

Spotlight Feature

Training: essential for career advancement, essential for institutions

The world of laboratory animal science has changed tremendously over recent years with respect to the regulatory environment, concern for the health and welfare of the animal caregivers, the need to reduce animal use, concern for animal welfare, understanding of how the behaviour of animals is affected by environment and vigilance in animal laboratories because of the activities of animal rights activists.

To ensure that laboratory animal technicians have sufficient and appropriate training to deal with their roles in the laboratory, governments and organisations are providing required courses, continuing professional development (CPD) courses and specialty courses.

National requirements

In the UK, the Home Office requires specific training modules for increasing levels of responsibility in the animal laboratory. The modules, numbered 1 to 5, set out minimum standards for an accredited training course or program. There are two levels of licensing: personal licences and project licences. There also are certificates of designation. A personal licence requires completion of a program covering subjects in Modules 1 through 3, along with practical animal laboratory experience not requiring a licence.

An animal research scientist and technician who recently started a company in the UK to provide educational and continuing professional development notes that completing Home Office Modules 1 to 3 prepares a licensee to carry out procedures that include dosing and sampling. Completing Modules 1 to 3 may also allow someone to carry out simple surgical procedures; Module 4 is necessary for major surgical procedures. "Module 5 is a requirement if you wish to hold a licence to perform a 'project of work' on protected animals," the company head says. These are the 'project licences.' Licences need

to be updated, and so employers may offer updating or continuing professional development courses.

The Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) has outlined a training system that addresses various skill and competency levels: First Certificate in Animal Husbandry, First Diploma in Animal Technology and National Certificate in Animal Technology. IAT lists course providers, both those accredited by IAT and those not accredited. Additional information on IAT educational qualifications are available on their website (www.iat.org.uk/education/students/FE/FElevel2.htm), which is reviewed this month in our "Website of the month" column.

In the Netherlands, legal requirements for those carrying out animal experiments include having graduated in biomedical sciences and taken a course in laboratory animal science. The Faculty of Veterinary

Suppliers of Training and Education Courses include:

Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA)
Institute of Animal Technology (IAT)
Agenda Security Services

For a more extensive list of suppliers please refer to the Lab Animal Europe Buyers Guide. Copies available on request from info@labanimaleurope.eu

Medicine of Utrecht University offers courses in Dutch and in English, the latter for foreigners living and working in the Netherlands. Most people who take these courses, according to the Secretariat of the Division of Laboratory Animal Science, "are PhD students or researchers, but also masters' students in biomedical sciences."

Utrecht University offers an annual course

in July, mainly for senior researchers worldwide "who are interested to learn more about animal experiments or who intend to set up a similar course at their own location," writes the Secretariat.

Who gives courses?

Courses for licensing, certification or CPD may be offered by a myriad of organisations and at many venues. The IAT lists courses given by universities and the private sector. Sometimes, courses are given at specific venues, such as universities. In other cases, as the UK company head explains, "courses are usually delivered at the students' workplace.... Alternatively, we hire modern purpose-made meeting rooms in selected business parks...." He notes that his courses may last for a few hours or for as long as several days.

The European Primate Network (EUPRIM-Net) is an EU-funded project. According to Deike Terruhn, who coordinates its courses, it "links eight European Primate Centers in order to combine their research and development activities, their extensive knowledge and infrastructure resources, as well as their solid experience in primate housing and breeding." EUPRIM-Net gives 3- to 4-day, intensive courses on primate biology at the German Primate Center in Göttingen. Terruhn notes that "one of the aims of EUPRIM-Net is to train well-qualified researchers, vet and animal caretakers." The courses are open to research scientists and veterinarians experienced in primate research and also to newcomers to primate research. Because the courses are subsidized by the EU, fees are very low, ranging from €40 (approximately £31) for students and the unemployed to €80 (roughly £62) for academics and professionals. The next course on the topic, "Genetics, Immunology and Breeding Management," will take place 17-19 November 2008. Information is available at www.euprim-net.eu.

Named Animal Care & Welfare Officer (NACWO)

Advanced (CPD) Workshop

30th – 31st March 2009

An advanced NACWO (CPD) Workshop will be held prior to Congress 09 at the Congress venue. The workshop will begin at lunchtime on Monday 30th March and conclude at lunchtime on Tuesday 31st March 2009. Congress will begin with the official Opening of Trade on the Tuesday evening. The IAT hope that by running the course prior to Congress 09, delegates will be able to extend their stay to incorporate some, or all of Congress. Various options will be available to delegates and full details are available on the Congress Registration Form. This workshop will be aimed at existing NACWOs, plus those who aspire to be so, and will cover relevant topics to their developing roles within the workplace.

CPD allows the NACWO to keep abreast of the latest developments in animal welfare, legislative compliance and scientific techniques, thus enabling them to discharge their duties effectively. CPD is also a requirement for all Registered Animal Technicians (RAnTech).

