I. Background

U.S. Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR) and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy require institutions to provide training for all personnel engaged in animal research. In addition, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states, “All personnel involved with the care and use of animals must be adequately educated, trained, and/or qualified in basic principles of laboratory animal science to help ensure high-quality science and animal well-being.” The content of general training is specified by federal regulations and policy and must include training relevant to the species with which personnel are responsible:

1. Humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation, including:
   a) The basic needs of each species of animal;
   b) Proper handling and care for the various species of animals used by the facility;
   c) Proper pre- and post-procedural care of animals; and
   d) Aseptic surgical methods and procedures

2. The 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 of animals used by the facility

4. Methods whereby deficiencies in animal care and treatment are reported including deficiencies in animal care and treatment reported by any employee of the facility. No facility employee, committee member, or laboratory personnel shall be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for reporting violations of any regulation or standards under the Act

5. Utilization of services (e.g., National Agricultural Library, National Library of Medicine available to provide information:
   a) On appropriate methods of animal care and use;
   b) On alternatives to the use of live animals in research;
   c) That could prevent unintended and unnecessary duplication of research involving animals; and,
   d) Regarding the intent and requirements of the Act

II. Policy

UC Berkeley requires that, prior to working with vertebrate animals, all individuals must be listed on an Animal Use Protocol and complete a basic online training course (“Working with the IACUC” if they intend to conduct research, testing and/or use animals in teaching. The Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) is charged with ensuring that all personnel conducting procedures with animals are appropriately trained and qualified, and if applicable, may require additional specific training. The
Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) or Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) staff or other designated individuals may be responsible for certifying completion of specific training as determined by the ACUC as well as safety training to enter animal facilities. In addition, the online “Working with the IACUC” refresher training must be done every 3 years based on initial completion date. There are also a variety of other online modules related to animal care and use. Note - See Appendix for current information on training requirements.

III. Applicability

A. This policy applies to all Principal Investigators (PIs), technicians, laboratory personnel, research fellows, students, other staff, and visiting scientists. Even PIs who do not themselves work directly with animals are required to have basic and refresher training in animal care and use because of their ultimate responsibility for the personnel listed on their animal use protocols and the use of animals in their research, testing and/or teaching. In addition to the above personnel, appropriate training must be provided by PIs to volunteers or visitors who are exposed to live vertebrate animals or their unfixed tissues.

B. The ACUC members and staff of the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) must also receive education and training on regulations and institutional policies as well as the conduct of site visits to ensure the highest standards for Berkeley’s program of animal care and use. Continuing education for ACUC members and OACU staff is provided as needed.

IV. Responsibilities

A. ACUC – Establishes the minimum training requirements relative to general care and use of animals in teaching and research at UCB and to permit access to animal facilities. Personnel on protocols may be required to have additional training and/or certification of competency as appropriate.

B. PIs – Ensure that appropriate training is provided, completed and documented for everyone listed on his/her protocol. Initial, basic training must be completed prior to working with any animals or gaining authorized entry to specific buildings or areas. Specific procedural or husbandry training may be provided by an experienced member of the lab and/or by the OLAC Trainer. Ensure that required certifications have been obtained for all applicable lab members and maintain all training documentation to be provided to ACUC or other site inspectors as required.

C. OLAC – Provides species, procedure, and housing specific training as per PI request or as required by ACUC relative to granting approval of a protocol. Documentation of training will be provided to the PI or ACUC as required.

D. OACU – Ensures online training is initially completed with a passing score, that online renewal training is done (as applicable every three years), and any additional protocol specific training is completed. Educational outreach is available upon request as it pertains to compliance for the use of animals in teaching and research.
E. EH&S – Responsible for the management and offering of the course Safety and Care of Research Animals at UC Berkeley and other required or optional training (e.g., Controlled Substances, etc.) as may be related to research and teaching with animals.

V. References


C. University of California Policy, Laboratory Safety Training. (effective October 31, 2013): http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3500598/LabSafetyTraining

Appendix A – Course Descriptions

1. Mandatory Basic Online Training

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online program includes instruction in the five required subject areas as specified by the regulations. CITI training requires 3-5 hours to complete and may be accessed directly at www.citiprogram.org. Individuals must complete the Working with the IACUC module, which details regulatory responsibilities and is required for all PIs and all individuals handling live vertebrate animals in either teaching, testing or research. Other training modules such as Working with Mice in Research are also available on this web-site but are optional. Personnel anticipating using animals in the future may complete this training prior to their being added to an AUP on the Berkeley campus. After passing the initial CITI mandatory modules with a score of 80% correct; refresher training is required every 3 years by the anniversary date of your original passing date.

2. Other Required Training

A. All individuals working with or around non-human primates (NHP) require Working Safely with Non-Human Primates training. The training is scheduled as needed by the OLAC Training Coordinator for all new personnel, and covers basic principles of working safely with NHPs. Safety issues regarding Herpes B virus, in particular, are covered. Visitors (including inspectors) who are accompanied by OLAC personnel may have an abbreviated training to include basic safety practices. This training must be received prior to entering a room with NHPs present. Contact the OLAC Training Coordinator for this training.

B. All individuals working with or around bats require Bat Safety training. The training is scheduled as needed by the OLAC Training Coordinator for all new personnel, and covers basic principles of working safely with bats. Safety issues regarding rabies virus, in particular, are covered. Visitors (including inspectors) who are accompanied by OLAC personnel may have an abbreviated training to include basic safety practices. This training must be received prior to entering a room with bats present. Contact the OLAC Training Coordinator for this training.

C. All researchers, staff and students working in any of the animal facilities must complete –an online course, EHS 205-Safety and Care of Research Animals at UC Berkeley (on the UC Learning Center platform) and attend an in-person facility orientation (register at https://www.olac.berkeley.edu/training) prior to facility access.

D. All students enrolled in classes where students utilize freshly euthanized vertebrate animals or perform class-room supervised activities under direct supervision using live vertebrate animals as a component of the course syllabus and curriculum must receive Ethics in Animal Research training. Ethics in Animal Research training is a short PowerPoint presentation usually given by the course instructor at the beginning of the course covering the basic principles of animal welfare regulations, ethics and protocol compliance as they relate to animal care and use at UC Berkeley. This presentation on Ethics in Animal Research is available to instructors from the OACU (acuc@berkeley.edu).
E. All students enrolled in classes where independent research using live vertebrate animals is part of the curriculum must receive CITI training as described above under Section VII and be covered by a PI’s animal use protocol (AUP) to do the work.

F. In general other AUP specific training will be provided by the PI or their designee. Training done within a PI’s lab must be documented and available for IACUC review at the time of lab inspections. However, all new lab personnel who will be performing anesthesia, surgery and euthanasia must be observed and certified by the Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) veterinary staff or Training Coordinator before they are allowed to perform procedures independently.

3. Optional Online Training
   A. CITI also offers a variety of training modules that are specialized species or model specific courses.
   B. AAALAS also offers training through their programs but the cost of this is borne by the user.

4. ACUC Member Training
   All ACUC members must complete, and pass the CITI online course Essentials for IACUC Members. In addition, all new members must attend a face-to-face training session conducted by the ACUC Chair and/or Director of OACU. Continuing education is provided to ACUC members on an ongoing basis as determined by the ACUC Chair and Director of OACU with input from the Attending Veterinarian. These brief educational topics are presented at meetings and cover such areas as new or revised regulations and/or guidance; inspections; or, other timely topics germane to the IACUC’s responsibilities.

5. OACU Staff Training
   OACU staff must complete, and pass all the mandatory and optional IACUC and animal online modules currently offered by CITI. In addition, the Director provides orientation and continuing education to ensure that staff is well trained, competent and efficient. Continuing education through webinars or at conferences, workshops or seminars off-campus will be supported as needed contingent on budget limitations.

6. OLAC Staff Training
   All OLAC employees also receive training specific to the facility in which they work and/or the animals with which they work. This facility specific training includes classes such as: proper microisolator technique, guinea pig or bat husbandry, working safely with nonhuman primates (NHP) (i.e., bite/scratch management), Biosafety Level Three (ABSL- 3) Safety, Hazardous Materials Safety Training, Basic Safety Training, and Ergonomics for Animal Care Staff.