

## **Additional Rules for Projects Conducted at School/Home/Field**

Vertebrate animal studies may be conducted at a home, school, farm, ranch, in the field, etc. This includes:

- Studies of animals in their natural environment.
- Studies of animals in zoological parks.
- Studies of livestock that use standard agricultural practices.
- Studies of fish that use standard aquaculture practices

These projects must be reviewed and approved by an SRC in which one member is either a veterinarian and/or an animal care provider/expert with training and/or experience in the species being studied.

1. These projects must adhere to BOTH of the following guidelines:
  - a. The research involves only agricultural, behavioral, observational or supplemental nutritional studies on animals.

AND

  - b. The research involves only non-invasive and non- intrusive methods that do not negatively affect an animal's health or well-being.

All vertebrate animal studies that do not meet the above guidelines must be conducted in a Regulated Research Institutions. See Section B.

2. Animals must be treated kindly and cared for properly. Animals must be housed in a clean, ventilated, comfortable environment appropriate for the species. They must be given a continuous, clean (uncontaminated) water and food supply. Cages, pens and fish tanks must be cleaned frequently. Proper care must be provided at all times, including weekends, holidays, and vacation periods. Animals must be observed daily to assess their health and well-being. A Designated Supervisor is required to oversee the daily husbandry of the animals. Any of the following U.S. documents provide further guidance for animal husbandry:
  - a. Federal Animal Welfare Regulation
  - b. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
  - c. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (Ag-Guide)
  - d. Quality Assurance Manuals (for the appropriate species)
3. The affiliated fair Scientific Review Committee must determine if a veterinarian's certification of the research plan and animal husbandry plans is required. This certification is required before experimentation and SRC approval and is documented on Vertebrate Animal Form 5A. A veterinarian must certify experiments that involve supplemental nutrition, administration of prescription drugs and/or activities that would not be ordinarily encountered in the animal's daily life.
4. If an illness or emergency occurs, the affected animal(s) must receive proper

medical or nursing care that is directed by a veterinarian. A student researcher must stop experimentation if there is unexpected weight loss or death in the experimental subjects. The experiment can only be resumed if the cause of illness or death is not related to the experimental procedures and if appropriate steps are taken to eliminate the causal factors. If death is the result of the experimental procedure, the study must be terminated, and the study will not qualify for competition.

5. The final disposition of the animals must be described on **Vertebrate Animal Form 5A**. Euthanasia for tissue removal and/or pathological analysis is not permitted for a project conducted in a school/home/field site.
6. The following forms are required:
  - a. Checklist for **Adult Sponsor (1)**, **Student Checklist (1A)**, **Research Plan**, and **Approval Form (1B)**
  - b. **Vertebrate Animal Form (5A)**
  - c. **Qualified Scientist Form (2)**, when applicable