

## **ANIMAL CARE AND USE ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR TEACHING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE USE OF LIVE ANIMALS**

Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR) and United States Public Health Service (PHS) Policy have requirements for general training in laboratory animal care and use and/or for the adequacy of training of individuals conducting animal studies. AWAR and PHS do not distinguish between types of employees or students.

Animal care and use training is required when student involvement goes beyond the observation of animal study activities. The training is to be provided by a qualified course instructor prior to any activities during which students might perform surgical, probe/electrode insertion, bleeding, injection or other procedures that involve more than casual handling of animals. The instructors should be qualified to assess hazards associated with the use of animals and to select safeguards appropriate to the risks. The instructor is responsible to document the student training and training content and make documentation available to IACUC representatives. **When the basis of a course is animal care, use and handling, the course syllabus can serve as documentation of training.**

### **TRAINING SYLLABUS**

**As applicable**, orientation training for classroom and/or laboratory exercises involving animal care and/or use should include an overview of: humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation; legislation, guidelines or policy governing the use of animals in research or teaching; handling; pre- and post- procedural care; aseptic surgical methods; biology of the animal; and zoonotic potential of handling animal body, tissues or body fluids. Other potential hazards such as allergy, animal bites and chemical agents should be identified and evaluated by the qualified instructor prior to animal handling activities.

**This training syllabus is intended to serve as a guide of topic areas pertinent to animal care and use. Not all topics will apply in every laboratory course/exercise. In some situations, a brief discussion of regulation/guidelines, animal behavior, handling techniques and safety will satisfy student orientation training requirements.**

- I. **Brief overview of the intent and regulatory requirements of regulations/guidelines/policy that affect use of the study animal**  
(AWA, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Health Research Extension Act, PHS Policy, Endangered Species Act, Horse Protection Act, IACUC Policy)
- II. **Overview of animal biology relevant to study**
  - A. Captive animal behavior/activity patterns- normal vs. fear  
(audible sounds, body language, immobility, aggressiveness, elimination, skin changes, spitting)
  - B. Environment of care – Micro-/Macro- Environment
    1. Housing/Bedding/Sanitation  
(temperature, humidity, caging, space requirements, ventilation, photoperiod,
    2. Nutrition  
(Dietary requirements/deficiencies)
    3. Exercise requirements

4. Susceptibility to illness  
(natural asymptomatic infections, visual signs of infectious or other illness, Cross species illness transfer risks, antibiotic therapy risks)
5. Human Zoonotic Potential  
(zoonoses associated with study animal, allergy)

### **III. Handling techniques to avoid physical injury other hazard to animal or handler**

- A. Chemical/physical restraint  
(local vs. sedation/tranquilization, preferred injectable/inhalation anesthetics/analgesics, rationale for dose determination)
- B. Invasive Procedures (Most common or recommended methods)
  1. Venapuncture sites
  2. Inoculation sites  
(pros/cons of adjuvant use)
  3. Surgical procedures (survival surgery)
- C. Euthanasia

### **IV. Handler health and safety work practices**

- A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and personal hygiene requirements
- B. Animal/animal-related waste disposal procedures
- C. Emergency Response Procedures  
(location/proper use of eye wash station/emergency shower and first aid supplies, accident/injury/animal bite reporting/treatment)