The Home Office views CPD as an essential function of the NACWO role and is fully supportive of these training events. Once again, there will be a senior Home Office representation at this course.

The provisional programme includes:

Legislation – impact on the role of the NACWO

Business Continuity Planning – a NACWO's input

Management Skills

Transport/Importation – regulations and restrictions

The cost of the meeting to members of the Institute will be £353.00*. This will include travel to the venue from a UK airport, an excellent conference venue, all meals during the course, en-suite accommodation plus a comprehensive programme, including pre-course work, syndicate exercises, expert speakers, workshop binder and notes and a certificate of attendance.

*Various costs will apply according to the package chosen. Full details are available at www.iat.org.uk and on the Congress Registration Form. A late booking fee will be levied on all registrations received after Sunday, 18th January 2009.

Registration forms are available on the IAT Members' Section of the website – www.iat.org.uk and in the October issue of the IAT Bulletin. Alternatively, they can be obtained by writing to: The IAT Administrator, 5 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JL

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THIS COURSE CARRIES A PROVISIONAL 12 HOURS CPD CREDIT,
SUBJECT TO FINAL PROGRAMME, FOR ATTENDANCE



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Is Tougher Legislation Driving Animal Rights Extremists

Underground?

Do you want to...

- Learn more about animal rights extremist's threats and tactics?
- Be proactive about animal rights infiltration tactics and profiles?
- Prevent infiltration through a robust recruitment process?

If so, then you will not want to miss a special one day training programme provided by Agenda Security Services on the 25th November 2008 at a prestigious Cambridge venue in the UK accommodating ample free parking on site.

Why should you attend?

The training meets two key needs:

- Raising security awareness to make your organisation a harder target
- Reviewing recruitment strategies and processes to prevent the risk of employing an animal rights infiltrator

Who should attend?

Course content is relevant to individuals working within or who have an association to biomedical research. It is of particular interest to security personnel, researchers, animal facility workers and human resource officers.

Interested?

The training day will be held at a prestigious venue in the Cambridge area on Tuesday 25th November.

Security Awareness: 9.30 to 12.30
£50* per head (registration 9.00)

Security in Recruitment: 13.30 to 16.30
£50* per head (registration 13.15)

Special Offer: Delegates who book both courses for £100* will get a free hot and cold buffet lunch.

All courses include comprehensive course materials and refreshments throughout the day.

* Paid in advance

What next?

You can register your interest by contacting

Anna or Kate on: 08456 44 55 45 or by email: courses@agenda-security.co.uk



Agenda Security Services
www.agenda-security.co.uk

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Next Month's **Spotlight On:** Software Systems- December 2008

Spotlight Feature

Training: essential for career advancement, essential for institutions (cont)

Not all courses are given at a specific time and place. Some, such as the Netherlands Centre Alternatives (NCA) to Animal Use at University Utrecht, are on computer media. NCA's "Humane Endpoints in Laboratory Animal Experimentation" is a CD-ROM. The goal, according to NCA, is "to reduce and prevent pain and distress caused to rodents in research and testing through the education and training of researchers, veterinarians, animal care staff and members of ethics committees about implementation of humane endpoints." The program is available in Dutch and English, for a voluntary fee to cover postage and handling.

Information is available at www.vet.uu.nl/nca/documents/humane_endpoints.

Unique courses - security

Not all courses focus on working with animals. Agenda Security Services in Hull, UK, whose parent company, Agenda Resource Management publishes Lab Animal Europe, offers courses throughout Europe and in the US. According to Norman Mortell, who is in charge of these courses, they create "a security-aware culture that reduces the threat to research organisations." Such threats come in many forms, the most obvious being animal rights extremists who may target an animal facility, its employees or animals or even its suppliers and clients. Although animal rights-related violence has been decreasing in the UK, Mortell warns that one should never become complacent.

One of the greatest threats is infiltration of the organisation. Those involved in hiring need to be aware of warning signs that a potential employee may also be a spy for animal rights groups. Other security problems that companies face include data loss, problems with intellectual property rights, theft and vandalism. Agenda has trained more than 3,500 people worldwide, for companies, in academia and at meetings, such as the National Meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. Agenda may train people who are responsible for designing new facilities on how to incorporate effective security within the facility.

Information on Agenda Security Services is available at www.agenda-security.co.uk.

Why Reverse Osmosis for Your Animals?

Water quality is too important to be overlooked as a possible variable in your studies. Contaminants in the water supply can be catastrophic to the delicate immune system of a transgenic mouse, and can be a source of variation in your studies. The Edstrom RO8600 Reverse Osmosis Water Purification System removes 95-99% of contaminants from the water; not just at the particle level, but also at the dissolved ion, bacteria, virus, pesticide, and pyrogen level. Shouldn't your precious research models consume only the highest quality water?



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