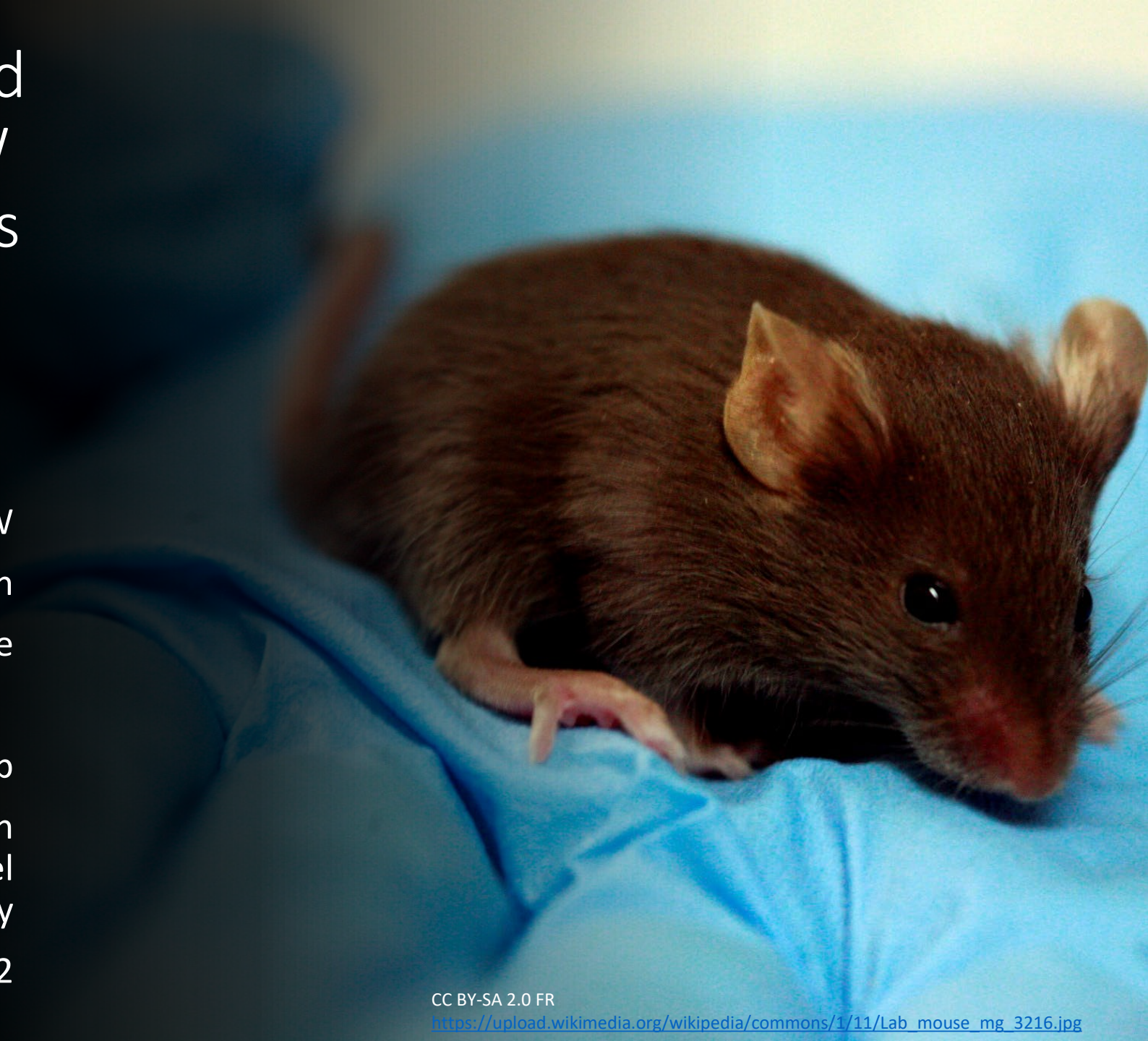


# Research Involving Wild Animals from an OLAW Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities

Nicolette Petervary, VMD, MS, DACAW  
National Institutes of Health  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

ILAR Roundtable Workshop  
Animal Welfare Challenges in Research  
and Education on Wildlife, Non-Model  
Animal Species and Biodiversity  
February 9-10, 2022



# My background:

Animal Welfare Program Specialist in the Division of Policy and Education, NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

