Policy on IACUC Protocol Submission

The Virginia Tech Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires an approved IACUC protocol for all use of vertebrate animals in research and teaching conducted at Virginia Tech, including field work with vertebrate animals. Protocols are approved for three years, must be renewed annually and must be resubmitted using current forms triennially.

An approved protocol assures the safety, maintenance, care and use of vertebrate animals and complies with federal, state, and local laws. Virginia Tech requires that all course work and research projects involving vertebrate animals be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to initiation. This policy applies to all agricultural, biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research, teaching, training, and testing involving vertebrate animals performed by faculty, staff, and students of Virginia Tech regardless of the source of funding.

Proposed animal use must be consistent with the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR), the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide) unless acceptable justification for departure has been provided and approved.

Three exclusions for need of an IACUC protocol are the following:

1. Observational studies (no direct contact) where the animals normal behavior, environment or nutrition are not altered by the research.
2. Cadaver use when the animal has not been manipulated prior to euthanasia and has been euthanized for other reasons and not specifically for teaching and research.
3. Currently a protocol is not required for use of invertebrate species.