

Policy on Field/Wildlife Studies

Purpose

Oakland University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) established this policy to ensure that field studies utilizing wildlife are performed according to state, federal and international laws and regulations and to ensure for the proper care and use of animals used in these studies.

Policy

- A. Wildlife Animal Use: Oakland University (OU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires that an Application for Use of Vertebrate Animals (AUVA) be submitted for any study conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat that involves procedures that may harm or materially alter the behavior of the animals under study (*i.e.*, trapping/capture, physical/chemical restraint, and/or invasive procedures causing stress, including removal from nest and habitat for short durations).
- B. Observational Wildlife Animal Use:
The OU IACUC requires that an AUVA be submitted for ANY and ALL field studies that do not harm or materially alter the behavior of the animals under study (*i.e.*, observational in nature and do not involve trapping/capture, physical/chemical restraint, and/or invasive procedures).

Notes

- Investigators conducting field studies with animals should assure the IACUC that collection of specimens or invasive procedures will comply with state and federal regulations.
- A single research protocol may be subject to multiple laws and therefore, multiple permits may be required. In general, both state and federal permits are needed in addition to site-specific permits for research conducted on federal- or state-owned property.

References

1. Animal Welfare Act Regulations, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/SA_AWA
2. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th ed., NRC, ILAR 2011.
3. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>
4. University of Montana, IACUC Policy on Field/Wildlife Studies, 2017.