbooks
- Falsifying records or reports of care

ARC and the Psychology Department reserve the right to intervene and terminate the research at any stage, skipping strikes and proceeding directly to consequence 3. Decisions to skip strikes or modify the consequences for animal neglect are made on a case-by-case basis, and the outcome is based on the degree of neglect. Students that reach consequence 3 will not be able to use animals in research for the remainder of their time at Allegheny College.

\*unless stated explicitly as an experimental outcome in the approved ARC protocol