



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE

AALAS advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.

ANIMAL BIOSAFETY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: AALAS UPDATE

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AALAS is an association of people working with animals in research as veterinarians, technicians, technologists, educators, business people, researchers, administrators, compliance personnel, animal producers, and others!

The Animal Biosafety Training Certificate

AALAS Biosafety Specialization Subcommittee

- Developing a certificate program
 - Concepts and principles of biosafety for animal technicians and other individuals working in animal biocontainment

2009 Biosafety Specialization Implementation Subcommittee



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Subcommittee Activities

- Many webconferences - mid 2008 to early 2009
- Developed detailed content outline detailing information pertinent to a comprehensive training program
- 12 courses in construction

Courses 10-20 hr total projected for learner to complete.

Core Concepts Courses

1. Introduction to the AALAS Biosafety Training Program
2. Basics in Institutional Responsibilities
3. Occupational Health
4. Facilities and Equipment
5. Risk Assessment, Response, and PPE
6. Concepts of Biosafety—BSL and ABSL
7. Concepts of Biosecurity

Safe Operational Activities Courses

8. Working with Nonhuman Primates
9. Working with Rodents
10. Working with Other Small Mammals—Rabbits, Ferrets, Guinea Pigs, Prairie Dogs, Cotton Rats
11. Working with Large Animals
12. Preparing for Inspections

Learning/Course Management System

- Certificate of completion of required courses with passing scores
- Access no extra charge for users of the AALAS Learning Library



Touching Base with the Community

Follow-up to a 2006 manpower/training survey of AALAS members in the animal biocontainment community....

- 2009 – Two Surveys
 - Facility directors (500 invited by AALAS)
40 completes
 - Biosafety professionals (listserv contact by ABSA)
44 completes

Thank you, ABSA!

Questions on AALAS Animal Biosafety Certification Program

- as described in Survey Introduction

Survey Summarized

Personnel types

1. Animal program
2. Laboratory
3. Non-laboratory

Questions

1. How much time is suitable for training staff in biosafety concepts and principles?
2. How likely will a "certificate of participation" satisfy institutional requirements to prepare staff for work with laboratory animals in biocontainment?
3. What is the likelihood that your institution would financially support staff training for this "certificate of participation," estimated to cost \$10-50 per person.

Trends Revealed from Survey Responses

Biosafety Professionals	Personnel Types		
	Animal	Lab	Non-Lab
Suitable training time	20 hr	10 hr	10 hr
Certificate program relevance	Relevant	Relevant	Less relevant
Institutional support if \$10-50 per person	Likely	Likely	Less likely

Facility Directors: Responses same, except **10 hr** training on concepts/principles for animal program personnel

...and the Subcommittee's work continues

- Script writing in progress
- Script workshop in Atlanta, October 23-24, 2009

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What About Hands-on Training?

Training in High Containment Biosafety Training for Laboratory Animal Workers

Partnering with global biosafety professionals, the Griffin Foundation has taken the initiative to make on-site training available to laboratory animal workers at not-for-profit facilities.

The instruction is offered at no fees other than reimbursement of the travel expenses of the instructor(s).

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