

Rodent Aseptic Technique – ACS884

University of Florida Animal Care Services Training Core

Target Audience: Research staff and PIs with limited experience in aseptic technique

Course Type: 1hr contact wet lab

Course Description:

This course is designed to cover basic aseptic technique in association with performing survival surgery in non-USDA covered species. While general information regarding instrument maintenance/cleaning, draping, donning proper PPE, and opening/making sterile packs for the autoclave are discussed, animal surgery site preparation and creation of a sterile field are the primary focus.

Enrollment in the UF animal contact program is required prior to course sign up. Students are expected to have an understanding of the primary techniques they will be performing as part of the approved animal use protocol.

Depending on the scheduling sequence for related courses, this course may proceed without the use of live animals.

Course Goals:

Personnel who complete this course successfully will be able to perform and demonstrate:

- Proper preparation of the animal in hair/fur removal and aseptic skin preparation
- Use of sterile drapes to prevent contamination of the surgical field
- Preparation of the surgeon (facial mask, hair net, washing of the hands and donning gloves)
- Preparation of surgical instruments

Personnel who complete this course successfully will be able to discuss proper techniques for:

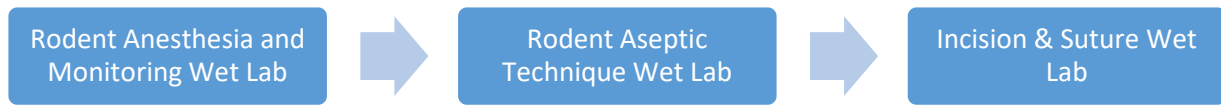
- Use of a hot bead sterilizer
- Methods of cold sanitization
- Opening autoclaved packs
- Record keeping
- Animal monitoring while under anesthesia for the duration of surgical prep
- Maintenance of the sterile field for surgeons without assistants

Prerequisite Courses:

- Rodent Aseptic Technique (UF_ACS480_OLT) – online course
- Mouse and Rat Biomethodology (UF_ACS845_OLT) – online course
- Mouse **or** Rat Biomethodology Wet Lab (UF_ACS890_ILT, UF_ACS892_ILT, UF_ACS891_ILT, or UF_ACS893_ILT) – hands-on

Recommended Prerequisite Courses and Course Flow:

- [Rodent Anesthesia and Monitoring Wet Lab \(UF_ACS885_ILT\)](#) – hands-on



Definitions:

- **Discussion** – course instructors will briefly discuss associated procedures/policy
- **Demonstration** – course instructors will demonstrate techniques; however, participants will not be required to practice or verify skills
- **Hands-on** – course instructors will demonstrate techniques and assist participants in practicing the technique utilizing live animals
- **Verification** – participants will be required to demonstrate proficiency with the skill/technique to complete training
- **Aseptic Technique** – procedures and practices that reduce microbial contamination to the lowest possible practical level and the use of operative techniques to reduce the likelihood of infection or contamination of surgical wounds.
- **Sterilization** – the process of making something free from bacteria or other living microorganisms

Topic	Discussion	Demonstration*	Hands-on*	Verification*
Preparation of sterile packs/supplies	X			
Removal of hair from surgical site with clippers**	X		X	X
Removal of hair from surgical site with depilatory creams**	X	X		
Aseptic skin preparation/scrub**	X	X	X	X
Use of surgical drapes	X		X	X
Opening sterile packs within a sterile field	X		X	X
Use of proper surgical PPE (hair net, lab coat/gown, surgical mask)	X			
Washing of hands	X			
Donning sterile gloves	X		X	X
Maintenance of the sterile field	X			X

**All participants will be instructed to wear the proper PPE required for working with rodents prior to starting any activity with live animals*

***Training may occur with the use of animal models*

Participant Evaluation

If participants are unable to demonstrate proficiency with the skill/techniques listed for “Verification,” they will be marked as “did not pass” in myTraining within the UF training system and a one-on-one training session to review the techniques will be scheduled.