# logoField Research Application on Live Vertebrates

According to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), a **“field study**” is a study conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat. This term excludes any study that involves an invasive procedure, harms, or materially alters the behavior of an animal under the study.

If your research qualifies as a field study, please complete the following *Field Research Application on Live Vertebrates* and submit to the Office of Sponsored programs and Research at [ospr@towson.edu](mailto:ospr@towson.edu).

***Note: All student participants who are involved in this study must complete the Field Research Liability Waiver. All completed waiver forms must be maintained by the PI for the duration of the study plus an additional three (3) years.***

1. **PROJECT DATA**
2. Principal Investigator:
3. Department:
4. Phone:       Email:
5. Project Title:
6. Project Dates:
7. Is this research currently funded? Yes  No

If yes, please list the sponsor(s):

TU Proposal No.(s), if any:

If not, are you attempting to secure funding for the research? Yes  No

If yes, please list the sponsor(s):

TU Proposal NO.(s), if any:

*\*Note: If this project is sponsored by USDA NIFA or NIH, Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training must be completed by all personnel. Projects sponsored by NSF require all undergraduate, graduate, or postdocs receiving salary/stipend support to complete RCR training. Towson University offers this training through CITI. Attach all RCR certificates once completed.*

1. Additional Personnel (graduate students, undergrad students, collaborators, etc.):

*\*Note: All personnel must complete the appropriate CITI training modules prior to application submission. Please attach all certificates to the end of this application.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | Contact Information: |
|  | \* |
|  | \* |
|  | \* |
|  | \* |
|  | \* |

1. How are risks minimized for those conducting the study (PI, students, etc)?
2. **TYPE OF PROJECT**

Animal(s) will be used for:  Observation  Instruction  Research

If used for instruction, course #      and semester(s)      .

1. **SPECIES**

Is this a broad scale faunal study?  Yes  No

If yes, please list the number of animals used or collected for this study, the species most likely to be encountered, and their location(s).

If no, please fill out the following chart for all animals to be involved in the study and locations that they will be observed or manipulated:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common name, Genus and Species: | Observation or Manipulation? | Mark applicable  species status  (C=Concern, T=Threatened, E=Endangered) | Locations animals will be observed/manipulated?  (Indicate locations below)  1 2 3 | | | # of Animals Used or Collection |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |
| ;      ; | O  M | C  T E |  |  |  |  |

Location 1:

Location 2:

Location 3:

List any additional locations:

***\*For each location, submit the permission notices granted for access and attach any federal, state or local permits that are required for this study.***

List the dates that the animals will be observed/manipulated.

1. **STUDY OBJECTIVES**

Briefly explain the aim of the study and why the study is important to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, or the good of society in language that a layperson can understand.

1. **DESCRIPTION OF STUDY DESIGN & ANIMAL PROCEDURES**

List all capture techniques, including equipment used. Make sure to include the following information in your description.

* 1. Give frequency of checking traps in hours.
  2. Give maximum duration animals may be held in traps.
  3. What type of survival support is provided in the trap (e.g.: type of bedding to be used, water, food, water change when collecting fish, etc.)
  4. If animals are held for more than 12 hours in a trap or other caging, please provide a rationale and scientific justification. How long will they be held and under what conditions?
  5. List expected non-target species that may be captured and anticipated numbers that may be captured.
  6. Give provisions for inclement weather and how animals will be sheltered from direct sun, etc.

Give animal identification techniques such as PIT tags, elastomers, collards, etc.

List handling techniques and non-invasive measures, such as weighing, measuring, and the type and length of restraint required.

Address transportation of animals to the animal facility or to a different location. Include type of caging, type of vehicle, ownership of vehicle, provisions for food and water during transport, access of the animals for interaction with other animals, physical and airspace separation between animal containers and personnel transporting the animals.

Give the historical animal injury and mortality associated with your capture and handling techniques, including the contingency plan for veterinary treatment and euthanasia, if required.

List collaborating state and wildlife agencies and their participation in the study, including documentation of their training and experience for the proposed study.

Give the plan for disposition/disposal of animals that are removed from the wild.

