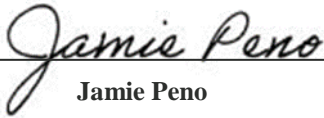
 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <b>DIVISION OF RESEARCH &amp; INNOVATION</b>  <small>Research Integrity &amp; Compliance</small> </div>		<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>  <b>Standard Operating Procedures</b>	
<b>Title: Field Research and Observational Field Studies</b>			
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<b>Approval/Date:</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <b>Jamie Peno</b>              Director, Research Integrity and Compliance           </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>             12/22/2020  <b>Date</b> </div> </div>			
<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Author</b>	

## PURPOSE

This procedure is to differentiate projects that should be considered Field Research and are required by regulations to obtain IACUC approval versus Observational Field Studies that are considered strictly observational and do not have animal or environmental impacts that are required to be reviewed and approved by the UNT IACUC.

## SCOPE

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to review these guidelines and disclose all project information via and Animal Use Protocol submission for Field Research.

It is the responsibility of the IACUC to review and approve all projects that are considered Field Research.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNT- University of North Texas, Denton

IACUC- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

SOP/SOP's- Standard Operating Procedure(s)

AUP- Animal Use Protocol

PI- Principal Investigator

AV- Attending Veterinarian

RMS- UNT Risk Management Services

## PROCEDURES

## **I. Observational Field Studies**

- A.** Observational Field studies are defined by the USDA as any project performed outside of the lab, in an animals' natural environment that is strictly observational and without impact upon the animals or their environment.
  - 1. There is no direct contact with the animal.
  - 2. There is no physical sampling or altering of the animal or the natural environment.
  - 3. There is no excessive disturbance of the animal habitat.
- B.** This type of study is not required by regulations to be reviewed by the IACUC.
  - 1. Investigators are responsible for obtaining any permits to perform observational studies on private lands.
  - 2. Investigators should ensure all personnel are appropriately trained and have reviewed the Risk Management Field Safety Manual guidelines:  
(<https://research.unt.edu/research-services/research-integrity-and-compliance/animal-subjects-iacuc/field-research> )

## **II. Field Research**

- A.** Field Research is defined by the USDA as any project involving physical sampling or physical altering/excessive disturbance of the animal habitat to collect data. If any one of the following are part of the project, then the study should be considered Field Research:
  - 1. Trapping, sedation, and/or any handling of animals.
  - 2. Data collection that requires redirection or behavior modification of any animal.
  - 3. Disturbance of the habitat or natural environment to collect data (this includes observational data).
- B.** Projects that are considered Field Research must submit an Animal Use Protocol to the UNT IACUC for review and approval using the UNT IACUC Form 01- Animal Use Protocol Submission.

## **REFERENCES**

- 1. IACUC Form 13- Animal Bite and Scratch Report Form
- 2. IACUC Form 01- Animal Use Protocol Submission Form
- 3. USDA Animal Welfare Act, Title 9 CFR, Chapter 1

## **APPENDICES**

IACUC Standard Operating Procedures