Policy: Field Study Permits and IACUC Review

It is the responsibility of the investigator to obtain all necessary permits prior to the start of research and to include relevant permit information within the ACUP proposal.

A single research project may be subject to multiple laws requiring multiple permits. Both state and federal permits may be needed as well as site-specific permits for studies conducted on federal, state, or other property. The IACUC relies on the expertise of the permitting agency to provide the investigator with assessments and requirements related to wildlife population management, disease control, and transport.

IACUC review of field studies focus mainly on humane care and use of wildlife, and includes institutional oversight of associated participant training, safety and occupational health assessment. However, an IACUC should also ensure compliance with the regulations and permit requirements of pertinent local, state, and national regulations, and there are instances when the IACUC may request a copy of related permits associated with an ACUP.

It is noted that permitting agencies may have varying processes for issuing permits, and permits may be issued before or after IACUC approval of a project.