

Wildlife primer session

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PRIMER's

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Disclosure: Robert S Sikes

I have relevant personal/professional/financial relationship(s) with respect to this educational activity with the following organization(s)

American Society of Mammalogists

President-elect

Chair, Animal Care and Use Committee

Objectives

- Discuss ways to fit wildlife research into frameworks designed for domesticated species
- Examine specific protocol needs when the research involves wild and nontraditional species
- Review the often difficult circumstances IACUCs face when evaluating distress and mortality with wild animals; logistical details of anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia; safety of research personnel; and periodic evaluation and oversight responsibilities
- Share resources for IACUCs and principal investigators for evaluating and reviewing wildlife research and research with nontraditional species
- Address issues related to post-approval monitoring of studies involving wild or nontraditional species

The fit of wildlife

- Historical perspective
- Force or finesse?

The touchstone is ethical and appropriate interactions with the animals we study.

Protocol needs

- Permits
- Population-level concerns
- Non-target species
- Variability in numbers and species
- Capture
- Consider the stressors
- Roles of individuals in the process
- Final disposition of animals
- Occupational health concerns

Challenges

- Tailoring needs for species and situations
- Listing numbers and species
- Controlled substances in the field
- Sedation and anesthesia
- Options for euthanasia/humane killing
- PAM – the field approach

Resources – you can never have too many!

- PIs
- Consultants
- Investigators who have worked on the same or similar species
- Taxon societies – contacts
- Taxon-specific guidelines
- Related publications

Wildlife-related resource links

[American Society of Mammalogists Animal Care and Use Guidelines](#)

[Ornithological Council Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research](#)

[American Fisheries Society, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Guidelines to the Use of Fishes in Research](#)

[American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Guidelines to the Use of Amphibians and Reptiles in Research](#)

[Paul, E. R. S. Sikes, S. J. Beaupre, and J. C. Wingfield. 2016. Animal Welfare Policy: Implementation in the context of wildlife research. *ILAR Journal* 56:312-334.](#)

[Gunshot euthanasia scenario and responses. 2016. *Lab Animal*. 45:95-97.](#)

[Sikes, R. S. and J. A. Bryan. 2015. IACUC considerations for the use of wildlife in research and education. *ILAR Journal* 56:335-341.](#)

[Sikes, R. S. and E. Paul. 2013. Fundamental differences between wildlife and biomedical research. *ILAR Journal* 54:5-13.](#)

[Sikes, R. S., E. Paul, and S. J. Beaupre. 2012. Standards for wildlife research: Taxon-specific guidelines versus US Public Health Services policy. *BioScience*. 62:830-834.](#)

[Wingfield, J. C. 2016. Commentary: guidance for field biology and other studies on wildlife species. *ILAR Journal* 56:271.](#)