**Module:**

**Animal Experimentation: Welfare, Legislation, Ethical Committees and Evaluation of Projects**

The course focuses on the topics of Welfare, Ethical Committees and Legislation in respect of laboratory animals.

This module provides the knowledge and skills required by designated veterinarians and other onsite personnel responsible for the welfare and care of animals to perform the functions of project evaluation.

The content of this module also complies with the training requirements set out in European Directive EU63/2010, developed by the Expert Working Group, supported by European Commission, in respect of the following modules: 1) National Legislation; 2) Ethics, welfare and the 3Rs (level 1); 5) Recognition of pain, suffering and distress; 9) Ethics, welfare and the 3Rs (level 2); 11) Design of procedures and projects (level 2), (i) Legal issues; 24) Designated Veterinarian, (i) Legislation, (ii) Ethics, welfare and the 3Rs, (v) The principles of veterinary communications; (25) Project evaluator and (50) Local environment as well as Inspectors module.

**Syllabus:**

Topic 1: Introduction to LAS: Associations/organizations, professional networks

Topic 2: Legislation, including responsibilities of the LA veterinarian

Topic 3: Bioethics

Society perception of animal experimentation

Introduction to bioethics

Ethical frameworks

Bioethics applied to lab animals, including the 3 Rs

Topic 4: Concepts in laboratory animal welfare

Welfare and stress

Concept of animal welfare

Sentience

How can animal welfare be studied?

Overview of main welfare problems in lab animals

Physiology of stress

Main stressors in lab animals, including stress caused by transport

Positive re-enforcement, habituation/conditioning, preference tests and socialization of animals

Assessment of severity and humane end points

Pain and analgesia

Environmental enrichment and behavioural indicators of welfare

Re-use and the legal, practical and ethical issues on re-homing after use of animals in research

Retrospective evaluation

Topic 5: Assessment of protocols – general principles

Ethical committees

Cost-benefit analysis

Topic 6: Assessment of procedures – case studies

Rodents and rabbits

Carnivore

Pigs, ruminants and birds

Fish

NHP

Wild Animals

Topic 7: Inspection

**Duration of Course:** 9 ECTS (44 attendance hours)

**Course dates:** 15 February - 30 April, 2025

**Attendance dates at UAB:** 1 week to be determined.