

Animal Care and Use Committee
POLICY ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMAL USERS
Revised and Re-approved June 2008

BACKGROUND:

U.S. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR)¹ and Public Health Service (PHS)² Policy require institutions to provide training for all personnel engaged in animal research. This includes Principal Investigators (PIs), technicians, laboratory personnel, research fellows, students, and visiting scientists. Even PIs who do not, themselves, work directly with animals are required to have general training in animal care and use because of their ultimate responsibility for the personnel listed on their animal use protocols. The content of this general training is specified by federal regulations and policy and must include:

- Humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation
- Research methods that limit the utilization of animals or minimize animal distress
- Proper use of anesthetics, analgesics and tranquilizers for any species of animal used by the facility
- Institutional procedures for reporting deficiencies in animal care and treatment
- Services that can be used to acquire information on appropriate methods of animal care and use, alternatives to the use of live animals in research, prevention of unnecessary duplication of research involving animals, and the intent and requirements of the U.S. Animal Welfare Act.

The Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) is charged, in its review of animal use protocols, with determining that all personnel conducting procedures using animals are appropriately qualified and trained. The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) "Working with the IACUC" on-line training course (<https://www.citiprogram.org/>) and the Tier One Training seminar offered by the Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) meet all the requirements for training as set forth in the AWAR and PHS Policy.

POLICY:

The ACUC has established the following policy on training requirements for animal users.

1. Prior to the start of any animal activity, all faculty, staff, students and research personnel who use live vertebrate animals in research or instruction must receive training in the five subjects bulleted above. These five subjects are included in the CITI on-line course and the Tier One Training seminar offered by OLAC.
2. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all personnel listed on the PI's animal use protocol receive the required training in animal care and use. This training, which must be documented in writing, may be obtained either by taking the CITI on-line course or by attending a Tier One Training seminar.
3. All PIs, staff, students and research personnel who use live vertebrate animals are required to update their training at least once every 5 years to assure that they remain current on laws, regulations, guidelines and policies. This may be accomplished either by completing the on-line CITI refresher course or by completing the on-line "Tier One Training 5-Year Refresher Course" at the following web address: <http://dtsetrain.berkeley.edu>.
4. As part of the protocol review process, the ACUC may determine that additional training is required to ensure personnel are qualified to perform the procedures proposed.

¹ Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9 (Animals and Animal Products), Chapter 1, Subchapter A (Animal Welfare), Part 2 – Regulations, Subpart C – Research Facilities, §2.32 Personnel Qualifications.

² Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, "Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," revised August 2002, page 10.