Important Regulations for using NSU animal facility:

It is the Policy of the Public Health Service (PHS) to require institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities (hereinafter referred to as activities) conducted or supported by the PHS. The PHS endorses the "U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training" developed by the Interagency Research Animal Committee. This Policy is intended to implement and supplement those Principles.

1. Animal Purchase and Use

Animal purchase and use in this research facility requires prior approval by the IACUC. The use and care of animals at NSU facilities should adhere to the guidelines provided by PHS in the NIH publication No. 86-23, revised 1985. A copy of this publication is available on request from the IACUC. Once animals are purchased the, P.I. should group them as necessary and attach IACUC approved labels on all cages.

2. Personal Hygiene:

It is essential that the animal care staff maintain a high standard of personal cleanliness. Individuals should wear laboratory coat (a must) inside the animal rooms (while feeding the animals or handling them for any other reason), to prevent from being exposed to potentially hazardous microbial agents or toxic substances. While cleaning the cages or changing the bedding for the animal cages it is essential to wear gloves, masks and goggles. Any accidents that occur (scratching, biting, spitting etc. by the animals) at the animal facility should be promptly reported.

3. Animal Food:

Animals should be fed palatable, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate food. The food should be available in amounts sufficient to ensure normal growth in immature animals and maintenance of normal body weight, reproduction and lactation in adults unless waived by IACUC for experimental reasons.

4. Water:

Animals maintained in this facility should have continuous access to fresh, uncontaminated drinking water unless waived by IACUC for experimental reasons. Water can be treated or purified to minimize or eliminate contamination.
5. **Bedding:**

It is compulsory to use bedding for small animals. Bedding used in the animal cages should be absorbent, free of toxic chemicals or other substances that could injure animals or personnel. It should be of a type not easily eaten by animals. Bedding should be used in sufficient amounts and changed frequently to keep animals clean and dry all the times.

6. **Waste:**

All wastes excepting carcasses and tissues should be disposed into an appropriate waste container. Animal carcasses and tissues should be frozen until proper disposal. Hazardous waste, including carcasses exposed to biohazards agents must be adequately sterilized/or contained prior to removal and disposal.

7. **Sanitation:**

Cleanliness and sanitation are essential to the operation of this animal facility.

7a. **Animal Rooms:**

It is the investigators responsibility to keep the animal rooms (floors, walls, cage carts, cages, pans etc.) dry and clean. Nothing, other than the cleaning utensils, can be kept on the floor of the animal rooms.

7b. **Cages and Pans:**

The most effective method of cleaning and sanitizing the cages and accessories (e.g. feeders, water bottles, sipper tubes, pans etc.) is the use of water with temperature of at least 83°C (180°F). Cleaning of cages and accessories will be done by the caretaker periodically.

8. **Use of Equipment and Animal Food from Stock Room:**

Necessary amount of animal food, water bottles, cages, sipper tubes and other available supplies will be provided from the animal facility stock room by the caretaker. Once the project is completed borrowed cages, water bottles, sipper tubes and other supplies will be returned to the stock room in clean and sterile condition. No one other than the caretaker will be allowed to remove items from the stock room without a written permission from the
9. Surgery:

Surgery or sacrifice of animals should be done only in the animal facility or in a designated area. Surgery or sacrifice performed in a non-designated area would be considered as a violation of the rules.

10. Radioisotope use in animals:

Currently injecting or feeding radioactive materials in any forms to animals is strictly prohibited at NSU.

11. Cage labels:

Only IACUC approved cage labels should be displayed on the animal cages.

12. Euthanasia:

Euthanasia means the humane killing of an animal accomplished by a method which produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress. The following are recommended: Carbon dioxide (CO₂), inhalant anesthetics (e.g. Halothane, Methoxyflurane and Isoflurane etc.) and barbiturates in sufficient doses to ensure death.

Cervical dislocation can be performed only for mice and rats weighing less than one kilogram. Guillotine can be used to decapitate rodents. If microwave irradiation is going to be used, necessary commercial microwave chambers should be used that can ensure unconsciousness less than a second. The household units cannot be used for this purpose.

13. Kill Card:

Once an animal is sacrificed the IACUC approved ‘kill card’ must be filled.

14. Storage of Carcasses for Disposal:

The carcasses can be stored in the -80 ° C freezer, only in the red bags that carry biohazard label on it, prior to disposal. No sharps (needles, razor blades, broken glass, glass tubes, syringes, scalpels or any other sharp objects) can be included in these bags.

15. Charges:

All externally funded research projects must be conducted using the animal facility at RGI. For housing animals at RGI Per Diem rates will be applied.
16. Caretaker:

A part-time caretaker is available to take care of the animals and cages. The caretaker will report only to the Chairman of the IACUC and to the Institutional officer who would be the Chancellor or an official designated by the Chancellor. Only the caretaker is allowed to feed and water the animals.

17. Training:

Training is required for all users at NSU. Training record is necessary for approval of protocols involving external collaborators. Training for NSU Faculty and Employees is currently available through CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) program.

18. Use of Fish in Research:

Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC) at NSU requires IACUC approval for all funded research projects involving fishes as per OLAW policy. IACUC at NSU will review and provide approval for the protocol involving fishes also as per the guidelines of American Fisheries Society (AFS).

19. Use of Birds:

IACU at NSU has adopted the policy of PHS which is applicable to proposed activities that involve live vertebrate animals. While embryonal stages of avian species develop vertebrae at a stage in their development prior to hatching, OLAW has interpreted "live vertebrate animal" to apply to avians (e.g., chick embryos) only after hatching.

20. Violation

Violation of the above listed regulations or non-compliance of the guidelines specified in the NIH publication No. 86-23 (revised 1985) will result in an immediate revoking of the animal use privileges at NSU.