

***TIGER TIPS***  
***RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS***  
**NEW NIH Vertebrate Animals Section Training Module**

When vertebrate animals will be utilized in an NIH project/study, an attachment must be included in the “Other Research Plan” section of a proposal including addressing the following criteria:

1. **Description of Procedures:** Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures to be used that involve live vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the “Research Strategy” attachment. The description must include sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the procedures. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and total numbers of animals by species, to be used in the proposed work. If dogs or cats are proposed, provide the source of the animals.
2. **Justifications:** Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g. computational, human, invertebrate, in vitro).
3. **Minimization of Pain and Distress:** Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints that will be used to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.

Each of the criteria must be addressed. Failure to adequately address the criteria may negatively affect the application’s impact score. In addition to the 3 criteria above, you should also:

Identify all project performance (or collaborating) sites and describe the proposed research activities with vertebrate animals that will be conducted at those sites.

Explain when and how animals are expected to be used if plans for the use of animals have not been finalized.

NIH has developed a NEW online learning module on the Vertebrate Animals Section in grant applications. This interactive module assists applicants in preparing this section of the application, and will serve as a valuable resource for reviewers in evaluating the Vertebrate Animal Section of applications and proposals.

This engaging module takes 30 minutes or less to complete and includes:

- an overview of the requirements,
- a checklist for applicants and reviewers,
- detailed instructions, and
- responsibilities of applicants, reviewers, and NIH staff.

See additional resources on the humane care and use of animals in PHS supported research on NIH’s Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) [website](#).