



Volunteer Policy for Field Studies

The UGA IACUC acknowledges that research activities often provide unparalleled opportunities for instruction at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Field research activities may require the collection of vertebrate animals that is facilitated by the use of student volunteers. The intent of this policy is to recognize, document, and facilitate the safe and effective use of volunteers in field research. This policy is not applicable to animal use protocols (AUP) approved for instructional use, as student participation is already integral to these protocols. This policy is intended to supplement but not supersede nor replace volunteer policies in place at the college or unit level. The UGA IACUC permits the use of student volunteers under the following conditions:

1. The use of graduate or undergraduate student volunteers, per this policy, is explicitly acknowledged in the approved research protocol.
2. The PI has sole discretion in allowing volunteers to participate in field collections and do so under the PI's supervision.
3. The volunteer students are not used in the systematic collection of research data. The use of students for the regular collection of research data requires their addition to the AUP as a member of the research team.
4. 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. The IACUC strongly encourages the use of online UGA IACUC 101 training for the later.
5. The PI trains the volunteer students in safe field practices. The IACUC strongly encourages the use of the UGA Field Safety Manual in informing all participants of safe field research practices.
6. Volunteers are to be supervised at all times while in the field.