



Title	Requirements for IACUC Approval or Exemption for all Vertebrate Activities
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Authorized by	IACUC

## I. BACKGROUND

According to the Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWARs)<sup>1</sup>, all activities involving the use of animals\* for research, testing or teaching, must be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Public Health Service (PHS) policy requires, "...institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities (hereinafter referred to as "activities") conducted or supported by the PHS."<sup>2</sup> Although PHS policy specifically applies only to projects funded by the PHS, other funding agencies (e.g., the National Science Foundation) have formed agreements with PHS – specifically, with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) – requiring awardee institutions to review projects according to the criteria set forth in The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals<sup>3</sup>.

## II. POLICY

A. **Activities Requiring Approval:** Except for the activities exempted below, it is the Policy of Central Michigan University that all activities involving the use of animals for teaching, research and outreach purposes must be approved by the IACUC before initiating the activity. For approval, projects must adhere to the AWARs and PHS policy (see The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals<sup>3</sup> for more details on the application of PHS policy), unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented to and approved by the committee.

### B. Exempt Activities:

1. Activities involving animal use that is not regulated by the AWARs or PHS policy, including projects using...
  - a. ...invertebrate animals only;
  - b. ...vertebrate non-mammalian embryos that are at less than the half-way point of incubation period and are obtained from dams covered by an existing IACUC protocol;
  - c. ...tissues or fluids obtained...
    - i. ...from animals sacrificed for IACUC approved projects at CMU or other research institutions;
    - ii. ...from samples remaining from diagnostic tests performed by private diagnostic laboratories;
    - iii. ...via a commercial source (e.g., slaughterhouse, butcher shop) from livestock killed for food;
    - iv. ...from wild animals that were sacrificed by governmental agencies.

2. Non-Intrusive Field Research
  - a. Observation of wild vertebrates undisturbed in their natural habitat (with no manipulation of the animal or its environment).
  - b. Observation of domesticated animals, undisturbed, and kept under generally accepted agricultural practices.

*Note: Studies in which the behavior of a vertebrate animal is materially altered will require IACUC approval. By example, whereas telescopically observing birds in their natural environment requires no approval, teaching/research using feeders to draw birds in for observation requires approval.*

  - c. Animal use conducted by CMU researchers at another PHS-Assured institution and approved by that institution's IACUC.
3. Other:
  - a. Companion animal shows provided and overseen by reputable organizations (e.g., the American Kennel Club).
  - b. Commercial entertainment involving live animals (e.g., circuses) on university property.
  - c. Outreach activities involving animals, provided approval is first obtained from the Office of Risk Management.
  - d. Retrieval and analysis of data from records.
4. Activities conducted by visiting investigators at CMU if:
  - a. The research is currently approved by the IACUC at their home institution and;
  - b. Their home institution holds a current assurance with OLAW.
  - c. The IACUC must be notified that such activities will be conducted at least 30 days prior to initiation at CMU.
  - d. The IACUC will review the approved protocol to ensure that the species and methods used are appropriate for use at CMU.
  - e. The CMU IACUC reserves the right to withhold approval to conduct any animal activity conducted at CMU by visiting researchers.

### III. REFERENCES

1. Animal Welfare Act Regulations, 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.7; §1.1. (2018) [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/bluebook-ac-awa.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/bluebook-ac-awa.pdf).
2. PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. (2015) <https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm>.
3. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th ed. 2011. National Research Council of the National Academies. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

\*Regulatory Definition of Animal:

Animal Welfare Act Regulations<sup>1</sup>, in Section 1.1, define animals as...

*any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm-blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs, including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.* PHS policy III.A. defines animals as, "Any live, vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes."<sup>2</sup>.