

Statement Regarding the Use of Animals in UToledo's Emergency Medicine Residency Program

The University of Toledo takes very seriously its responsibility for assuring the proper care and use of animals in research and training.

UToledo works closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory for Animal Welfare, and the Association for the Assessment of Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) to ensure the institution is meeting the highest standards when it comes to the treatment of animals.

In August of 2014, the USDA performed a regularly scheduled audit of UToledo's research animal programs, including animals used in the Emergency Medicine Residency Training Program, and found UToledo to be in full compliance with all federal regulations and UToledo policies. A follow-up site visit in November of 2014 from the USDA following a complaint by an advocacy group also found UToledo to be in full compliance. Similarly, a site visit by AAALAC in 2013 found no compliance issues.

An essential component to the medical residency training provided to physicians is ensuring the training they receive most closely aligns to the conditions they will experience when treating patients in the field.

The University reviewed alternatives for training on these high-risk lifesaving procedures and the alternatives were properly discussed with the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The Emergency Medicine Residency Program is currently using approximately four animals per year for training on life-saving trauma procedures. The University has full-time staff managing and caring for the animals used for this training. At all times during the training process, the animals were under general anesthesia and are not awake and experience no pain.

While the UToledo Emergency Medicine Department and The University of Toledo will continue to evaluate the use of simulation technology for these and similar training procedures, published research supports that at this time there are better objective outcomes for this type of training as compared to using alternative simulation methodologies*.

*(See: Custalow CB et al. Emergency department resuscitative procedures: animal laboratory training improves procedural competency and speed. Acad Emerg Med 2002;9:575.)

