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# Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

 **Principal Investigator Experience Guidelines and Attestation**

* + Principal investigators shall ensure that research procedures with nonhuman animals should conform to the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. §2131 et. seq.) and applicable federal regulations, policies, and guidelines, regarding personnel, supervision, record keeping, and veterinary care.
	+ As behavior is not only the focus of study of many experiments but also a primary source of information about an animal’s health and well-being, principal investigators and their assistants should be informed about the behavioral characteristics of their nonhuman animal subjects. Awareness of the difference between unusual behaviors and normal, species-specific behaviors may allow for earlier assessment and treatment of health problems.
	+ In proposing a research project, the principal investigator shall be familiar with the appropriate literature, consider the possibility of non-animal alternatives, and use procedures that minimize the number of nonhuman animals in research. If nonhuman animals are to be used, the species chosen for the study should be the best suited to answer the question(s) posed.
	+ Principal investigators shall assume it their responsibility that all individuals who work with nonhuman animals under their supervision receive explicit instruction in experimental methods and in the care, maintenance, and handling of the species being studied. The activities that any individuals are allowed to engage in must not exceed their respective competencies, training, and experience in either the laboratory or the field setting.
	+ Principal investigators, with minimal or no experience with the conduct of research using animals, must assume that it is their responsibility to obtain such experience through classwork and internship with established investigators using animals in their research prior to submission of an IACUC protocol for review.  Alternatively, the investigator, with minimal or no experience using animals in research must secure the consent of an established investigator using animals in their research to serve as PI or Co-PI overseeing all aspects of the research.

By signing below, I agree to comply with the above stated principles:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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