

University of Notre Dame
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy on Training for Investigators Using Animals

The federal Animal Welfare Act (administered by the USDA) and regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services (including PHS) require training and continuing education for all scientists, research and animal care technicians, and others involved with animal care and use. These laws and regulations require that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as an agent of the University of Notre Dame, determine that personnel wishing to conduct procedures on animals or animal tissues are qualified and trained to do so on the animal species proposed. To fulfill this responsibility, the following mandatory training program has been developed.

Introductory Training Program:

All staff, faculty and students that are involved in the care or use of animals for research, utilizing animal tissues or listed on an animal protocol at the University of Notre Dame are required to participate in the Introductory Training Program. The program includes the use of LATA (Laboratory Animal Training Association) videos or web based learning programs. These videos include but are not limited to the following:

Level 1 Training - Required of all persons listed on an animal use protocol

The Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals - LATA video course OR

“Working with the IACUC” - free web course

Level 2 Training - Required for all persons using Mice, Rats, Hamsters, or Gerbils

The Humane Care and Use of the Laboratory Mouse, Rat, and Hamster - LATA Video course web course OR

“Introduction to Research Animal Methodologies” "Introduction to (insert species)" - free web course

Level 3 Training - Required for all persons using Rabbits or Guinea Pigs

The Humane Care and Use of the Laboratory Guinea Pig and Rabbit - LATA video course OR

“Introduction to Research Animal Methodologies” "Introduction to (insert species)" - free web course

Level 4 Training - Required for all persons using NHP

Working Safely with Non-Human Primates - A video course OR

“Non Human Primates Course” “Working Safely with Non-Human Primates” -A video course - free web course

Level 5 Training - Required for all persons using Zebrafish

The Humane Care and Use of Zebrafish - a powerpoint presentation available at FLSC

Level 6 Training – Required for all persons using Frogs

“Introduction to Research Animal Methodologies” "Introduction to Amphibians" - free web course

After viewing the videos appropriate to the type of animals being used, a written multiple-choice test is given. A score of 75% is required to pass for each video test. A certificate will be given when the test(s) have been successfully passed. The Technical Services and Training Coordinator will examine the test in the event of a failing score. Remediation will be given to those who score under 75%. A list of persons that have taken and passed the test(s) (LATA or web based) will be made available to the IACUC for verification of training when protocols are reviewed.

All individuals will have internet access to institutional SOPs, Policies, Guidelines, and materials covering:
FLSC Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures for Personal Safety and Hygiene

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Technical Services Available and Provided by FLSC

Laws, Regulations and Policies that Impact the Care and Use of Animals

Alternatives to Animals in Research

Recognizing Pain and Distress in Animals

The Use of Anesthetics, Analgesics, Tranquilizers and Neuromuscular Blocking Agents

Euthanasia- Humane Considerations, Methods & Selection, FLSC Policies & SOP

Resources

Procedure Specific Training Program:

The Technical Services and Training Coordinator will provide access to training specific to procedures in IACUC- approved protocols. This may consist of videos, auto-tutorials, or hands-on training with the Attending Veterinarian or Registered Veterinary Technician.

The main areas addressed in protocol-specific training are:

- Aseptic Surgical Techniques and Post-Operative Care
- Surgical Techniques and Invasive Procedures
- Anesthesia Choices and Monitoring
- Euthanasia Methods
- Restraint, Injection and Blood Withdrawal Methods

6-1-2001 VS, 4-2004VS, 4-2007, 12-2008, 11-2010 VAS