Training Requirements for PI’s and Protocol Associates

Policy Statement

All personnel named on a protocol must be certified through the CITI training program before they will be approved to work with live animals. Completion of the CITI program will be required of investigators every 5 years.

Background

The Guide, page 16, states that “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.”

OLAW states that “scientists, animal technicians, and other personnel involved with animal care, treatment, and use by the applicant have available to them instruction or training in the humane practice of animal maintenance and experimentation, and the concept, availability, and use of research or testing methods that limit the use of animals or limit animal distress.”

USDA regulation states that “each research facility shall provide for the training of scientists, animal technicians, and other personnel involved with animal care and treatment in such facility as required by the Secretary. Such training shall include instruction on:

1. the humane practice of animal maintenance and experimentation;
2. research or testing methods that minimize or eliminate the use of animals or limit animal pain or distress;
3. utilization of the information service at the National Agricultural Library, established under subsection (e) of this section; and
4. methods whereby deficiencies in animal care and treatment should be reported.”

Policy

All individuals listed on any new protocols or being added to existing protocols are required to successfully complete a self-paced web-based training program, the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Lab Animal Research.
This training covers core concepts for the responsible conduct of research involving animal subjects and guide users through the major principles for conducting research in a way that is consistent with federal and University requirements and with accepted scientific standards.

Indiana University requires all individuals involved in the conduct of animal subjects research to complete animal subject training (CITI) and to recertify every 5 years.

All investigators and research staff are required to complete trainings and pass tests covering core areas. Additional test modules are required depending on the species and techniques used by the personnel.

References


Public Health Services Policy on Human Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, revised August 2002.