

# Washington Branch AALAS Pilot

## Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) Certification Study Classes

Organization:	{TBD}
Facilitator:	Amanda K
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:tbr@wbaalas.org">tbr@wbaalas.org</a>
Class Date(s):	{TBD}
Class Hours:	{TBD}
Class Location:	{TBD}
Class Webpage:	<a href="http://wbaalas.org/training">http://wbaalas.org/training</a>
AALAS Website:	<a href="http://www.aalas.org">www.aalas.org</a>
AALAS Learning Library:	<a href="http://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org">www.aalaslearninglibrary.org</a> (Note: You must have a username and password to access)
Prerequisite(s):	No high school diploma or GED with 2+ years of lab animal facility work experience <b>OR</b> High school diploma or GED with 1+ year of lab animal facility work experience <b>OR</b> Associates degree or higher with 6+ months of lab animal facility work experience Veterinary clinics, zoos, pet stores, or other similar businesses or organizations do not meet the definition of a "laboratory animal facility". However experience in non-laboratory animal environments (up to 3 years) can be applied to the required work experience using the following equation: 6 months work in non-lab environment = 1 month of lab animal facility work experience

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- Course Description:** American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) certification serves as the industry standard for entry level qualification for those working with laboratory animals. This study course will supplement participant study for the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) certification examination. Outside reading and study will be required. Participants will be assisted through the application and scheduling process to sit for the certification exam. Upon completion of this course and independent study, participants should have adequate laboratory animal science knowledge and test taking skills to pass the ALAT certification exam.
- Method of Instruction:** This program will use a variety of forms for instruction including group discussion, problem solving, educational games and related hands-on activities. There will be weekly reading assignments outside of class and all participants should have access to the study materials that are available through the AALAS Learning Library.
- Study Materials:** American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2010). *Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual*. Memphis, TN: AALAS. **[required for class participants, provided by organization to their employees]**
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2009). *Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual Workbook*. Memphis, TN: AALAS.
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2012). *Laboratory Animal Regulatory Workbook* (5<sup>th</sup> ed). Memphis, TN: AALAS.
- National Research Council. (2011). *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8th ed.). Washington (DC): National Academies Press.
- Other resources as recommended by AALAS for study.
- Absence or Class Make-Up:** Every effort will be made to adhere to the class schedule both in date and time. However in the event of extenuating circumstances, classes will be rescheduled as necessary. Class participation is voluntary. As such, if a participant is not present, it is the individual's responsibility to study the related material independently.

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**AALAS Affiliation:** This program has no direct affiliation with AALAS. The program is designed solely as a tool to prepare the participant for the AALAS ALAT certification examination. There is no direct or implied guarantee of exam eligibility or success.

**Course Goals:** The following are participant goals for the ALAT Study Class program as outlined by AALAS:

- Describe federal, state and local regulations and guidelines pertaining to animal research
- Observe and report alterations in animal room environment
- Understand the basic biology of common laboratory animal species
- Provide care for laboratory animals in a safe and sanitary manner
- Handle, restrain, and determine the sex of common laboratory animals
- Recognize common signs of clinical illness in laboratory animals
- Assist with animal identification and recordkeeping
- Provide technical assistance to a supervisor or research personnel
- Observe and report abnormalities in laboratory animals
- Provide routine treatments to animals as instructed
- Know concepts and methods of sanitation, disinfection, and sterilization

Participants will meet the goals listed above by:

- Completing weekly reading assignments
- Attending weekly ALAT Study Classes
- Participating in ALAT Study Classes activities and practice tests

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Course Schedule:                      The following is the tentative course schedule (subject to change):

Week	Topic(s)	Related ALAT Chapter(s)
1	Field of Laboratory Animal Science	1
2	The Animal Research Environment	2
3	Facility Security and Emergencies	3
4	Occupational Health and Safety	4
5	UNIT ONE REVIEW	1-4
6	Facility Equipment	5
7	Caging Systems	6
8	Laboratory Animal Environment	7
9	Housekeeping Tasks and Contamination Control in the Animal Facility	8
10	Feed and Nutrition	9
11	Husbandry	10
12	UNIT TWO REVIEW	5-10
13	Animal Procurement and Quarantine	11
14	Medications	12
15	Colony Health Surveillance	13
16	Euthanasia	14
17	UNIT THREE REVIEW	11-14
18	Introduction to Science and Metrics	15
19	Experimental Design and Methodology	16
20	Heredity and Breeding	17
21	UNIT FOUR REVIEW	15-17
22	Mice	18
	Rats	19
	Hamsters	20
	Gerbils	21
23	Guinea Pigs	22
	Rabbits	23
	Cats	24
	Dogs	25
24	Swine	26
	Ruminants	27
	Nonhuman Primates	28
25	Birds	29
	Amphibians	30
	Fish	31
	Less Common Research Animals	32
26	UNIT FIVE REVIEW	18-32
27	FINAL EXAM SIMULATION	1-32

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Classroom Activity Outline: The following is an outline and brief description of class activities:

Entry Survey (approximately 2 min)

- Class will begin with a short anonymous survey about study over the previous week.

Assorted Activities (approximately 20 min)

- Depending on the topic, activities may include Quiz Games, Match Games, Guest Speakers, I-Spy, What Would You Do, Videos, Simulations, Poster Creation or Open Discussion. Working with partners and in teams is emphasized to help each other learn.

What's New? What's Neat? Wait... What? (approximately 20 min)

- Class participants will be asked to anonymously write down one thing from the assigned ALAT Manual chapter that was new, one thing that was neat or interesting, and one thing that was unclear or that they still have questions about. This feedback will be used to start open discussions to answer the "What?" items. Nobody will be singled-out or called on during discussion.

Test-Taking Practice (approximately 10 min)

- Test taking practice will be part of every class. An anonymous, multiple choice test will be included at the end of every class to get participants accustomed to using test taking strategies. This test is not graded.

Exit Survey (approximately 5 min)

- Class will end with a short anonymous survey about class activities.