



United States Department of Agriculture

# Research Conducted on Wild Animals and The Animal Welfare Act

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***ILAR Roundtable Workshop***

***Animal Welfare Challenges in Research and Education on Wildlife, Non-Model***

***Animal Species and Biodiversity***

***February 9-10, 2022***



# **Our Discussion Today**

- **The regulatory requirements under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).**
- **Challenges in determining AWA covered activity.**
- **Challenges regarding husbandry and standards of care for wild animals taken to the facility.**
- **The Annual report.**
- **Available guidance.**

# Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA):

- Provide humane care to covered species during regulated activities.
- Minimize pain/distress during regulated activities.

Exhibition

Transportation

Breeding and selling  
animals in commerce

**Research, Teaching  
and Testing**

# Species Regulated Under the AWA

## Covered Species

- Live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit
- any other warm-blooded animal which is being used or intended for use for research, testing, teaching, and experimentation...

## Excluded Species

- Rats (*Rattus*), Mice (*Mus*), and Birds bred for research
- Horses not used for research
- Livestock/Poultry
  - Used for food, fiber; used to improve animal nutrition, breeding, mgmt., or production efficiency...

# Birds Under the AWA



- In 2002, it was determined that rats, mice, and birds **bred for research were excluded** from coverage under the AWA.
- As a result, birds not bred for research are covered under the AWA.
- The USDA is in the process of developing regulations and standards for birds.
- Inspections of birds will begin when regulations and standards are in place.



# Wild Animal- Definition

- Means any animal which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state, within the boundaries of the U.S. its territories, or possessions.
- Includes but not limited to:
  - Deer, skunk, opossum, raccoon, mink, armadillo, coyote, squirrel, fox, wolf, etc.



# Wild State- Definition



- Means living in its original, natural condition; not domesticated.

# IACUC Challenges



- Ensuring sufficient expertise to evaluate wildlife protocols
- Understanding the definition of a Field Study
- Determining AWA covered activity
- IACUC responsibilities



# Challenge: Sufficient Expertise

- **Guidance**

- Ad hoc consultants can be used.



# Challenge: Field Study Definition

- **Guidance**

- **Field Study:** Means a study conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat.
- ***However***, this term excludes any study that
  - ✓ involves an invasive procedure,
  - ✓ harms,
  - ✓ or materially alters the behavior of an animal under study



# Challenge: Field Study Definition

- **Guidance**

- **Animal Care Tech Note**

- ✓ **Research With Free-Living Wild Animals in Their Natural Habitat and the Animal Welfare Act**

## Cheat Sheet: AWA Exempted Activity

**Observational studies where no animals are captured or handled.**

**Explanation:** Meets the definition of a field study.

**Observational studies where human presence does not impact animal behavior.**

**Explanation:** Meets the definition of a field study.

**Activities involving animals not covered under the AWA.**

**Explanation:** Invertebrates, fish, reptiles, amphibians, rats/mice/ birds bred for research, horses not used for research, and livestock/poultry in agricultural research.

**Animal pest, and population management programs for the purposes of limiting wildlife damage and human interaction.**

**Explanation:** Purpose is not teaching, testing, or research.

## Cheat Sheet: AWA Regulated Activity

**Studies with major operative procedures, intra-cardiac blood collections, arterial/venous cut downs for catheter placement, and surgical implantation of devices.**

**Explanation: Invasive procedures**

**Animals experience death, or pain/distress, trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort from handling.**

**Explanation: Harm**

**Activities for research purposes that use hormones or pheromones to change mating or migration patterns.**

**Explanation: Materially altering behavior**

**Activities for research purposes that cause repeated nest/den disturbance during breeding and rearing of young; or relocate migratory animals beyond natural migration routes.**

**Explanation: Materially altering behavior**



# Challenge: Responsibilities

- **Guidance**

- Field studies as defined, are exempt from IACUC review of activities involving animals.



# Challenge: Responsibilities

## • Guidance

- Inspect, at least once every six months, all of the facility's animal facilities, including animal study areas.
- Animal areas containing free-living wild animals in their natural habitat need not be included.
- ✓ Study areas: any building room, area, enclosure, or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed > 12 hrs.



United States Department of Agriculture

# Facility Challenges



Wild animals taken in-house

Annual reporting



# Challenge: Wild Animals In-house

## • Guidance

- **Subpart F: Specifications for the Humane Handling, Care, Treatment, and Transportation of Warm-blooded Animals Other Than Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs, Nonhuman Primates, and Marine Mammals.**
- **This section is applied to wild animals taken to the facility for study.**



# Challenge: Wild Animals In-house

## Space

- Sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.
- Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of:
  - Malnutrition
  - Poor condition
  - Debility
  - Stress
  - Abnormal behavior patterns

## Feeding

- Food of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain health.
- Diet shall be prepared with consideration of age, species, condition, size, and type of animal.
- Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by:
  - Hibernation
  - Veterinary treatment
  - Normal fasts
  - Professionally accepted practices



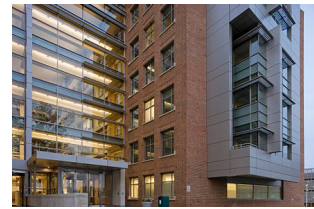
# Challenge: Wild Animals In-house

## Food and Water Receptacles

- Food receptacles always keep clean and sanitary.
- Self feeders: take measures to prevent mold, caking of food, contamination, or deterioration.
- Keep all water receptacles clean and sanitary.

