

## **WVU IACUC Policy:**

### **Minors working with Animals in Laboratory**

#### **Background**

This policy is executed and issued by the West Virginia University (WVU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and covers any person, ages 14-17, working in laboratory areas controlled and/or owned by WVU. The information in this policy, as well as the WVU Board of Governors (BOG) Rule 1.7 Rule on Child Protection and the West Virginia Code (Article 6) Child Labor, are to be followed if you plan to enlist the services of a “Visiting Child” or Minor under the age of 18.

#### **Policy**

1. No one under the age of 14 is permitted to be in the laboratory.
2. A consent form must be completed by the Minor and parent/guardian PRIOR to the child starting work in the laboratory. (see Minors Working with Animals Consent Form, on page 3)
3. If the Minor is under the age of 16, their work schedule will need to be in accordance with the WV Code Chapter 21, Article 6 regarding Child Labor.
4. All Laboratory Staff (PI included) that will have direct contact with the Minor must complete the necessary background check PRIOR to the Minor entering the laboratory. Please visit Hiring of Minors/Children on Campus website and complete the Background Check Request Form.
5. The Minor must be under direct supervision by the PI and/or a designated adult/senior Laboratory Staff member at all times.
6. All Minors and Laboratory Staff (PI included) must complete ALL required animal use training PRIOR to beginning work. A list is provided at the end of this policy for your convenience.
7. Minors will be prohibited from the following:
  - a. Performing euthanasia
  - b. Performing BSL2/ABSL2+ work
  - c. Performing radiation work
  - d. Handling or administering controlled substances
  - e. Receiving access to the animal facility
8. The Minor must be added to the approved IACUC protocol. Be sure to list all the specific procedures that the student will be performing.

Participation is voluntary; failure to comply with this policy or any of the WVU policies above could result in termination of the Minor’s participation by the IACUC, WVU, and/or Laboratory Staff.

The Minor and all members of the Laboratory Staff should conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner while on campus.

The PI and Laboratory Staff should take into account the individual background, skill set and comfort level of each Minor within the program. Responsibilities assigned to the Minor should reflect their aptitude.

### **Required training for the Minor**

- CITI: Species specific
- Research Specific (With or without surgery)
- Occupational Health Questionnaire
- OLAR Facility Training (if minor will be entering the animal facility or handling live animals)
- General Laboratory Safety

Required training for PI and laboratory staff:

- Children on Campus Training: In Person or Online
- Training with a WVU Title IX Coordinator

### **Definitions**

**Minor** - any person, age 14-17, that will participate in a WVU affiliated laboratory program or research. This does not apply to those under the age of 18 who are enrolled as a WVU student. "Visiting Child" is defined by the **Board of Governors (BOG) Rule 1.7 "Rule on Child Protection"**.

**Laboratory/Work area**— any area where animal work is being conducted and/or where chemicals, biological materials or radiation are handled or stored. This can include farms or field study sites, even if they are located off campus.

**Principal Investigator (PI)** – the head of the laboratory and the person whose name appears on the approved IACUC protocol as PI.

**Laboratory Staff** – Any senior lab personnel affiliated with the IACUC protocol in which the Minor will be working under.

### **Return consent form to:**

Office of Animal Welfare  
[IACUC@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:IACUC@mail.wvu.edu)

**Minors in the Animal Laboratory**  
**Consent Form/Waiver**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by parent/legal guardian (check each):**

- I have read and agree to follow the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policy #18-002.
- I understand that there are potential risks or dangers associated with the environment my child will be exposed to.
- I verify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor listed below.
- I verify that the minor is at least 14 years of age.
- I understand that the minor will only be able to work during certain hours (WV Code Ch. 21 Art. 6: Child Labor)
- I hereby release West Virginia University and its laboratory community of any liability/responsibility regarding my child's participation in the laboratory assignment.

**To be completed by minor/visiting student (check each):**

- I have read and agree to follow the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policy #18-002.
- I understand that there are potential risks or dangers associated with the environment I will be exposed to.
- I understand that I will be under direct adult supervision at all times. Please complete the following information:

1. Name and email of faculty sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name and email of designated supervisor (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Protocol number and title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of parent/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of minor/visiting student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of minor/visiting student

Emergency contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact: \_\_\_\_\_