Mission Statement: AALAS is an association of professionals that advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) is a membership association of professionals employed around the world in academia, government, and private industry who are dedicated to the humane care and treatment of laboratory animals, as well as the quality research that leads to scientific gains that benefit people and animals. AALAS provides educational materials to laboratory animal care professionals and researchers, administers certification programs for laboratory animal technicians and managers, publishes scholarly journals, supports laboratory animal science research, and serves as the premier forum for the exchange of information and expertise in the care and use of laboratory animals.

First published in 1991, the Laboratory Animal Technologist Training Manual is derived from the AALAS Manual for Laboratory Animal Technicians, originally printed in 1967. The Laboratory Animal Technologist Training Manual is the third in the series of AALAS technician training manuals. The primary purpose of the series is to assist laboratory animal technical personnel in gaining the knowledge that will allow them to attain a high degree of professionalism in their field and to prepare for the AALAS technician certification examinations. If you have questions about the certification program and requirements, please review the information on the AALAS website at www.aalas.org regarding criteria to sit for the examination, exam content outline, and references for each exam level.

The material covered in the manuals reflects the knowledge level and tasks that have been identified for laboratory animal technologists in the Job Analysis Survey conducted by AALAS in 2013. In the current edition of this training manual, the material is intended to build upon prior knowledge that a certification candidate should have acquired by studying the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual and Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual in this series and the reference materials for each certification level.

Any suggestions or comments about the manual should be addressed to info@aalas.org.
Unit One: Administration & Management 1

Chapter 1: Personnel Management 3
  Management Skills 3
  Functions of a Manager/Supervisor 4
  Managing People 8
  Managing Time 10
  Staff Satisfaction & Productivity 12

Chapter 2: Personnel Training 19
  The Importance of Training 19
  Training Responsibilities 19
  Development of a Training Program 20
  Upkeep of a Training Program 22

Chapter 3: Facility Management 25
  General Responsibilities 25
  Financial Planning 30

Chapter 4: Facility Security & Disaster Planning 37
  Facility Security 37
  Risk Assessment 38
  The Security Plan 39
  Disaster Planning 41
  After the Disaster 43

Chapter 5: Managing Compliance 45
  Animal Welfare Act & Regulations 45
  The US Department of Health & Human Services Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals 48
  Records & Record Retention 49
  FOIA & Public Access to Documents 49
  Facility Inspections & Site Visits 49
  Controlled Substance Act 52
  Local & State Laws 53
  Good Laboratory Practices Regulations 53
  Humane Transportation of Laboratory Animals 53
  Occupational Safety & Health Act 55
  Radioactive Materials 56
  Medical Waste 56
  Biosafety 57
  Post-Approval Monitoring 57
  Noncompliance 58

Chapter 6: Health Surveillance & Quality Assurance 61
  Animal Procurement 61
  Quality Assurance Program 65
  Microbial Monitoring of the Environment 67
  Equipment Monitoring 67
  Environmental Monitoring 68

Chapter 7: Occupational Health & Safety 71
  Components of the Occupational Health & Safety Program 71
  Hazards in the Animal Facility 72
  Exposure History Records 84
  Minimizing Exposure to Occupational Hazards 85
  Waste Disposal 87
  Emergencies & First Aid 91

Unit Two: Biological Science & Biotechnology 93

Chapter 8: Biochemistry & Nutrition 95
  Biochemical Compounds 95
  Carbohydrates 95
  Lipids 96
  Proteins 98
  Vitamins 99
  Minerals 99
  Fiber 99
  Special Nutritional Requirements 100
  Biochemistry & Animal Models of Disease 102
  Chromosomes 105
  Structure of DNA 106
Structure of RNA 106
Cell Division & Replication 107
Protein Synthesis 107
Techniques in Molecular Biology 109
Detecting the Presence of Biomolecules 110
Techniques in Molecular Biology 90

Chapter 10: Genetic Engineering 113
Genetic Engineering of Laboratory Animals 113
Managing a Transgenic Facility 114
Generating Transgenic Animals 117
Techniques for Creating Genetically Engineered Mice 119
Breeding Transgenic Mice 120
Generating Gene-Targeted Mice 121
Assessing Genotype 123
Assessing Phenotype 124
Changing the Background Strain of Mutant Mice 124
Cryopreservation 124

Chapter 11: Gnotobiotics 127
Equipment for Gnotobiotic Maintenance 127
Sterilization 129
Gnotobiotic Methodology 130

Unit Three: Animal Health 133

Chapter 12: Immunology 135
The Immune System 135
The Principle of Immunization 141
Diseases of the Immune System 143
Transplantation 145
Parasites 130
Prevention, Control, & Treatment of Infectious Disease 136

Chapter 13: Agents of Infectious Disease 147
Bacteria 147
Viruses 149
Prions 151
Fungi 151
Parasites 152
Helminths 154
Arthropods 156

Chapter 14: Common Health Problems of Laboratory Animals 159
Health Problems Affecting Multiple Species 159
Rats & Mice 161
Other Laboratory Rodents and Rabbits 162
Ferrets 163
Dogs 164
Cats 165
Nonhuman Primates 165
Ruminants 166
Swine 167
Aquatic Species 168
Amphibians 168
Fish 169

Chapter 15: Diagnostic Techniques 173
Parasitology 173
Hematology 175
Serum Chemistry 177
Urinalysis 178
Microbiology 179
Necropsy 180
Histopathology 181
Diagnostic Imaging 182
Common Imaging Techniques 183

Chapter 16: Pharmacology 187
Pharmacology 187
Pharmacokinetics 187
ADME 188
Drug Interactions 190
Toxicity 191
Multimodal Therapy 191
Treatment 191
Animal Monitoring 192
Drug Information 192
Commonly Used Drugs 194

Chapter 17: Anesthesia & Analgesia 199
Anesthesia 199
Anesthetic Dose Calculation 201
Anesthesia Regimen 202
Induction & Maintenance Anesthetics 203
Inhalant Anesthesia Systems 206
Monitoring General Anesthesia 209
Analgesia 212
Postanesthesia & Emergency Care 213
Euthanasia 214

Unit Four: The Research Process 215

Chapter 18: Study Design & Data Handling 217
Impact of Bias 217
Characteristics of a Good Study Design 217
The Research Question 218
Study Design 218
Basic Concepts in Data Analysis 220

Glossary 223
Abbreviations & Acronyms 249
Index 251