

# NAG 5—Health and Safety

## Welfare of Animals Policy

### Rationale

Northern Health School (NHS) recognises its legal obligations to those species defined as animals under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and its moral responsibilities with regard to other animals studied or kept in the school.

### Purposes

To ensure that

- a) Through example, the proper care of living creatures within the school is undertaken.
- b) Experiences are provided for students to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- c) The care and welfare of animals is a priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
- d) Students are educated through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

### Guidelines

- a) The day-to-day care of all animals, in the care of people and/or used in experiments and teaching will be governed by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- b) All living creatures at NHS will be treated with care and respect
- c) Responsibility for the welfare of animals in NHS rests with the teacher involved and ultimately with the Principal and the Board of Trustees
- d) Animals kept at NHS will be provided with their five basic needs
  - freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition (including during weekends and holidays)
  - freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter (by being provided with appropriate cages or containers that are properly ventilated and hygienic and do not allow exposure to extremes of noise, draughts, and sunlight)
  - freedom from injury, disease, and parasite infestation (by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment). Diseased or injured animals will be treated promptly and will not be kept at NHS until they have recovered. If this is not feasible, they will be humanely destroyed
  - freedom from distress (through proper care and handling)
  - freedom to display their normal patterns of behaviour

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ April 2020

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date \_\_\_\_\_ April 2023