

Vertebrate Research Projects - Summary

Vertebrate projects involve any non-human vertebrate including bird and reptile eggs within three days of hatching. Zebra fish are an exception and are not considered vertebrates until seven days after fertilization.

Exempt Studies:

Observational studies with no interaction, no environmental manipulation and meet all federal and state regulations

Prohibited studies:

Induced toxicity with known toxins.
Aversive stimuli,
Mother/infant separation
Induced helplessness

All vertebrate projects require prior SRC approval. There needs to be a SSEF Mortality form, Form 5A and a Form 2 or 3, depending on who is supervising. A Form 5B is also necessary if the study takes place at a Registered Research Institution. Form 5A must explain the disposition of the vertebrates after the conclusion of the study. All studies must be directly supervised by a Qualified Scientist or Designated Supervisor.

Research plan must include:

- Justification for use of the vertebrate, source, explanation of considered alternatives and why those alternatives were eliminated. Potential impact or contribution from this project must also be outlined.
- It must also identify the species, strain, sex, age, weight, and number of animals in the study.
- Any changes to the plan must have prior SRC approval.
- Bibliography must contain an appropriate animal care citation.

It is a tissue study if the animal was euthanized for something other than the student's study. There must be IACUC documentation from the original study that led to the euthanization.

Illness, growth retardation compared to controls, or weight loss of 15% or greater results in halting study. The study cannot continue until it is proven through examination by a qualified professional that the health issue is not related to the study. If it is related to the study, the study is ended and cannot compete.

Any death must be followed by a halt in the study and a necropsy by a qualified professional. If the death is related to the study, the study is ended and cannot compete.

Food or fluid restriction for longer than 18 hours must have IACUC approval and be conducted at a Registered Research Institution.

Wild caught vertebrates: Must follow all state, local, and federal regulations. Must have a fishing license and be caught and released unharmed.

Livestock or fish being raised for food:

Standard agriculture or aquaculture practices must be followed.

Can be euthanized by qualified adult for carcass evaluation.

Example: to compare marbling or 4H projects.

Qualified adult can be a parent on a ranch.

Invasive Plants

<http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>