Protocols Involving Field Research

A. There are several sections of the form that pertain specifically to field research or courses that include field research or field trips:

- **Species**
  - List the taxa that you will be working with

- **Are You Using?**
  - Course information for teaching protocols
  - Personnel safety and permit information for field research

- **Procedures**
  - Field studies
  - Animal Identification
  - Other procedures conducted in the field

- **Husbandry**
  - Transportation of live or dead animals to or from the field.
  - Non-standard housing requirements, non-standard husbandry or care, non-standard experimental requirements, and prolonged restraint.

- **Animal Disposition**
  - Euthanasia
  - Carcass disposal

1) **Species**

a. All species should be listed, however, this can be challenging for field researchers working with many species. Since procedures are added by species, it may make more sense for the PI to use a higher taxa to describe the animals in this section, and attach a list of species and/or genus in the attachment section. For example, you can use the species designation “Other(birds)” and for the Genus & Species information, indicated “See attached list”. **However, there are several restrictions to this option, as described below in b-e.**
b. The procedure description for the taxa used in the species section should be identical. For example, if “Other(Fish)” is used for the species, all of the procedures that are designated for “Other(Fish)” should be identical.

c. If a procedure(s) will be unique to one taxa, that taxa should be listed separately. For example, if a particular procedure is performed on only a certain genus/species of bird, that genus/species should be spelled out the species section.

d. If you are working with **USDA-covered species**, each target genus and species must be listed for reporting purposes.

e. If you will be housing **California Fish & Wildlife Restricted Species** in a UC Berkeley facility, each genus and species must be listed for reporting purposes.

f. If you do not plan to house the animals, the Proposed Housing Location for field studies can be: Other, NA; Building Name: Other, NA; Room Number: NA.

g. If you plan to house animals for less than 12 hours, you can indicate Proposed Housing Location: Other, Not housed > 12 hours (or “housed < 12 hours”) ; Building: Other, NA; Room: NA.

h. You will describe housing of captive wild animals in the Procedure section of the protocol.
2) Are You Using?

a. Teaching - If you will be teaching a course that will conduct field research or participate in field trips that involve manipulating vertebrate animals or altering their natural habitat or behavior, check “Yes” to the first question, “Are you using live vertebrate animals in teaching?”

   i. Click on the “Add” link to answer specific questions regarding the course. You should submit a separate protocol for each separate course.
b. **Field Study** - At the bottom of the “Are You Using?” section, check “Yes” to “Field Study or Wildlife Study”.

Click “Yes” and then “Add” to provide additional information.

i. Click on the “Add” link to provide information regarding **Health Precautions for Personnel**.

ii. Click on the “Add” link to provide information regarding **Permit Information**.
3) Procedures

a. In the **Protocol Information** section of the form, add a Procedure and select the **Field Studies** Procedure Type and taxa involved. You will have to add a separate field study for each taxa, but once you create one, you can clone it for the other taxa.

b. Complete the questions on the **Field Studies** tab under Procedure Details

i. **Location** - Describe the location of your study area(s) as specifically as possible.

ii. **Capture** - Describe wildlife capture (live capture or kill trapping), including: time of day traps will be set and disarmed, equipment used, planned duration of trapping/restraint, monitoring schedule for traps, how animals will be protected from the elements or predators, and potential for trapping non-target species. If anesthesia will be used, please note that here, and complete the **Anesthetic Regimen** tab.
iii. **Monitoring** - Describe the frequency and parameters (e.g., temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate, and capillary refill time) that will be monitored to ensure the health of captured animals. Provide a plan for addressing physiological parameters outside of normal ranges.

iv. **Restraint** - Describe physical restraint and handling procedures following capture, including methods, equipment, duration, and observation schedule. If animals will be restrained longer than 1 hour, complete the **Prolonged Restraint** question under the **Husbandry** section of the protocol. For guidance, please refer to the ACUC Guideline on Physical Restraint of Un-anesthetized Animals.

v. **Housing of Captive Wild Animals**

Note: For guidance, please refer to the ACUC Fasting Animals, Special/Regulated Diets/Water/Housing Policy, Quarantine Guidelines, and Guidance on Exceptions Regarding Housing or Husbandry of Laboratory Animals.

   a) Will captive animals be held for 12 hours or less?