VMD, University of Pennsylvania

MS in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (Behavioral Neuroscience), North Carolina State University

Diplomate, American College of Animal Welfare

Small animal and exotic animal practice

10 years at USDA APHIS Animal Care







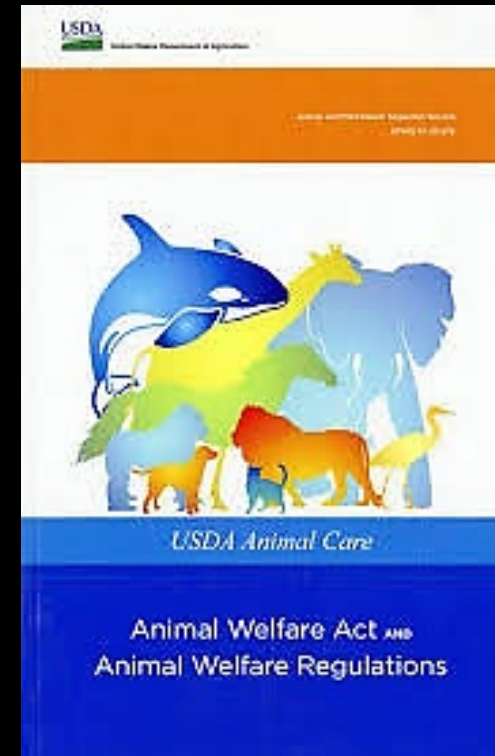
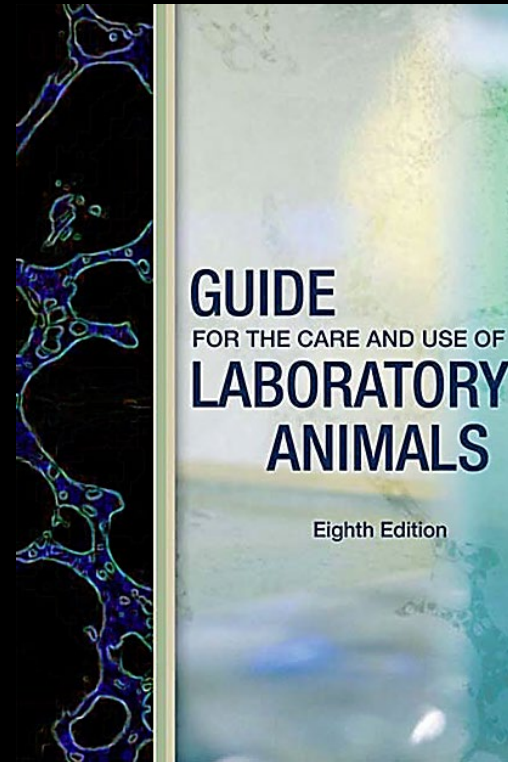
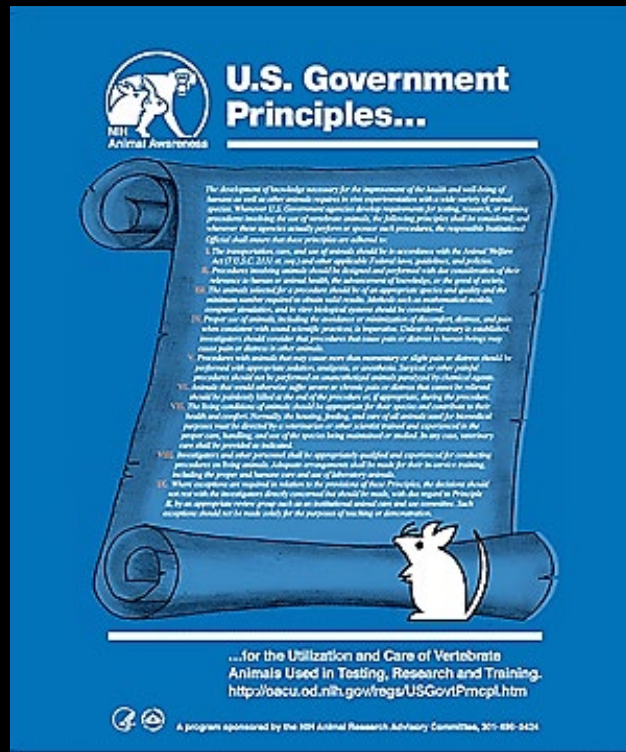
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services

National Institutes of Health  
*Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare*

## Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals



# PHS Policy: Standards for Animal Care & Use



## AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition

# PHS Policy

No specific references to research involving free-living wild animals

U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services

National Institutes of Health  
*Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare*

## Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals



# The *Guide*

# GUIDE FOR THE CARE AND USE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

Eighth Edition

Author:  
Susan Matthew, USFWS  
Free to use CC0

<https://pixnio.com/science/animal-biologist>

# The *Guide*

Page 32 (4 paragraphs)

- Permits
- Determination of the potential impact on the population or species
- Occupational health and safety issues, with assurances to the IACUC
- Consultation with relevant professional societies, guidelines
- Consultation with veterinarians (esp. for capture, individual identification, sedation, anesthesia, surgery, recovery, holding, transportation, release, or euthanasia)
- Return to their habitat or final disposition
- IACUCs that review field studies encouraged to consult with a qualified wildlife biologist

# The *Guide*

“The Guide does not purport to be a compendium of all information regarding field biology and methods used in wildlife investigations, but the basic principles of humane care and use apply to animals living under natural conditions.” (p. 32)

Generalized, flexible approaches can help institutions, but also present challenges for both regulators and the regulated community.

A close-up photograph of a fox's face, showing its orange fur, dark eyes, and black nose. The image is partially obscured by a white curved line that separates it from the text on the right.

# OLAW Guidance

FAQ A.6.: Does the PHS Policy apply to animal research that is conducted in the field?

- Must inform IACUC of:
  - location
  - procedures
  - how procedures are likely to affect biology and ecology of the study animals
  - assurance that permit requirements are met

If observational with no impact, no protocol required

<https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs#/guidance/faqs?anchor=question50290>



# OLAW Guidance

FAQ E.4. Is the IACUC required to inspect field study sites?

- Semiannual IACUC inspections not required

BUT...

IACUCs should be apprised of study circumstances for purposes of assessing personnel risks and impacts on study subjects.

- photographs, videos, etc.

<https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs#/guidance/faqs?anchor=question50350>

A photograph of a brown bear sitting in a forest. The bear is facing forward, looking slightly to the right. It has thick brown fur. The background is filled with green and yellow foliage, suggesting an autumn setting. The image is partially obscured by a white curved line that separates it from the text on the right.

# OLAW Guidance

- Webinars
  - Wildlife Research Permits  
<https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2017-03-29.htm>
  - Oversight of Research Involving Wildlife  
<https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2014-03-20.htm>

# Must, Should, and May in the *Guide*



- Veterinary consultation must occur when pain or distress is beyond the level anticipated in the protocol description or when interventional control is not possible (p.5)
- Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. (p.30)



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<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/916168>



Photo Credit Cephas, CC BY-SA 4.0  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mist\\_net\\_CT\\_09.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mist_net_CT_09.jpg)

## Guidelines for Restraint



Photo Credit: Oregon National Primate Research Center/OHSU.  
Americans for Medical Progress Come See Our World  
<https://www.comeseeourworld.org/onprc-blood-draw-training/>



Author: USDCDP Free to use CCO  
<https://pixnio.com/fauna-animals/bunny-rabbit/rabbit-was-caught-in-a-national-trap-and-was-later-tested-during-an-arbovirus-study> ]



Creative Commons Zero - CC0  
<https://www.hippopx.com/en/veterinarian-animal-doctor-vet-pet-care-medical-159534>

- Minimization of pain, distress
- Euthanasia

Skokomish Tribe, USFWS Free to use CC0  
<https://pixnio.com/science/biology-pictures/biologist-monitor-elks-health-animal-is-tested-for-diseases-parasites-and-overall-health>

# Veterinary Care

- Surgery and invasive procedures



**Account:**

Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_  
Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Back up Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Species \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
Strain \_\_\_\_\_ Size/weight \_\_\_\_\_  
Source/arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B./age \_\_\_\_\_



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<https://www.goodfreephotos.com/albums/animals/mammals/canadian-lynx-being-petted.jpg>

# Animal Identification

# Occupational Health and Safety Disaster Planning Training



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<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/655307>

# Other Related Issues

- Coordinating requirements with local/state/federal regulations, and laws on native land, and laws outside of the United States
- Species standards for nondomestic, nontraditional animals brought into the laboratory



Challenges Can  
Be Turned Into  
Opportunities

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# OLAW Contacts



# Thank you!

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