

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE & USE COMMITTEE
Animal Care Program Standard Operating Procedures

SOP #: 103

Title: IACUC Review of Exempt Animal Research

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For live animals, it is the responsibility of the IACUC to ensure that the procedures do not affect the biology and ecology of the study animals and other species found in the study area (including the nature and duration of the potential effects). In that respects, Field studies may be exempt from IACUC approval if the study does not “involve an invasive procedure, harm, or materially alter the behavior of an animal under study (9 CFR 1.1 – Animal Welfare Regulations). Procedures must not involve the capture, handling, housing, transportation, treatment, or euthanasia of animals and cause excessive disturbances of animals due to study activities.

Further, according to PHS Policy, the use of dead animals or parts (including bodily fluids) of animals are exempt from IACUC approval unless the activity involves (1) killing animals for the purpose of obtaining or using their tissues or other materials, or (2) project-specific antemortem manipulation of animals prior to killing them. If either circumstances is applicable to the acquisition of dead animals, body parts or tissues, prior IACUC protocol review and approval are required.

This standard operating procedure outlines the process to request an exemption of IACUC review developed by the IACUC at California State University, East Bay

GUIDELINES:

1. If principal investigators believe they meet the requirements for exempt research, they should complete one of two forms:
 - a. *Request to Review Exempt Field Research*
 - b. *Request to Acquire and Use Animal Tissue*
2. Activities that require completion of the *Request to Review Exempt Field Research* form include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Field studies that involve only observation of animal behavior
 - b. Teaching field trips to public venues (e.g., Zoos, national parks, shorelines etc.)
3. Activities that require completion of the *Request to Acquire and Use Animal Tissue* form include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Acquiring dead animals, parts of animals or tissues from a PI with an existing IACUC approved protocol.
 - b. Acquiring dead animals, parts of animals or tissues for use in teaching
 - c. Prior approval is not needed for:
 - i. Food grade/grocery purchases
4. Activities may require Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) approval. Please contact EH&S at (510) 885-3833 prior to any purchases or activities.

5. Only the IACUC chair and attending veterinarian can determine whether a protocol is exempt from oversight. The IACUC reserves the right to require that an approved protocol be in place prior to starting any research or teaching involving the use of animals if it determines it is in the best interest of the University, and/or the animals being used.
6. If IACUC approval is required by a funding agency, an exemption cannot be granted.
7. Activities assigned exempt status may be subject to reevaluation by the IACUC for conditions including, but not limited to, changes in federal, state, local or institutional policy or changes in funding source.

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Reviewed: