

Eastern Oregon University IACUC Meeting Minutes 2/27/24

Minutes taken by Zoe Johnson-Ulrich

In attendance, Zoe Johnson-Ulrich, Brian Myers, Emma Skillings, John Lundy, and Ellen Lester.
Quorum is met.

Introductions; Role of IACUC, Overview of IACUC activities and responsibilities

- Reviewed USDA AWA, PHS, and other policies related to IACUC.
- Discussed responsibilities of the IACUC (approving, suspending, voting).
 - Including inspecting facilities twice a year
- We decided that we only need inspection during use (e.g., facilities only holding animals for 3 months of the year do not need inspection twice a year).
- Reviewed next steps for the IACUC.
- We discussed that all animal use at EOU needs to be reviewed by the IACUC (not just those that we are legally required to review).
- For reviewing, we decided that we will do full review of all initial proposals, propose changes (or reject), then modifications can be designated review by 1-2 people (we need to figure out if designated review is conducted by 1 or 2 individuals).

Review of Laura Mahrt's AUP #0001

- We discussed the point that this AUP needs to be four separate AUP's.
- General comments: If animals are found dead in traps (or die), then tissue samples as well as skins should be collected for collection of genetic data and to share with museums or other organizations that can make use of tissue samples.
- All four protocols should be listed as category C on the pain and distress scale.
- Please state whether federal permits are required for any of the protocols.

Protocol 1 (Live Herpetofauna on display in BH 311) modifications:

- How does this protocol contribute to advancement of knowledge? It needs to be more clear how the animals will contribute to teaching (beyond just having students walk by and observe the animals). Please include explicit learning objectives for students.
 - The animals should not be there just for casual observation.
 - Are there explicit plans for K-12 students to observe the animals for teaching purposes?
 - There needs to be a stronger justification for 10 species beyond just having space for that many (e.g., a reason related to the educational purposes).
- Species to be trapped should not include threatened or near-threatened species.
- Who will care for the animals and clean cages? (Students?)
 - More detail is needed on animal care and cage cleaning procedures, including how cage temperatures will be maintained and light/dark cycles, and justification that there is sufficient space to house the animals.
 - Care instructions need to be specific to each species.
- PPE needs to be listed and address the risk of salmonella for both trapping and maintenance/care of animals.
- Trapping procedures should be described under Experimental Procedures (4.1)
 - Including euthanasia procedures for sick or injured animals.

Protocol 2 (MAPS bird banding on Ladd Marsh) modifications:

- Please include a procedure for euthanizing sick or injured birds.
- What is collecting “key demographics”?
- Explain why the number depends on the day (e.g., explain how there is not control over how many enter the net).

Protocol 3 (Small mammal live trapping on Ladd Marsh):

- The purpose of this procedure was not entirely clear; please explain who is responsible for this procedure and in what role Dr. Mahrt is trapping animals (e.g., as an EOU faculty member or as part of ODFW, or both).
 - If the project is largely or completely for ODFW, then how does this apply to EOU students and learning?
 - Clarify why EOU IACUC approval is needed if this is an ODFW project (e.g., ODFW has no IACUC and/or because Dr. Mahrt is trapping as part of her role as a EOU faculty member?).
- More details on trapping and handling procedures are needed:
 - How are animals handled and weighed?
 - What PPE is needed to handle animals?
 - Please address the risk of rabies.
 - Clarify the number of traps being set out and how this relates to the total number of animals trapped (being clear that you do not have strict control over how many animals enter traps which means that you cannot know exact numbers).
 - How will sick or injured animals be euthanized?
 - Any students involved will need to complete the IACUC training.
- Note that the numbers of mammals trapped must be reported to USDA annually.

Protocol 4 (Columbia Spotted Frog DNA sampling):

- Are federal permits required? If no, explain.
- How will sick or injured animals be euthanized?

Zoe motioned vote on Laura’s AUP

- Emma seconded
- Approve: 0
- Nay: 6 (Zoe, Brian, John, Emma, Ellen, Megan)

2:35 pm

- Zoe recusing herself for discussion of her AUP’s
- Brian taking over meeting minutes

Review of AUP #0002: Rat AUP

- ☐What cleaning agent will be used for the cages?
- ☐What are the explicit learning outcomes?
- ☐Does the restricted diet increase animal suffering?

- ☐ Rats are OK to be bought from Savage Serpents
- ☐ Describe and justify housing conditions that will be provided for rats
- ☐ Make gloves mandatory when cleaning housing/bedding
- ☐ Unanimous decision to require modifications for approval
- ☐ Unanimous decision to delegate voting for modifications to Emma Skillings and Brian Myers

Review of AUP #0003: Horse AUP

- ☐ Add PPE in the form close-toed shoes
- ☐ Specifically for. Section 7.3: Justify how this study does not unnecessarily replicate other studies – what makes it different? Touch more on this.
- ☐ Some text boxes, for example, 7.2, cut-off and cannot see the rest of the sentence.
- ☐ Unanimous decision to require modifications for approval
- ☐ Unanimous decision to delegate voting for modifications to Emma Skillings and Brian Myers

3:00 pm

- Zoe returned

3:05 pm

- Brian left for discussion of his AUP

Review of Brian Myers' AUP #0004:

- Clarify species numbers (why it is just 3 for some species)
 - And include Allen's, Rufous, and hybrid as one species with a total number for the three species combined, given that telling apart species in the field can be difficult (and thus you won't know if you have reached your max number for either species during trapping).
 - Specify more clearly why so many animals are needed.
- Objectives and Significance:
 - Include actual objectives in Section 3 (not just intellectual merit and public outreach).
 - E.g., why is it necessary to collect blood and feathers to get the data that you're interested in?
 - Clarify more about how the K-12 outreach helps; are there specific educational standard that this assists with and teaches to or how general animal display actually leads to learning or kids being concerned with animal welfare, etc.
- Procedures:
 - 4.1
 - Please repeat the number of times the trapping technique has been used in the Procedure (listed in 1.6).
 - Include the additional information on obtaining blood samples that was handed out at the meeting.
 - Explain how sugar water is provided and how it is made (i.e., ratios of water to sugar).

- Describe how many feathers are in a “set” of feathers with exact numbers.
 - Is bird transport covered under the banding permit or other permits needed?
 - Are protocols needed for disinfecting cages between uses?
- Section 4 and 6 some items need “no’s” (they were left blank).
- Section 5.0 needs to be completed more thoroughly.
 - Potential adverse effects need to be described (not just stated that they are mild).
 - How adverse effects will be evaluated still needs to be described even if distress is expected to be low.
 - How well-being will be ameliorated or alleviated needs to be described (or explain why it will not be).
- The description of euthanasia handed out at the meeting should be added to Section 6.0, including criteria for euthanasia.
- Section 7.0, explain the study is a continuation (sort of a replication) and justify why additional/continuing data is useful.
- Section 11.0, remove mention of Cuyler Whalon.
- Wording and language was sometimes unclear:
 - “banding itself is a productive activity” was unclear; explain the scientific purpose and how it is productive.
 - Section 3.0 needs to be rewritten to use language that is clear for the general public (it has extensive use of scientific jargon).

Emma moved to approve with modifications

John seconded

Vote was all in favor (Zoe, John, Ellen, Megan, Emma)

- Emma and Zoe were designated to review modifications.

~3:25 pm

- Brian returned.
- Discussed animal inspections and need for meeting in Spring term for inspection.

Adjourned 3:37 pm.