      If yes, please describe the planned duration of captivity, the temporary holding facilities, cage size/type, feeding strategies, plan for maintaining a suitable environment, and release procedures. If possible, attach a photograph, drawing or illustration of the holding facility in the Attachments section of the protocol.

   b) Will captive animals be housed for more than 12 hours?

      If yes, please describe the planned duration of housing and, if applicable, the duration of quarantine and plan for acclimatization. If non-standard housing or husbandry practices will be used, please describe these in the **Husbandry** section of the protocol.

vi. **Decontamination** - Describe decontamination procedures for any equipment that will be used to capture, transport, contain, etc. animals.

vii. **Recapture** - If animals will be recaptured, please describe and include the maximum number of times an animal would be recaptured.

viii. **Release, Euthanasia, Other Disposition** - If animals will be released, describe pre-release conditioning, the site and time of release, and any permits required for such release. Describe euthanasia methods under the **Animal Disposition** section of the protocol. Note: Even if euthanasia is not planned, a method must be described in the event of an emergency.

c. The **Procedure Description** tab is used to provide an overview of the Field Study procedure. If you will be performing additional procedures not described in i-viii above, (e.g., animal identification/marking, blood collection, tissue collection, surgery), you should add these as separate procedures for each taxa.

d. If you will be performing anesthesia in the field for anything described in i-viii above, compete the **Anesthetic Regimen** tab.

e. If you provide Peri-procedure Care and/or Analgesics, complete this tab.
f. If you administer any other compounds not described in the previous tabs, complete the **Other Drugs Utilized** tab.

4) **Husbandry**

a. **Transportation** - If animals (live or dead) will be transported to or from the field, describe how they will be transported and measures to be taken to avoid potential disease transmission to researchers and other animals. Transportation of animals must conform to the [ACUC Animal Transportation Guidelines](#). If not transporting, check “None”.

b. **Non-Standard Housing Requirements**

   i. If captive wild animals will be housed for greater than 12 hours, check the “Animals outside dedicated animal housing for greater than 12 hours” box and describe.

   ii. If the cage/pen size or cage sanitation interval is non-standard, check these boxes and provide justification.

   iii. If rodents will housed on wire-bottom cages, check this box and provide justification.
iv. For guidance on standards, see the following ACUC Guidelines:

- Guidance on Exceptions Regarding Housing or Husbandry of Laboratory Animals
- Aquatic Frog Housing Density Guidelines
- Investigators who Manage Mouse Breeding Programs
- Rat Housing Guidelines
- Investigator Care of Vertebrate Animals

c. Non-Standard Husbandry or Care

i. Check all that apply, describe and provide justification. If none apply, check “None”

ii. Describe which species are affected.

iii. For guidance on standard practices, see the ACUC Guidelines:

- Guidance on Exceptions Regarding Housing or Husbandry of Laboratory Animals
- Fasting Animals, Special/Regulated Diets/Water/Housing Policy
d. Non-Standard Experimental Requirements

i. If you will be restricting food or fluid, check all that apply, describe and provide justification. If none apply, check “None”.

ii. For guidance, please refer to the ACUC Fasting Animals, Special/Regulated Diets/Water/Housing Policy.

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![Non-standard Experimental Requirements]

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e. Restraint of Conscience Animals

i. If you will be restraining animals, complete this section.

ii. For guidance, please refer to the ACUC guidelines on Physical Restraint of Unanesthetized Animals.

5) Animal Disposition

a. Even if you plan to release animals and not euthanize them, you must provide a method of euthanasia that will be used in case of injury to the animal.

b. Add a method of euthanasia for each taxa listed in the species section of the protocol.

c. Please consult the ACUC Euthanasia Guidelines. Physical methods of euthanasia must be performed under anesthesia. Following euthanasia by chemical methods, an
additional physical means of ensuring euthanasia must be performed prior to disposal.

d. Describe the plan for **carcass disposal**. If you plan to transport carcasses from the field, be sure to check the **Transportation** box on the **Husbandry section** of the protocol.