

# Miami VA Healthcare System

## Animal Care and Use Program

### Training and Education Plan

According to the VHA Handbook 1200.7, training and education is mandated for all personnel who work with laboratory animals. This mandate extends to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, husbandry staff, research technicians, investigators, and all others that perform procedures or manipulations on laboratory animals. *NOTE: It includes investigators responsible for supervising animal research that they themselves do not perform.*

Miami VAHS Animal Care and Use Program's training requirements are summarized as follows:

**(1) INITIAL ONE TIME** - Prior to approving an animal use study, the IACUC must ensure that all staff listed on the Animal component of the Protocol (ACORP) have been adequately trained via:

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based training course
  - Initially all investigators and research staff who utilize laboratory animals must pass the exam covering the "Working with the VA IACUC" web course plus the exam for any species-specific web course that covers the species proposed for use (e.g. rats, mice)

**(2) CONTINUING RENEWAL** - Prior to approving continued work on an animal protocol, the VMU Supervisor and Veterinarian must ensure that all staff listed on the protocol has adequately renewed training via:

- Annual Animal Workshop
  - Investigators and research staff who utilize laboratory animals are required to attend the Annual Animal Workshop.

**(3) INITIAL END OF YEAR** - Prior to an IACUC member's serving on the subcommittee at the year's first meeting, the IACUC must ensure that he or she has been adequately trained via:

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based training course
  - Prior to service on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, new and returning members must pass the exam covering the "Essentials for IACUC Members" web course.

*\*Note: The training requirements outlined have been approved by the Research Chief Veterinary Medical Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

To Register and take the required web-based courses go to: [WWW.CITIPROGRAM.ORG](http://WWW.CITIPROGRAM.ORG)

*Note: Off-Site animal work: If the work is under the oversight of the VA IACUC (regardless of where the work is being conducted), each of the personnel named on the protocol is required to meet VA training requirements for participating in the work. This means that they must stay current on their training. This may be met by retaking CITI Working with the IACUC or by attending the Workshop.*