

GUIDELINES REGARDING SHORT TERM RESEARCHER TRAINING

PURPOSE:

Liberty University is required by federal law to ensure that all individuals working with animals are appropriately trained in the proper care and use of laboratory animals. This document provides a general overview of training topics that short term researchers should be exposed to prior to starting work with animals at Liberty University.

GUIDELINES:

Short term researchers are required to receive animal and health awareness training prior to beginning work on an IACUC protocol. While CITI training is not a requirement for short term researchers, the PI must provide adequate training for short term researchers in the areas listed below, at minimum. This sheet provides a general overview and is not intended to be an all-encompassing training resource. Short term researchers do not have to be listed on the IACUC protocol, however, a list of participants must be provided to the IACUC.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal use must be limited to research that is deemed necessary, which benefits humans and/or animals. All animals must be treated humanely. Animal use at LU is a privilege, not a right, and as such, this privilege can be revoked.

THE 3 R'S OF ANIMAL RESEARCH

Replacement: replace animals with non-animal models, cell cultures, or computer modeling wherever possible. *Reduction*: reduce the number of animals used by using statistical methods to determine the necessary number and prevent duplication. *Refinement*: consistently update procedures to minimize pain and distress, improve analgesics, and use varied approaches to surgical methods.

ANIMAL RESEARCH REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following regulations are in place regarding the care and use of animals in research and teaching: The Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, State and local laws, and University policy.

ANIMAL RESEARCH "BEST PRACTICES"

The following provide best practices on procedures and care of research animals: The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

THE IACUC AND ITS PURPOSE

The IACUC is responsible for the following: reviewing and approving submitted animal care and use protocols, providing semi-annual reviews and inspections of the animal facilities and program, investigating any concerns regarding animal care or abuse, and reporting to the Institutional Official.

RISKS AND HAZARDS OF WORKING WITH LABORATORY ANIMALS

Risks and hazards include: scratch, bite, needle stick, or injuries from animals. Allergies may also result from working with animals (dander, urine, etc.). Potential for zoonotic disease transmission also exists and must be considered when working with animals. If you are exposed to any of the above while working with animals, report to the laboratory supervisor and submit an incident report.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The use of PPE is required when working with animals. Its purpose is to protect researchers from the animals and animals from the researcher. Based on personal health status or the status of the animal, additional PPE precautions may be required. Further, proper use of PPE prevents the transmission of disease from animal to animal.

ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS AND REPORTING

Liberty University is dedicated to the humane care and use of animals in all of its facilities. By law, the IACUC must investigate all claims of animal abuse or neglect. Anyone can report animal care and use concerns without fear of retribution. More information is available on the Liberty University IACUC website.