Purpose Bred Mice and Rats in Research, Testing and Teaching

Section 1: Introduction
Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh’s Small Animal Training Program. This program, which has been designed by the Research Conduct and Compliance Office (RCCO) and reviewed by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), highlights some the basic requirements for conducting animal research at our Institution. These requirements are detailed in The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, The Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations, and the Guidelines for the Care and Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research. When you complete this course you should be able to:

• Prevent the introduction of excluded diseases into specific pathogen free (SPF) rodent colonies.
• Order rodents from various sources and understand the quarantine process
• Follow approved husbandry guidelines and select appropriate research techniques
• Identify hazards in rodent research
• Use the IACUC website to find information needed to conduct high quality animal research
Let’s begin by considering a brief scenario.

**Scenario:**

A colleague has funding to conduct a project involving rodents. She contacts a collaborator at another university and makes arrangements for rodents to be shipped directly to her lab. The animals are then housed in her lab. She is subsequently surprised to receive a memo stating that federal standards have been violated. Furthermore, a voicemail indicates that personnel from the Compliance Office will be visiting her lab. The key to preventing this and other similar problems is the goal of this training.

**Federal laws and regulations stipulate the following:**

1. All animal research must have approval from an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Researchers beginning a new study with a species or procedure that they are unfamiliar with should consult a DLAR Veterinarian prior to initiating experimentation.

2. Any changes from an approved protocol require either the submission of a new protocol application or a protocol modification request.

   When planning a new animal study, researchers who are unfamiliar with a species or procedure must consult with a DLAR veterinarian **BEFORE** initiating experiments.
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Changes Requiring IACUC approval

- Introducing new drugs or procedures (surgical and non-surgical)
- Changing USDA pain categories
- Changing anesthetics, analgesics, or euthanasia procedures
- Changing the Principal Investigator
- Re-deriving animal strains commercially
- Modifying animal: Use or housing locations, Transport routes, Numbers, Species, Husbandry procedures
Federal laws and regulations stipulate the following:

3. Any person working with animals must:
   - Be listed on an approved IACUC protocol
   - Demonstrate experience and competence in working with the specific species and/or contact the DLAR veterinary services for additional training
   - Enroll in the Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP) through the Environmental Health and Safety office
   - Complete the required
     - Research Integrity
     - Use of Animals in Research and Education
     - Species-Specific Module(s) - Small Animal Module

Note: Training is required for the PI even though he or she may not handle the animals
Federal laws and regulations stipulate the following:

3. Any person working with animals must (continued):
   - Obtain authorization for facility access
   - What should you do to obtain access to the animal facilities?

   **FIRST:** You must fulfill the EHS requirements and complete the training modules

   **SECOND:** The PI must add your name to the relevant approved IACUC protocol

   **THIRD:** Access into an animal facility is granted by each Facility Supervisor. To obtain access into the facility your animals will be housed in, follow the instructions located on the DLAR website, login at http://www.dlar.pitt.edu/, click on Animal Facility Access, located under the left margin Quick Links section.

   **FOURTH:** The site supervisor will contact you to schedule a training tour of the animal facility.

   **FIFTH:** You will complete the training tour and then wait for final approval; your access should be activated within 7-10 business days

   **NOTE:** TB tests—if required---must be updated every six months; animal facility