## Enclosures

- Pest control program in place.
- Excreta removed as often as needed to minimize disease and reduce odors.
- Gravel, sand, or dirt sanitized when needed under the direction of the Attending Vet.
- Sanitize enclosures using:
  - Mechanical washer: water 180°F + soap / detergent or
  - Detergent and disinfectant or
  - Pressurized saturated steam



# Challenge: Annual reporting

- **Guidance**

- Federal and non-Federal facilities engaged in research, teaching, and testing using AWA regulated species are required to submit an annual report.
- Only animals that are AWA regulated and used in AWA covered activities are reported.
- Animals used in Field studies as defined, are not reported.

# APHIS Form 7023

# APHIS Form 7023a

<p>According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0036. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.</p> <p>This report is required by law (7 U.S.C. 2143). Failure to report according to the regulations can result in an order to cease and desist and to be subject to penalties as provided for in Section 2156.</p>		<p><b>OMB APPROVED</b> 0579-0036</p>
<p><b>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</b></p>		<p><b>Interagency Report Control</b> No. 0180-DOA-AN</p>
<p><b>ANNUAL REPORT OF RESEARCH FACILITY</b> (TYPE OR PRINT)</p>		<p><b>REGISTRATION NUMBER:</b>  <b>Customer Number:</b>  <b>HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY</b> (Name and Address, as registered with USDA, include ZIP Code)</p>
<p><b>1. REPORTING FACILITY</b> (List all locations where animals were housed or used in actual research, testing, teaching, or experimentation, or held for these purposes. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)</p>		<p>Telephone:</p>

FACILITY LOCATIONS (Stas) See Attached Listing	

REPORT OF ANIMALS USED BY OR UNDER CONTROL OF RESEARCH FACILITY (Attach additional sheets if necessary or use APHIS FORM 7023A.)					
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
Animals Covered By The Animal Welfare Regulations	Number of animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes.	Number of animals upon which teaching, research, experiments, or tests were conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain-relieving drugs.	Number of animals upon which experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were used.	Number of animals upon which teaching, experiments, research, surgery, or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs would have adversely affected the procedures, results, or interpretation of the teaching, research, experiments, surgery, or tests. (An explanation of the procedures producing pain or distress on these animals and the reasons such drugs were not used must be attached to this report.)	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS (Cols. C + D + E)
4. Dogs					
5. Cats					
6. Guinea Pigs					
7. Hamsters					
8. Rabbits					
9. Non-human Primates					
10. Sheep					
11. Pigs					
12. Other Farm Animals					
13. Other Animals					

ASSURANCE STATEMENTS		
1.)	Professionally acceptable standards governing the care, treatment, and use of animals, including appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, and tranquilizing drugs, prior to, during, and following animal research, teaching, testing, surgery, or experimentation were followed by this research facility.	
2.)	Each principal investigator has considered alternatives to painful procedures.	
3.)	This facility is adhering to the standards and regulations under the Act, and it has required that exceptions to the standards and regulations be specified and explained by the principal investigator and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). <b>A summary of all such exceptions is attached to this annual report.</b> In addition to identifying the IACUC approved exceptions, this summary includes a brief explanation of the exceptions, as well as the species and number of animals affected.	
4.)	The attending veterinarian for this research facility has appropriate authority to ensure the provisions of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.	
<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATION BY HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY OFFICIAL</b>            (Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) or Legally Responsible Institutional Official (R.I.O.)            I certify that the above is true, correct, and complete (7 U.S.C. Section 2143).</p>		
<b>SIGNATURE OF C.E.O. OR I.O.</b>	<b>NAME AND TITLE OF C.E.O. OR I.O. (Type or Print)</b>	<b>DATE SIGNED</b>

<p>According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0036. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.</p> <p>This report is required by law (7 U.S.C. 2143). Failure to report according to the regulations can result in an order to cease and desist and to be subject to penalties as provided for in Section 2159.</p>		<p><b>OMB APPROVED</b> 0579-0036</p>
<p><b>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b> <b>ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</b></p>		<p><b>Interagency Report Control</b> No. 0180-DOA-AN</p>
<p><b>REGISTRATION NUMBER:</b></p>		<p><b>Fiscal Year:</b></p>
<p><b>Customer Number:</b></p>		
<p><b>CONTINUATION SHEET FOR ANNUAL REPORT OF RESEARCH FACILITY</b> (TYPE OR PRINT)</p>		
<p><b>1. HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY</b> (Name and Address, as registered with USDA, include ZIP Code)</p>		
<p>Telephone:</p>		

<b>REPORT OF ANIMALS USED BY OR UNDER CONTROL OF RESEARCH FACILITY</b> (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)					
<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>C.</b>	<b>D.</b>	<b>E.</b>	<b>F.</b>
Animals Covered By The Animal Welfare Regulations	Number of animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes.	Number of animals upon which teaching, research, experiments, or tests were conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain-relieving drugs.	Number of animals upon which experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were used.	Number of animals upon which teaching, experiments, research, surgery or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs would have adversely affected the procedures, results, or interpretation of the teaching, research, experiments, surgery, or tests. (An explanation of the procedures producing pain or distress on these animals and the reasons such drugs were not used must be attached to this report.)	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS  (Colc. C + D + E)
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 (Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) or Legally Responsible Institutional Official (L.R.O.))  
 I certify that the above is true, correct, and complete (7 U.S.C. Section 2145).

SIGNATURE OF C.E.O. OR L.O.	NAME AND TITLE OF C.E.O. OR L.O. (Type or Print)	DATE SIGNED
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# **In Conclusion**

- **IACUCs can use consultants with expertise in wildlife research to assist in evaluating protocols.**
- **Determining whether a study is AWA covered or exempt depends on species and activity.**
- **Guidance is available to help IACUCs determine AWA regulated activity.**
- **The regulations under Part 3 Subpart F applies to wildlife taken to facilities.**
- **Animals on a Field study as defined in the regulations are not indicated on the Annual report.**



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**AnimalCare@USDA.GOV**

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>