

Animal Care and Use Committee

Committee Members: J. A. Bryan, II (Chair), B. Danielson, J. Eggleston, M. R. Gannon, W. L. Gannon, D. W. Hale, B. R. Jesmer, S. Loeb, D. K. Odell, L. E. Olson, C. Snehal, R. D. Stevens, T. A. Thompson, R. M. Timm, J. Whittaker, and J. R. Willoughby.

Mission:

The ACUC acts as a resource for issues concerning the use of animals in research. The committee maintains information on the ASM website regarding animal use and compliance and publishes revised guidelines regularly. The committee responds to inquiries from Society members, IACUC staff, government and other agencies regarding appropriate use of wild mammals in research. We provide comments on proposed changes to animal use regulations and work to facilitate appropriate oversight of the use of wild mammals in research. Over the past years, the ACUC has become increasingly proactive in educational efforts aimed at helping oversight and regulatory personnel understand the unique aspects of research with wild mammals.

Information Items – January 2017 to date:

(1) Efforts from various ASM ACUC members are collectively maintaining a high level of engagement and visibility concerning the challenges of wildlife research among oversight personnel, funders, and regulators.

(2) The *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research* (ASM guidelines) continue to be the standard for oversight of research involving wild mammals. To date, there are more than 1,100 citations of the 2011 guidelines in more than 150 different journals. At present, there are 146 citations of the 2016 guidelines, and this value is expected to continually grow. Importantly, more than 55% of the citations are in journals other than *JM*, which is an indication that researchers are using the ASM guidelines as the most appropriate reference material, regardless of where they are publishing. Since December 2016, the 2016 ASM guidelines have received 699 page views and 388 PDF downloads in addition to the aforementioned number of citations. Concerning social media, the 2016 ASM guidelines have been shared on Twitter in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States (U.S.). On Mendeley (a research manager and academia social network), the guidelines received 63 reads in Brazil, Portugal, and the U.S. The guidelines have also been shared on Facebook and Google posts. On average, since 2007, the ASM guidelines are cited approximately 180 times per year, and are consistently rated in the top 25% of all research outputs by Altmetric.

(3) The previous ACUC Chair (Sikes) continues to serve on AAALAC International's Council on Accreditation. Council members review reference materials and establish accreditation expectations in addition to performing site visits. Inclusion on this body provides an additional voice within AAALAC International for field-oriented input.

(4) The sitting ASM ACUC Chair (Bryan) continues to serve as the ASM Delegate to AAALAC International. Delegates are voting members who provide input on animal welfare policy through consultation, inspection, and review.

(5) The ASM President and ASM ACUC Chair presented *IACUC Basics for the Use of Wildlife in Research and Education* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, March 2017.

(6) ASM President Sikes and ACUC members Bryan and Thompson presented *Deliberations Using Wildlife Scenarios* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, March 2017.

(7) The ACUC Chair presented *Preparing an Agency Animal Use Protocol and IACUC Approval* at the 23rd Annual Eastern Black Bear Workshop in Ligonier, PA, April 2017.

(8) ASM President Sikes, ASM ACUC members Bryan and Thompson, and partners from sister agencies developed a meeting on the oversight of wildlife research under the aegis of the Scientist's Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW). The event took place from 30 October – 1 November 2017, in San Diego, CA.

- a. The ASM President presented/presided over the following meeting events:
 - i. *Covering Your Bases in Animal Acquisition* (and Avoiding Fees for Legal Defense)
 - ii. *Day Two: Introduction and Welcome*
 - iii. *Taxon Breakout Sessions: Number and Capture* (Mammals)
 - iv. *Euthanasia and Humane Killing*
 - v. *Taxon Breakout Sessions: Euthanasia and Invasive Procedures in the Field* (Mammals)
 - vi. *Concluding Comments and Evaluation of Conference*
- b. ASM ACUC Member Thompson presented/presided over the following meeting events:
 - i. *IACUC* (Institutional Animal care and Use Committee)
 - ii. *Taxon Breakout Sessions: Number and Capture* (Amphibians and Reptiles)
 - iii. *Compliance Requirements*
 - iv. *Taxon Breakout Sessions: Euthanasia and Invasive Procedures in the Field* (Amphibians and Reptiles)
- c. Sikes and Thompson together presented *Captive Breeding and Reintroduction of Captive Animals*

(9) The ASM President and ASM ACUC Chair presented *IACUC Basics for the Use of Wildlife in Research and Education* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, March 2018.

(10) The ASM President and ASM ACUC Chair presented *IACUC Deliberations Using Wildlife Scenarios Parts 1 and 2* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, March 2018.

(11) ASM ACUC Member Thompson presented *IACUC Deliberations Involving Wildlife in Management Versus Research Decisions* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, March 2018.

(12) ASM ACUC Member Thompson presented *Field Euthanasia Methods for Wildlife* as a webinar in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, March 2018.

(13) The ASM ACUC Chair has submitted an abstract to the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) International Annual Meeting entitled *Wildlife Research Compliance and Oversight: An Overview*. The conference is scheduled to take place 5 – 10 August 2018, St. Augustine, FL.

(14) The ACUC continues to field numerous questions from investigators, IACUC members, or regulatory agencies regarding field techniques or oversight concerns. The Chair consulted with each of the agencies/institutions listed. Consultations included electronic mail, letters of support/clarification, and telephone calls.

(15) The ACUC Chair continues to provide ongoing consultation to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine IACUC regarding oversight of wildlife animal use activities.

(16) Interactions with leadership of sister taxon organizations and other agencies regarding their consideration of the wildlife protocol template continues. We are making good headway in establishing a united concern on appropriate oversight of wild vertebrates.

Action Items:

(1) Budget Request

AAALAC International

\$ 100.00 AAALAC International (membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Travel to AAALAC Board of Trustees Meeting (transportation and lodging, 3 nights)

\$ 1,600.00

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

\$ 1,000.00 SCAW (Institutional membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Transportation and lodging, 3 nights

\$ 2,500.00

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research)

\$ 500.00 Registration, Annual Meeting

\$ 3,000.00 Transportation and lodging will fund 2 members for 3 nights.

NOTE—funds for second ACUC member to be used only if both serve as PRIM&R faculty

\$ 3,500.00

TOTAL REQUEST

\$ 7,600.00

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Bryan, II, Chair

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