Fish and Wildlife Research

Animal Ethics Requirements for Field Research

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All aspects of animal work must be approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee before starting, and procedures in the field must be conducted as approved

- Species
- Number
- Procedures
- Methods
- Materials
- Location

Start early – approval can take 2-3 months after submission
All individuals involved must be fully trained to perform procedures as approved and in a manner safe to the animals and to personnel.

Safe and humane for animals:

- Capture, Handling, Restraint
- Sedation/Anesthesia
- Sample collection
- Attachment of equipment (tags, bands, collars, transmitters)
- Surgical procedures
**All individuals involved must be fully trained to perform procedures as approved and in a manner safe to the animals and to personnel.**

**Human Safety:**
- Capture equipment
- Animal restraint and handling
- Zoonotic diseases (Hantavirus, rabies, tularemia, plague, anthrax, campylobacter, etc.)
- Know what risks are in your area in both target and non-target species
- Vaccinations?
- Use proper PPE!, and Wash hands, use insect repellant, goggles/face shields, disinfect equipment, etc.
Primary Pneumonic Plague Contracted from a Mountain Lion Carcass

- NPS wildlife biologist found deceased in his residence in Grand Canyon National Park – November 2007
- Field investigation on mountain lion mortality
- Transported carcass and conducted necropsy
- Acutely febrile with hemoptysis

*D Wong, et al, CID 2009*
All involved personnel must have read and be listed on the approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP) and understand what is approved to be done, using what methods, and to what number of what type of animal(s)

• Know what you are approved to do, and do it

• Don’t do anything you are not approved to do
Contingencies for unexpected events requiring treatment of animals or their euthanasia must be considered, and plans in place to act promptly in a humane manner

Consider:

• Training of personnel
• Equipment available and accessible
• Decision tree understood
• Methods of communication
Remember you are a representative of the University of Alberta no matter how you communicate

**DO:**

- Act, speak, write professionally about your work with animals

**DO NOT:**

- Post pictures to social media, or send photos to friends/family of animals or samples taken during handling/research
- Describe animal work in colloquial or disrespectful manner
Questions?
Contact the Research Ethics Office

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Thanks!
Have fun and learn lots out there!