

Colorado State University

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on Wildlife Management and Nuisance or Invasive Animals

Purpose

Colorado State University (CSU) takes a proactive stance to protect the welfare of animals used for research, teaching, and testing. This policy oversees all wildlife management activities involving contact with wildlife¹ and projects and/or activities that focus on nuisance or invasive animals, including:

- Wildlife management projects
- Activities that focus on nuisance or invasive wildlife
- Routine control of nuisance or invasive animals on CSU properties (vermin control)
- General expectations of CSU personnel² working with wildlife

Policy

CSU personnel must submit either an IACUC Exemption Form or an IACUC protocol to cover the work outlined in this policy. This allows the IACUC to review the proposed animal activities and document that appropriate review occurred of those animal activities.

Wildlife Management Projects

When CSU personnel plan a non-research or non-teaching interaction with wildlife, they must submit an IACUC Exemption Form to allow review by the AV and IACUC. If it is determined that IACUC protocol approval is required, the submitter will be asked to submit an IACUC protocol. If it is determined that the work does not constitute research, teaching, or testing, and/or meets guidance described in the applicable sections of the USDA AWIG and AWARs, then the activity is eligible for IACUC Exemption. An IACUC Exemption Memorandum is sent to the submitter and states that the animal activities being performed underwent IACUC review and do not require an IACUC protocol.

Activities That Include Nuisance or Invasive Wildlife

Any CSU personnel conducting a study or teaching activity that focuses directly on nuisance or invasive wildlife, including those where removal or elimination of the animals is involved, must submit an IACUC Exemption Form to allow review by the AV and IACUC. CSU personnel are expected to propose methods of removal and/or elimination that are consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, where appropriate.

Please note: IACUC review and/or approval may be required by peer-reviewed journals/publications and it is the responsibility of the PI to fulfill these requirements. If CSU personnel have questions about this matter they may contact IACUC staff for additional information.

¹ Wildlife = any free-living, vertebrate animal (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), including feral animals

² CSU Personnel = faculty, staff, student, employee; includes employees of Cooperative Extension Services (CES)

Routine Control of Nuisance or Invasive Animals on CSU Properties (Vermin Control)

Building proctors and facility managers responsible for CSU properties are encouraged to contact Environmental Health Services (EHS) and CSU Facilities Management if a problem exists with nuisance or invasive animals. Both EHS and Facilities Management have licensed and approved contractors who will carry out the control or elimination of nuisance or invasive animals. In cases where use of a contractor is impractical, the building proctor or facility manager should contact the AV to discuss any planned control actions *prior* to implementing those actions.

General Expectations of CSU Personnel Working with Wildlife

CSU expects that *all* employees, including CES employees, who work with wildlife will consider the welfare of the animals involved, even if they are not working on a project that falls under the direct oversight of the AV or the IACUC. This includes projects wherein CSU personnel are functioning in an advisory or satellite role, but are overseen by other institutions.

Federal Regulations

- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (2025). *Animal Welfare Inspection Guide* (p. 7–47).
- USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWARs) sections 1.1 and 2.31 (d)(1)

Institutional Endorsement

As the Institutional Official for Colorado State University, I recognize and endorse the authority and enforcement of the “*Policy on Wildlife Management and Nuisance or Invasive Animals*” by the IACUC.


Cassandra Moseley, Ph.D. _____ 01/14/2026
Date
Vice President for Research, Institutional Official
Professor, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship