

IACUC Guideline 011: Volunteers, Students, and Workshop Participants Handling or Using Vertebrate Animals on IACUC Protocols

Responsibility

The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for volunteers, students (in the classroom, field, or any activity involving student participation), or workshop participants handling or using vertebrate animals on their IACUC protocols. Due to the nature of their limited interaction and brief contact with animals, volunteers, students, and workshop participants are generally not required to be listed on the IACUC protocol or participate in the Occupational Health and Safety Program (AOHSP) at the University of Wyoming. These individuals may participate in animal-related activities under the following conditions:

- They remain under direct supervision by the PI, or an appropriately trained instructor or trainer listed on the protocol.
- They adhere to education and training requirements as specified by the PI, which may include protocol-specific animal handling procedures and federal or institutional guidelines.
- The PI assumes responsibility for ensuring that participants are adequately informed and supervised during their involvement.
- For protocols involving non-standard risks or activities that may not be covered by the standard waiver, the PI must work with IACUC to obtain an amended or tailored version of the waiver.

The PI will sign off as the person responsible and maintain a log of those participating in the protocol, including the dates they were educated, educational materials provided, and type of education or certifications participants received. This information must be available on request by the IACUC. The IACUC reserves the right to request additional information on a case-by-case basis.

Definitions

Volunteers:

Volunteers must complete a UW's Participation Agreement form (Attachment 1), and complete any other education required by the responsible PI prior to participation on the protocol. Waivers must be completed individually for each participant, and parents must sign on behalf of minors. In certain cases, volunteers must be included on the IACUC protocol and complete all IACUC required education and certifications for handling or using animals if any of the following applies:

- Receives any compensation such as wages, authorship on a paper/publication, activity is part of dissertation, or other tangible benefits for their involvement on the protocol.
- Performs protocol activities on animals in a biomedical or neurobehavioral vivarium.
- Works with potential hazards associated with animal activity (e.g., handling chemical agents, zoonotic risks, or specialized equipment).

- Performs invasive procedures that can place the animal at risk of serious injury or death, including venipuncture, injections, surgery, anesthesia, euthanasia, and other procedures identified by the IACUC as applicable.
- Performs unsupervised protocol activities on animals. However, 4-H related animal activities are exempted.

Students:

Students may participate in animal-related activities in the classroom, field, or other relevant contexts under the supervision of the instructor. Invasive procedures that can place the animal at risk of serious injury or death, including venipuncture, injections, surgery, anesthesia, euthanasia, and other procedures identified by the IACUC as applicable, must be performed under close supervision by the instructor. In certain cases, students must be included on the IACUC protocol and complete all IACUC required education and certifications for handling or using animals if any of the following applies:

- Receives any compensation such as wages, authorship on a paper/publication, animal activity is part of dissertation, or other tangible benefits for their involvement on the protocol.
- Performs protocol activities on animals in a biomedical or neurobehavioral vivarium.
- Works with potential hazards associated with the animal activity.
- Performs unsupervised protocol activities on animals.

Workshop Participants:

Workshop participants must be under the direct supervision of the PI/trainer when handling or using animals. The PI and trainer must be listed on the IACUC protocol and complete all required education and certifications documenting their proficiency for handling or using vertebrate animals on the protocol.

References

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2011), National Research Council, National Academy Press, Washington, DC. P15-23.

Resources

Adapted from - University of Hawaii. (n.d.). Volunteers, Students, and Workshop Participants Handling or Using Vertebrate Animals on UH IACUC Protocols Policy 13.2-2015. Retrieved January 13, 2025, from <https://research.hawaii.edu/orc/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2021/12/Volunteers-Students-and-Workshop-Participants-Handling-or-Using-Vertebrate-Animals-on-UH-IACUC-Protocols-Policy-13.2-2015.pdf>

History of Revisions

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