

CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTION FROM IACUC APPROVAL FOR FIELD STUDIES (Excerpted from the EIU Policy on the Use and Care of Animals)

V. Exemption from IACUC Approval for Field Studies

All use of non-human vertebrate animals is subject to IACUC review and approval. However, field studies of free-living, wild, vertebrate animals in their natural environment that satisfy all of the following criteria may be exempt from IACUC approval:

- Field studies that do not “involve an invasive procedure, harm, or materially alter the behavior of an animal under study”. (9 CFR 1.1 – Animal Welfare Regulations)
- Field studies that do not involve the capture, handling, housing, transportation, treatment, or euthanasia of animals.
- Field studies that do not cause excessive disturbance of animals due to study activities. Excessive disturbance would include visits to nest sites or breeding areas, close approach to animals during sensitive phases of their life cycle, or experimental techniques that might elicit disturbance (e.g., tape playbacks of calls or presentation of models).

Field studies are, first and foremost, subject to the animal care and use requirements and regulations imposed by any agency funding the study. If IACUC approval of a field study is required by the funding agency, an exemption cannot be granted.

Field studies assigned exempt status may be subject to reevaluation by the IACUC for conditions including, but not limited to, changes in federal, state, local, or institutional policy or changes in funding source.