During the University’s ramp down in research operations, we encourage each and every member of the U-M animal care and use community, supported by each and every laboratory, and each and every Principal Investigator to stay engaged and stay prepared for the upcoming AAALAC 2020 Site Visit currently scheduled to occur in Summer 2020 (July – August).

To help jumpstart your laboratory staff’s professional development and AAALAC Site Visit preparation(s), the U-M Animal Care & Use Program has curated the following online learning courses and resources.

Courses are offered through the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Learning Library and are available FREE OF CHARGE to all members of the U-M animal care and use community (i.e., those individuals currently listed on an active animal use protocol) after successful registration with the ULAM Training Core.

Additional instructions on how to request access to the full suite of AALAS Learning Library courses are outlined below.

**HOW TO REQUEST ACCESS TO THE AALAS LEARNING LIBRARY**

Those interested in accessing training through the AALAS Learning Library can submit an enrollment form or contact the ULAM Training Core directly at ulam-trainingcore@umich.edu to be added to the AALAS Learning Library.

You will receive an email with follow-up instructions from the ULAM Training Core after completing and submitting the enrollment form.

**MAINTAINING ANIMAL PROCEDURE AREAS**

Course Description

This module is based on general principles for responsible maintenance of animal procedure rooms. Please note that specific guidelines for U-M facilities may also apply. Those guidelines are available on the Animal Care A-Z website (az.research.umich.edu/animalcare).

Objectives:

- Explain the general guidelines for working in animal procedure rooms
- List the entities that can issue a citation for non-compliance
- Describe proper equipment storage procedures for procedure rooms
- Identify common safety hazards and appropriate safety precautions
- Identify proper sanitation and housekeeping procedures in the use of procedure rooms
- Describe proper storage, handling, documentation, and disposal of controlled substances and expired drugs

After performing work in these areas, it is the individual user’s responsibility to assure that it is left in an orderly condition and is safe for others to enter.

**Questions?**
Contact the ULAM Training Core at ulam-trainingcore@umich.edu.
Visit animalcare.umich.edu/aaalac for the latest news and updates about the AAALAC 2020 Site Visit.
COMMON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Course Description

In the United States, animal activities in research, testing, or teaching are highly regulated by a combination of federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines. This course will provide a broad overview of these regulatory requirements; mandates are described in further detail in other AALAS Learning Library courses.

For additional information about which mandates are applicable to U-M, please consult with personnel from the Animal Care & Use Office (acuoffice@umich.edu) who can provide further guidance on how to keep your work in compliance with rules and regulations.

WORKING WITH THE IACUC

Course Description

Working with animals in research, training, and education is a privilege, not a right. To ensure that animal research and teaching is performed according to the highest standards of ethics, scientific rigor, and reproducibility, research must take place under the supervision of an Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC). This oversight allows the general public to be confident that all work is being performed with the utmost regard for the well-being of all research animals. By assuring that animal research and teaching comply with animal welfare laws and guidelines, the IACUC ensures that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain and distress.

A robust partnership between the researcher and the IACUC also protects both the investigator and the institution. A single incident of serious non-compliance with animal welfare regulations or guidelines can jeopardize the entire institution's privilege of conducting animal research and teaching. As such, it is essential that all researchers are familiar with how to best interact with their IACUC.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Online Courses

- Semi Annual Facility Inspections (AALAS Learning Library)
- Pre-Anesthetic Preparations for Laboratory Animals (NC3Rs e-learning module)
- Choosing an Anesthetic for Laboratory Animals (NC3Rs e-learning module)

Online Articles

- Overcoming the AAALAC Fear Factor Can Open Doors to New Opportunities and Provide Tools for Growth and Improvement (AALAS)
- Fresh in the Field: AAALAC and Research Compliance, A Point of View (AALAS)
- Preparing for an AAALAC International Site Visit (AAALAC)
- The Benefits of AAALAC International Accreditation (AAALAC)
- Minimizing Aggression in Group-Housed Male Mice (NC3Rs)

Questions?

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