

## **IACUC Responsibilities for Training Policy**

### **Purpose**

Training is crucial to the proper care and use of animals in research and teaching. Personnel must be instructed in proper methods of handling, husbandry, animal and occupational health, and experimental methods. In this regard, several points of responsibility exist with respect to training.

### **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

The IACUC is responsible for the overall assurance that individuals involved in handling animals or animal-derived tissues or fluids are properly trained. The IACUC must assure that mechanisms exist that will effectively communicate needed information to personnel. In addition, the IACUC is responsible for assuring that such information translates into usable knowledge; that is, knowledge that is applied in a proficient manner. The IACUC can be contacted by calling the Notre Dame Research Compliance office (574) 631-1389 or by email at [compliance@nd.edu](mailto:compliance@nd.edu).

### **Veterinary Staff**

The veterinary staff is a direct link for information regarding animal health and zoonotic disease to flow to animal care and research personnel. The veterinary staff generally has substantial background in animal biology, health, and behavior. In this regard, the veterinary staff can serve as a resource on such matters to personnel. The veterinary staff has access to additional printed information that can be made available to investigators. An additional function of the veterinary staff is to document the proficiency of persons performing surgical manipulations. To arrange observation of surgeons by a member of the veterinary staff or for additional information, contact the animal facility at (574) 631-6085.

### **Investigators**

Principal Investigators are in a unique position to affect proper training of their staffs. It is critical that animals be handled properly and that skilled, trained people perform “hands-on” procedures on animals, particularly those involving invasive techniques. Investigators can direct members of their staffs to the FLSC veterinary staff or the IACUC for guidance on specific items requiring training. Not only is proper training and proficiency with animal-based procedures a requirement, it will also improve the overall quality of the research.