1. **ANESTHETICS & SURGICAL PROCEDURES**

Provide a description of surgical procedures to be performed, pre-operative preparation and post-surgical care. Aseptic technique must be used for all survival surgeries. When applicable, provide a description of aseptic technique used in the field. Complete the *Anesthetics, Supplemental Anesthetics, Analgestics, and Compounds* grids below as well

*Anesthetics:* If anesthetics are used, complete the grid below. List any nonsurgical anesthetics, including needle sizes and remote delivery techniques, such as dart guns.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Procedure Requiring Anesthetic**  **(Indicate Survival or Non-Survival)** | **Duration**  **of Anesthesia** | **Anesthetic Agent(s) to be Used** | **Route of Administration.** | **Dosage**  **(mg/kg)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Supplemental Anesthetics*: Animals anesthetized for one hour or longer may require supplemental anesthesia. Complete the grid below for each procedure requiring supplemental anesthesia.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **\*Supplemental Anesthetic**  **Agent(s) to be Used** | **Route of Administration** | **Dosage**  **(mg/kg)** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*\*For each supplemental anesthetic listed, describe the method used to determine the need for supplemental anesthesia*

*Analgesics:* If analgesics are used following surgery, complete the grid below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Analgesic Agent** | **Route of Administration** | **Dosage** | **Frequency or Duration of Administration** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*Compounds:* If administering compounds, complete the grid below. Make sure to include needle sizes for injections.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **\*Compound to be administered** | **Dose/Range Volume** | **Site** | **Route of Administration** | **Schedule** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

*\*For each compound listed above, list potential toxic or immunological effects. If not applicable, please state.*

*Biopsy Techniques:* List blood and tissue collection techniques, including frequency, volume, collection site, needle size, methodology and protective equipment.

1. **EUTHANASIA**

Provide method of euthanasia for each species or other taxonomic level. If more than one euthanasia method will be used per species, these should be listed separately in the grid below. Where applicable, include drug dosage and route of administration. If a physical method of euthanasia will be used, provide reference to the most recent applicable professional society guidelines (e.g.: thoracic compression, gunshot, cervical dislocation, decapitation, etc.).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Method Used** | **Drug Dosage**  **(Where applicable)** | **Route of Administration**  **(Where applicable)** | **Method of Decapitation**  **(Where applicable)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*Additional Information on Euthanasia:*

Please clarify when euthanasia would be used – animal in distress (to what extent), completion of study, etc, and what constitutes that end.

1. **INVESTIGATOR ASSURANCES**

The National Science Foundation requires that each Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee review proposals for field research. To facilitate uniform standards for this work, NSF encouraged professional societies in the various vertebrate disciplines to prepare class-specific guidelines. Allen Press, Inc distributed these with mailings of professional journals beginning in December 1987. These guidelines can also be found on the web. Principal Investigators (PI) can consult the website of the societies relevant to their study for access to guidelines. It is the Principal Investigator’s responsibility to be familiar with the guidelines applicable to a given project. By signing below, the PI indicates that they and all other persons actively involved in this research have read, and are familiar with all applicable guidelines.

Check off the box in the first column next to each guideline that has been reviewed as part of this research:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Guidelines for Proper Care and Use of Wildlife in Field Research*. The Wildlife Society: National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The Wildlife Biologic Society: 7101 Wisconsin Ave. #611, Washington D.C. 22014. <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub_metadata/field_manual/chapter_6.pdf> |
|  | *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research*. Fair, J., E. Paul, and J. Jones, Eds. 2010. Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research. Washington, D.C.: Ornithological Council https://birdnet.org/info-for-ornithologists/guidelines-to-the-use-of-wild-birds-in-research/guidelines-english-3rd-edition-2010/ |
|  | *Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Fisheries Society, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. Copyright 2004.  [https://fisheries.org/docs/policy\_useoffishes.pdf](http://www.asih.org/pubs/fishguide.html) |
|  | *Guidelines for the Capture, Handling, and Care of Mammals*, as approved by the American Society of Mammalogists, prepared by the Animal Care and Use Committee. <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/commanimalcareuse/98acucguidelines.PDF> |
|  | *Guidelines for Use of Live Amphibians and Reptiles in Field and Laboratory Research*. Revised by the Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee (HACC) of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 2004. https://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/Guidelines\_for\_Use\_of\_Live\_Amphibians\_and\_Reptiles.pdf |

In addition, the PI assures that:

1. The information provided in this form is complete, accurate, and that no animals will be harmed to support the scientific and/or teaching objectives outlined.
2. This study will comply with all pertinent institutional, state, and federal rules and policies.
3. All personnel indicate a thorough understanding of the protocol, understand their responsibilities on this research project, have undergone appropriate institutional trainings, and that they will adhere to the Guidelines appropriate to the research (see chart above) and the USDA’s Animal Welfare Regulations. If there is change in personnel at any time, the PI must inform the IACUC in writing with all updated information and CITI certifications.
4. All appropriate permits for collecting and or operating at the site of this field study have or will be obtained prior to the start of the study.
5. The IACUC will be notified regarding any unexpected study results that impact the animals. Any unanticipated pain or distress, morbidity or mortality will be reported to the attending veterinarian and the IACUC.
6. Approval will be obtained from the IACUC before initiating any significant changes to the approved study.

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Signature of Principal Investigator Date