

**POLICY REGARDING THE TRAINING OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS,
RESEARCHERS, AND ANIMAL CARE STAFF**

PURPOSE:

This policy has been established as a part of Liberty University's commitment to providing adequate training for animal researchers including Principal Investigators, Course or Lab Instructors, Teaching or Research Staff, and Animal Care Staff.

POLICY:

The Animal Welfare Act Regulations Sec. 2.32 (a) and (b) specify: *"It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research 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 facilities responsibilities..."*

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

The Animal Welfare Act Regulations Sec. 2.32 (c) require that training and instruction of personnel must include guidance in at least the following areas:

1. Humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation:
 - a. Basic needs of each species of animal used
 - b. Proper handling and care for each species of animal used by the facility
 - c. Proper pre-procedural and post-procedural care of animals
 - d. Aseptic surgical methods and procedures
2. Concept, availability, and use of research or testing methods that limit the use of animals or minimize animal distress
3. Proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers for any species used in the facility
4. Methods for reporting deficiencies in animal care, including deficiencies reported by any employee of the facility. No facility employee or committee member will face reprisal for reporting violations of any regulation of standards under the AWA.
5. Utilization of services available for acquiring information (National Library of Medicine, etc.) on the following topics:
 - a. Appropriate methods of animal use and care
 - b. Alternatives to the use of live animals in research
 - c. Methods that could prevent unintended and unnecessary duplication of research involving animals
 - d. The intent and requirements of the AWA.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

In order to ensure that Liberty University researchers (students, staff, fellows, and faculty) receive orientation to Federal and University policies regarding animal research, those involved in research or teaching with vertebrate animals at LU are required to participate in CITI training. CITI training completion must be verified by the Research Ethics Office prior to individuals engaging in research or teaching activities involving the use of animals. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) may also require additional training for each individual, depending on their prior training and experience with animals or the nature of the protocol.

Animal researcher training is required of all protocol personnel once every three years. CITI training courses may require that training be completed on a more frequent basis, depending on the nature of the course.

It is the responsibility of the principal investigator (PI) to ensure that all animal users complete the required IACUC training, as well as any lab, species, or procedure specific training. This training should include daily animal husbandry and recordkeeping requirements.

PRIOR TO WORKING WITH ANIMALS, RESEARCHERS MUST COMPLETE:

CITI Training

Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP) Training & Enrollment