

## **IACUC Approval**

If you are faculty, a student, or a research assistant involved in any aspect of research or teaching that involves vertebrate animals, you must receive training and certification relevant to working with animals. This includes but is not limited to completing on-lines study modules that introduce relevant Laws and Regulations and Animal Hazards; these two modules must be completed by all involved in research. The need to complete additional modules will depend on the species being studied. All modules are available through the UA IACUC training website (<http://www.iacuc.arizona.edu/training/>).

Before beginning any research or teaching project that involves vertebrate animals, the principal investigator must submit a description of the research protocol to be used so that it can be reviewed by the University IACUC committee to approve the use of the animals. The first step in this process is to obtain a Protocol Review Form that is available through the UA IACUC forms website (<http://www.iacuc.arizona.edu/iacucforms/>). A protocol must be submitted for all work involving animals, even if the work involves only observation and no actual animal handling. Projects that do not involve animal handling usually qualify for an "accelerated review" which is a simplified process. Details on the protocol review process and all other aspects of animal use are available through the UA IACUC website (<http://www.iacuc.arizona.edu/>).

Although these procedures might seem inconvenient at first, virtually all funding agencies require that research institutions regulate work on animals, ensure that animals are treated humanely, and that all research-related personnel are trained appropriately.