

WVU IACUC Policy:

Training Requirements for Animal Use in Field Research and Teaching

Purpose

West Virginia University (WVU) is committed to observing federal policies, regulations and the AAALAC International standards for the humane care and use of animals. This policy describes the IACUC training requirements for individuals involved in the care and use of live vertebrate animals as part of the Animal Care and Use Program at WVU.

Additional training, such as biohazard, radiation, or chemical safety training, may be required and is available upon request, depending on the nature of the animal work. Visit the Office of Animal Welfare's website for more details on training requirements: <https://animal.research.wvu.edu/training>.

Background

According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*: "The institution should provide appropriate education and training to members of research teams – including principal investigators, study directors, research technicians, postdoctoral fellows, students, and visiting scientists – to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise for the specific animal procedures proposed and the species."

Required Training

1. Research and Teaching Personnel included on an IACUC approved protocol

- "Working with the IACUC" CITI course
- "Wildlife Research" CITI course
- Species-specific CITI course(s)
- Specific training related to animal use and safety procedures instructed by the PI or their designee
- Occupational health hazards and zoonosis associated with species approved in protocol

2. Students registered in WVU Courses involving the use of live animals

- Species-specific CITI course(s)

OR

- Faculty wishing to include Animal Use training as a portion of their curriculum can submit a Student Alternative Training Form with the IACUC: [IACUC: Student Alternative Training Statement](#)
The following topics **must** be covered:
 - Basic humane handling and care of the involved species
 - Signs of pain and distress in the involved species
 - Zoonotic disease and safety concerns associated with the involved species
 - How to report animal welfare concerns to the IACUC

References

1. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), National Research Council, 2011.
2. [Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations](#), United States Department of Agriculture, 2017.
3. [AAALAC Accreditation Program FAQs](#)