



Policy for Volunteers in Research and Instructional Protocols

The UGA IACUC acknowledges that research and instructional/outreach activities often provide unparalleled opportunities for experience at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Field research activities, for example, may require the collection of vertebrate animals that is facilitated by the use of student volunteers. In other scenarios, the use of non-student volunteers may be beneficial to the objectives of an animal use protocol (AUP) – for example, when using animals for community outreach. The intent of this policy is to recognize, document and facilitate the safe and effective use of student and non-student volunteers in animal care and use activity overseen by the IACUC. This policy is not applicable to students of courses covered by AUPs approved for instructional use, as student participation is already integral to these protocols. This policy is intended to supplement, not supersede or replace, volunteer policies in place at the college or unit level. The UGA IACUC permits the use of volunteers under the following conditions:

- The use of volunteers is explicitly acknowledged in the approved AUP.
- The PI has sole discretion in allowing volunteers to participate in activity involving the handling of live animals.
- The volunteers are not used in the systematic collection of research data. The use of participants for the regular collection of research data requires their addition to the AUP as a member of the research team.
- The PI provides species-specific training to ensure safe and effective handling of animals and a fundamental understanding of laws, regulations and guidelines governing the use of animals in research and instruction/outreach. The IACUC strongly encourages the use of the UGA IACUC 101 online training module for the latter.
- The PI trains the volunteers in safe field practices, when applicable. The IACUC strongly encourages the use of the UGA Field Safety Manual in informing all participants of safe field research practices.
- Volunteers are to be supervised at all times by the PI or senior AUP personnel while working with animals.
- The involvement of volunteering minors must be in accordance with UGA's Policy for Programs and Activities Serving Minors, and other applicable UGA policies that cover minors.