

Animal Care and Use Training Handout for Field Research Personnel University of Kansas-Lawrence

Compliance

All field research must abide by federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Additionally, international work must abide by all rules and regulations of the host country. Principal Investigators (PI) are responsible for insuring that all necessary permits are in place prior to commencement of field work, and that field activity conforms to regulations.

Animal Welfare

Field research on vertebrates requires an IACUC approved Animal Use Statement (AUS). For more information on AUS submission and protocols, contact the KU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) coordinator at iacuc@ku.edu.

Additional information about animal use in field studies can be obtained from individual professional societies:

- American Society of Mammalogists: <http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/animal-care-and-use>
- Ornithological Council: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/guide/index.html>
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists: <http://www.asih.org/publications>

Field Safety

Safety must be considered an integral component of any field course or research project. Ultimately, the faculty advisor or PI is responsible for safety of all protocol personnel and/or students. However, graduate students or other personnel may be designated as supervisors in the PI's absence. Be cognizant that new participants (especially students) may have little experience with field research and will need extensive guidance before and during field work. Important items to consider for field research:

Safety Equipment: A list of safety equipment should be prepared well in advance of any field work. Specific equipment is likely to change based on destination, duration, and activities performed during each trip, so a static list may not suffice. General items to consider: GPS unit, first aid kit, flashlights, water purification, proper clothing, and any specialized equipment. Do not assume that any necessary items can be purchased on the way to the field site. Researchers are encouraged to contact the KU Department of Environment, Health and Safety for questions related to appropriate safety equipment (ehsdept@ku.edu, 864-4089).

Medical: Be sure to research the current recommendations for vaccinations, prophylaxis, and treatment by visiting: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. All participants in field research are encouraged to visit their primary care provider to assess any specific medical needs related to participation in field research. KU Student Health Services Travel Clinic offers pre-travel counseling, immunizations, and health advice for faculty, staff, and students planning to travel out of the U.S. Please call the Appointment Line at (785) 864-9507 and request a "travel abroad appointment" http://www.studenthealth.ku.edu/services/travel_care.shtml

Communications: Reliable communication is essential for safe and productive field work. Leave an itinerary and contact information with designated colleagues in case of emergencies. Increasing cell coverage in remote areas and around the world makes a mobile phone an indispensable safety item. Check coverage maps before you go. For extremely remote areas, consider a satellite phone. Some KU departments have sets for use by their field researchers; check with your administration.

Reporting injuries: Personnel are required to notify their immediate supervisor of all work place injuries. The supervisor must complete an Employer's Report of Accident form for all injuries requiring medical attention or time loss. Completed forms must be submitted to Human Resources within 48 hours of the accident. Injuries requiring medical attention must also be documented utilizing KU HR 1101a form which is available at KUHR website. For injuries that do not require medical attention, an incident form is completed and filed with the employee's departmental office.

Oversight Agency Reporting Requirements

The number of animals collected and/or studied is needed for the institution's USDA and Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International annual reports. Reporting must be consistent with the IACUC approved protocol. Principal investigators are responsible for tracking animal use by species and/or groups identified in the approved Animal Use Statement.

Institutional Contact Information

Field research staff with questions or concerns can contact the Animal Care Unit, the IACUC Chair, or the Director of Environment, Health and Safety.