

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)	
Effective Date: 10-3-2007	Policy ID Number: P110.04
Approved Date: 10-3-2007	
Revised Date: 9-1-2021	Policy Title: Wildlife & Fisheries Teaching, Research and Surveys: Protocol for Listing Species
Last Reviewed: 9-1-2021	

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Policy

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES TEACHING, RESEARCH AND SURVEYS: PROTOCOL FOR LISTING SPECIES

1. Background

Federal regulations and ISU IACUC policies require that live vertebrate animals used in research be identified by species (Animal Characteristics Table Teaching Protocol: Experimental Design tab; Research Protocol: Species tab.). In most cases of laboratory and agricultural research, this is not a problem because only one or a few species are listed as part of the protocol. However, in wildlife and fisheries teaching and research, especially surveys, many species may potentially be involved in a project.

2. Policy

Protocols regarding wild species of amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals must include a list of individual species. Regulations provide some flexibility for listing by Genus (e.g., *Peromyscus* spp.) if the species are difficult to distinguish in the field. Higher classifications such as Order or Family are not acceptable.

Researchers may use their scientific judgment when listing those species that are most likely to be captured and handled. A key criterion for justifying animal usage is that valid scientific results must be possible based on the sample sizes obtained, so there is weak justification for listing species for which only a few individuals may be captured.

If you expect to capture and handle a sufficient number of individuals to become a part of the data set, list the species. Provide a statement in the protocol that indicates that non-target animals incidentally captured during conduct of the proposed research will be released unharmed. For both target and non-target species, researchers must indicate how capture-related injuries will be handled. Researchers must follow unanticipated event reporting policies for both target and non-target species. Non-target captures must also be documented as required, to the agency that issued scientific permits.

Researchers must describe provisions that will be made to minimize the capture of non-target species. The IACUC recommends that, whenever possible, researchers select methods of capture that are selective and/or deploy traps/nets in locations that increase the probability of capturing target species while minimizing capture of non-target species. Researchers must describe provisions that will be made to protect the welfare of both target and non-target species when describing capture methods and trap/net checking intervals.

In cases where the research objective is to characterize the diversity of species, then a long list of species is acceptable because their presence is a part of the data set. Even then, it is unlikely that the list will be exhaustive.

This IACUC-accepted policy specifically excludes opportunistic “addition” of species via broad taxonomic classification. If, in the conduct of the research, it becomes apparent that sufficient individuals of an unanticipated species are being captured to warrant addition to the data set, submit an amendment to the original protocol as soon as possible as data cannot be collected for new species until the amendment is approved.

Direct questions about this document to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Iowa State University, 515-294-9581, iacuc@iastate.edu.