DIVISION OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION Research Integrity & Compliance	**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee** **Standard Operating Procedures**

Title: Field Research Risk Assessments

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Approval/Date:

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Director, Research Integrity and Compliance

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Section	Author

PURPOSE

Field Research poses inherent risks due to many factors of being outside of the more controlled animal research lab environment. Whether animals are being captured from the wild for use in a research lab or studies are fully conducted in the field, personnel are required to follow safety guidelines and procedures to ensure the safety of the personnel, animals, and the environment. This procedure outlines the guidelines and tools provided to UNT researchers to ensure risks are minimized for all.

SCOPE

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to review and follow these guidelines and to ensure that research personnel have appropriate and documented training to follow all safety procedures in the field.

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
PPE- Personal Protection Equipment

PROCEDURES

I. Field Research Risk Mitigation

A. Potential risks associated with Field Research are different for each project and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Environmental Hazards
   a) High UV
   b) Heat Stress
   c) Dehydration
   d) Hypothermia and/or Frost Bite
   e) Allergens
   f) Extreme weather (ie. tornados, hurricanes, high winds, lightning storms, etc.)
   g) Difficult terrain (ie. bodies of water, wetlands, secluded areas, dense brush, cliffs, caves, etc.)
   h) Wild animal attacks/ injuries
   i) Bites and stings and related vector-borne illnesses
   j) Contaminated water or lands
2. Field Activity Hazards
   a) Project animals (ie. bites, kicks, zoonotic diseases, allergens, parasites, etc.)
   b) Wild animal attacks/ injuries
   c) Project activities (ie. boating, wading, swimming, climbing, hiking, all-terrain vehicles, fatigue, etc.)
   d) Field equipment (ie. tranquilizing agents/guns, traps, sharps, drills, hammers, climbing equipment, etc.)
   e) Transport of hazardous chemicals (ie. disinfectants, anesthetics, medications, etc.)
   f) Manual Work (ie. lifting, pushing, pulling, digging, etc.)
   g) Personnel illness
   h) Working alone
   i) Remote location distance from emergency services
   j) Limited methods of communication
   k) Non-pottable water
   l) Inedible food

B. Potential hazards for each project should be identified and categorized as:

1. Negligible Risks
2. Low Risks
3. Medium Risks
4. High/ Extreme Risks

C. Methods of control and response should be established for each identified risk. Examples include:

1. Eliminate the risk (ie. remove the hazard)
2. Substitution (ie. replace the hazardous process with a less hazardous process)
3. Isolation (ie. isolate the hazard from the person)
4. Engineering controls (ie. redesign a process or piece of equipment for protection from the hazard, adopt the use of appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE))
5. Administrative controls (ie. Adopting safe practices and procedures with appropriate training and instruction to mitigate hazards)

D. Principal Investigators are encouraged to use the Field Research Risk Assessment Forms provided by RMS to document their identified risks and mitigation plans.

1. This form can be found in the RMS Field Safety Manual and at: https://research.unt.edu/research-services/research-integrity-and-compliance/animal-subjects-iacuc/iacuc-forms-and-templates

2. This form may be attached to the UNT IACUC Form-01Animal Use Protocol Submission Form when applying for study approval.
3. All methods of PPE must be listed in the hazards section of the AUP for IACUC review and approval.

E. Investigators should ensure all participating personnel have appropriate documented field safety training 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

F. Any and all injuries of UNT personnel in the field should be reported to RMS: https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/Risk-Finance-Claims-Administration/Workers-Compensation/Filing-a-Claim#:~:text=The%20injured%20employee%20must%20immediately,medical%20treatment%20is%20not%20needed.&text=To%20report%20an%20injury%2C%20contact,(940)%20565%2D2109.

REFERENCES

1. IACUC Form 01- Animal Use Protocol Submission Form
2. RMS Field Research Safety Manual
3. RMS Field Research Risk Assessment Forms
4. RMS Injury Reporting online guidance

APPENDICES

IACUC Standard Operating Procedures