

# IACUC Policy on the Training of Personnel for Laboratory Animal Use or Care

The University of South Carolina recognizes that the use of laboratory animals for teaching and research is fundamental to advances in biology and medicine. The use of laboratory animals is subject to a multitude of laws, policies, regulations and standards. Two such laws/policies include the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Public Health Service (PHS) policy, which require documentation that personnel are appropriately trained in animal care and use. To comply with these obligations, the University of South Carolina utilizes two primary types of personnel training: 1) online training, and 2) hands-on workshops. With the exception of the Attending Veterinarian, and non-USC research personnel with proof of adequate training, all persons using or caring for animals in research, testing, or education at the University of South Carolina must complete specified training, as described below, via the AALAS Learning Library and/or hands-on training.

- 1. Required Training:** Training will be assigned by the IACUC through the AALAS Learning Library.
  - a. All personnel must successfully complete an online module on working with the IACUC.
  - b. All personnel must successfully complete an online module on occupational health and safety.
  - c. All personnel must successfully complete the species-specific module for the species with which they plan to work.
  - d. All personnel performing surgery must successfully complete online training modules pertinent to the target species and/or as assigned by the IACUC office, covering the following topics:
    - aseptic technique for survival surgery
    - inhalation anesthesia systems
    - pain recognition and alleviation in laboratory animals
    - post-procedure care and minimizing pain and distress
  - e. All IACUC members must successfully complete a module designed specifically for IACUC members.
  - f. At the discretion of the IACUC, additional training may be required and/or assigned.
  
- 2. Optional Training:**
  - a. Hands-on Training: Department of Laboratory Animal Resources provides hands-on training for individuals working with mice, rats, rabbits, or other species. These workshops cover the basics of animal research and techniques are tailored to meet the needs of the individuals receiving the training. Participation is not required but strongly encouraged. There is no cost for this training.
  - b. There are many online modules available that cover a wide range of topics. These modules, as well as those described above, may be completed as many times as desired at no cost.

3. **Retraining:** All personnel will be required to retrain on required modules every three years. Failure to complete retraining will result on the individual being removed from the protocol and not being allowed to access the facility or work with animals.
  
4. **Training provided by the Principal Investigator:** In addition to the required training described above, instances may arise where personnel are trained in specific procedures by the Principal Investigator or his/her delegate. When this occurs the training must be documented and records maintained by the Principal Investigator for 3 years beyond the project date. The documentation for each person receiving training must be submitted to the IACUC office upon request. The documentation must include:
  - a. The procedure for which training was received
  - b. The date and location of the training
  - c. The persons receiving the training
  - d. The name, title, and qualifications of the person providing the training.