

# Colorado State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

## ***Policy on Wildlife Management and Nuisance or Invasive Animals***

Colorado State University (CSU) takes a proactive stance to protect the welfare of animals used for research, teaching, and testing. The Institutional Official<sup>1</sup> (IO) has appointed the Attending Veterinarian (AV) to assist the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in providing appropriate oversight of ***all*** studies involving use of live, vertebrate animals. This document defines the CSU policy on oversight of wildlife management activities involving contact with wildlife<sup>2</sup> and projects and/or activities that focus on nuisance or invasive animals.

The following topics are covered:

- 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 personnel<sup>3</sup> working with wildlife.

**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.**

General guidance on this topic is provided by USDA Animal Welfare Inspection Guide (AWIG) page 7-47, as well as USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWARs) sections 1.1 and 2.31 (d)(1).

### 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 Memo is sent to the submitter and states that the animal activities being performed went through IACUC review, and does not require an IACUC protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> IO = Vice President for Research

<sup>2</sup> Wildlife = any free-living, vertebrate animal (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), including feral animals

<sup>3</sup> CSU Personnel = faculty, staff, student, employee; includes employees of Cooperative Extension Services (CES)

Activities That Focus 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 for additional information.

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 a set of 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 run by other institutions.

**Institutional Endorsement**

The “Policy on Wildlife Management and Nuisance or Invasive Animals” approved by the IACUC on November 15, 2022 for recommendation to the Institutional Official supports the research, teaching and service mission of Colorado State University, and ensures that the welfare of animal subjects used therein will be protected. Therefore, as the Institutional Official, I declare the IACUC-recommended policy to be the policy of the Colorado State University Animal Care and Use Program.

  
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Institutional Official

11/15/2022  
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Date

Original and Revisions: 10/25/11, 5/26/15, 8/23/16, 11/15/2022  
Incorporates previous IACUC “Policy on Research, Testing, and Teaching with Wildlife” and “Policy on Wildlife Studies Involving Nuisance or Invasive Species”