

Document XXXII

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE ANIMAL CARE AND USE TRAINING POLICY

Research, testing, or teaching projects involving live vertebrate animals usually require approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The federal Animal Welfare Act also requires that the university provide training for all personnel participating in such projects. [Committee approval is not required in some cases such as field studies that do not materially alter the behavior of the animals, or studies using farm animals related to production or improvement of food or fiber, or improvement of their nutrition, breeding, or management. Questions about whether a particular activity requires approval should be directed to the chairperson of the committee.]

Accordingly, the university (through its New Iberia Research Center) has subscribed to an on-line training program sponsored by the Laboratory Animal Training Association. This program consists of interactive modules with text and graphics. The base module deals with the humane care and use of laboratory animals in general; there are also modules specific to particular types of animals commonly used in research (rats, non-human primates, etc.). The IACUC is automatically notified when an individual completes a module; the certificate of completion is valid for one year.

Effective 1 July 2003, all individuals using or intending to use live vertebrate animals for research, research training, experimentation, biological testing, or related purposes must be certified as having completed at least the base module and the module(s) specific to the type(s) of animals being used. This requirement applies to

- participating personnel (faculty and staff members, undergraduate and graduate students, including personnel from other institutions),
- persons listed in an Animal Procedure Statement who are directly or indirectly involved with a project (veterinarians, technicians, quality assurance staff, for examples), and
- members of the IACUC (who must have completed all modules related to any Animal Procedure Statement they will be considering).

The IACUC cannot give final approval to an Animal Procedure Statement unless current certification is on file for the appropriate individuals. Project directors/administrators/principal investigators are responsible for ensuring that all personnel have and maintain certification during the course of the project.

The LATA training program is accessed at

<http://hazel.forest.net/latanet/client/ull/introduction.htm>

When prompted, the username "ull" (lowercase) and the password "bell" (also lowercase) should be supplied.

The IACUC Chair is Dana Hasselschwert, DVM. Dr. Hasselschwert may be reached by phone at 482.0208 or by e-mail at dlh8344@louisiana

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