

Legal Acquisition and Use of Wild-Caught Animals

AAALAC International recognizes that the legal framework for the use of wild-caught animals in science and education can vary with local, state, national, or international regulations. In countries where regulations or guidelines may not exist regarding acquisition and use of wild-caught animals, AAALAC International recommends that institutions consider appropriate AAALAC International Reference Resources (<https://www.aaalac.org/resources/reference-resources/> under “species-specific”) as baseline references. In all cases where the utilization of wild-caught animals is part of the accredited program, any applicable local and international regulations serve as the minimum standard, with guidance from the primary standards and Reference Resources utilized by AAALAC International supplementing these standards.

In situations where the need for non-purpose-bred animals is proposed and the justification for such use is not obvious from the study focus (e.g., research involving wild species), AAALAC International expects that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or Oversight Board (IACUC/OB) will require a thorough and robust justification for the use of non-purpose-bred animals for any breeding or research purposes. Additionally, the IACUC/OB must ensure species-appropriate management of these animals.

The collective professional judgment of the IACUC/OB, principal investigator (PI), and Attending Veterinarian must ensure that all applicable legal and regulatory requirements are met for the capture, acquisition, and use of wild-caught animals. The institution should have a process to maintain and ensure appropriate management of any required regulatory documents and permits for the use of wild-caught animals. The Council on Accreditation may request documentation (e.g., applicable permits, acquisition records) to verify the legal acquisition of animals.