

Section 5: Training in the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

5.0 Training

All staff working with laboratory animals must be appropriately qualified to do so in order to ensure the humane treatment of animals. Training is a classic performance standard where the emphasis is on the outcome (i.e., all personnel are qualified to do their jobs). Although the PHS Policy and Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs) do not specify a particular program or the frequency with which a program should be offered, the requirement for competence is mandatory.

The AWRs, in Sec. 2.32 (a) and (b), specify:

It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. This responsibility shall be fulfilled in part through the provision of training and instruction to those personnel. Training and instruction shall be made available, and the qualifications of personnel reviewed, with sufficient frequency to fulfill the research facility's responsibilities.

The PHS Policy, Section IV.C.1.f. places responsibility specifically with the IACUC to ensure that personnel conducting procedures on research animals are appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.

Personnel's training in the care and use of research animals is also an important aspect of the alternatives concept (replacement, reduction and refinement). Training in the recognition and alleviation of animal pain, distress, and abnormalities addresses refinement. Similarly, training in the conduct of animal procedures prepares staff to work without causing unnecessary harm to the animal. Technical proficiency also invokes reduction by avoiding wasted animal lives through failed procedures.

The consulting veterinarian provides training, education and assistance as necessary or requested on an individual or small group basis regarding special procedures or techniques, pre- and post-procedure care, and animal handling and restraint.

5.1 Who Should Receive Training?

All personnel (i.e., principal investigators (PIs), research faculty/staff, graduate students, laboratory technicians, students, etc.) involved in animal care, treatment, and/or use of live vertebrate animals used for research, teaching or testing at OSU CHS shall complete prescribed mandatory animal care and use training prior to protocol approval and prior to working with animals.

Training should also be made available to temporary staff, such as students and visiting scientists. PI's are responsible for identifying these people and assuring that appropriate training is accomplished.

5.2 Training Requirements for Laboratory Animal Users

The IACUC requires all personnel that conduct any research and/or teaching that involves handling, manipulating, or performing procedures on live vertebrate animals, whether in the laboratory or in the field to complete this training. Protocols will not be reviewed until all personnel listed on a protocol are current with their training.

The IACUC-required online training modules through www.citiprogram.org:

1. "Working with the IACUC" course is required for the PI only.
2. Personnel who plan to conduct studies that have the potential to cause "more than momentary pain and distress" in Mice or Rats must complete the course on "Minimizing Pain and Distress".
3. Personnel who plan to work with mice must complete the course "Working with Mice in Research". Or, if are working with rats, personnel must complete the course "Working with Rats in Research Settings". If personnel plan to work with an animal model other than mice or rats, contact the IACUC Administrator for further training instructions.
4. Personnel who plan to perform aseptic surgery on animals must complete the course on "Aseptic Surgery."

***Refresher training for all personnel is required every three years.

5.3 Education and Training for IACUC Members

5.3.1 New Member Orientation

New IACUC member orientation consists of the following: a description of the IACUC and responsibilities; U.S. Government Principles; criteria for membership; authority of the IACUC; protocol review process; monitoring of approved protocols, periodic review; protocol modifications; records; semiannual reviews; roles and responsibilities; and federal regulations. Documentation of training is maintained through the use of IACUC member files.

The objectives of providing this information are the following:

- To introduce members to the role of the IACUC and its evolution;
- To provide the basic information necessary for IACUC members to discharge their responsibilities; and
- To provide a forum for response to, and discussion of, members' concerns and questions.

Effective June 15, 2011, all new IACUC members must complete the "Essentials for IACUC

Members” online training course at www.citiprogram.org.

5.3.2 Continuing Education

Continuing education for IACUC members usually occurs at each IACUC meeting. The objectives of providing ongoing training for IACUC members is to increase their knowledge, understanding, and awareness of current laws and regulations, new directives, best practice guidelines and institutional policies. It also provides a regular forum for the IACUC to discuss concerns or questions brought forth by the faculty, staff or members of the community. Information provided for these sessions will include questions and concerns brought to the attention of the IACUC, official directives, relevant publications, conference announcements, seminar proceedings, animal facility staff and/or veterinarian’s observations/recommendations, issues involving facility inspections and program evaluations, and compliance issues.