Purpose:
Delineate training required of investigators before work with animals may begin.

Definitions:
CITI: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative, the online training platform which supplies content for SIUC investigators

Policy:
The IACUC requires that certain training must be completed before investigators can work with vertebrate animals. The CITI online training modules that must be completed, as a minimum, before work with animals can begin, are as follows:

- Working with the IACUC
- Reducing Pain and Distress in Laboratory Mice and Rats (regardless of species used in research, all investigators must view this course)
- SIUC Animal Care

Additionally, the surgery module must be completed for investigators who intend to perform surgery. Multiple species-specific modules are available that address the special needs and interests of particular animal species, and investigators are encouraged to complete all that are applicable to their work.

This list of modules above must be completed before work with any animals may begin.

The training remains up-to-date for three years. At the end of three years, investigators must complete the module “Working with Animals in Biomedical Research – Refresher Course.” The original three modules need not be repeated. This refresher course must be completed every three years.

The Office of Research Compliance will ensure that investigators have completed necessary online training before any protocol received final approval.

Principal investigators are responsible for hands-on practical training of their students and staff. This training must be documented on the training record kept in the IACUC binder. This specialty training can include topics such as methods of inducing and controlling anesthesia, various surgical techniques, trapping methods for wildlife,
zoonoses, methods of euthanasia, proper handling to prevent additional stress, behavioral training, and many other topics.

I. References