

**INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**  
**St. Cloud State University**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF BIRD & REPTILE EMBRYOS**

The PHS Policy is applicable to activities that involve live vertebrate animals. While embryonic stages of bird and reptile species develop vertebrae prior to hatching, OLAW has interpreted 'live vertebrate animal' to apply to bird and reptiles ***only after hatching***. Thus, bird and reptile embryos are not covered by federal regulations and many universities do not regulate their use in research. However, SCSU has defined an animal to include "viable embryonated eggs of birds and reptiles at or beyond 75 percent of their gestational period." Any research conducted on embryonated eggs of birds or reptiles < 75 percent of their gestational period would not be subject to IACUC oversight. However, any unintentional hatches are subject to oversight by the IACUC. The following guidelines have been adopted specifically addressing bird and reptile embryos.

- Investigators using bird or reptile embryos should inform the IACUC using the sample form (below) or via a written document that contains the same information.
- If embryos will be used for research purposes before hatching, the research will not be subject to IACUC review, unless the embryonated eggs are at or beyond 75 percent of their gestational period.
- Unused embryos must be euthanized humanely according to AVMA guidelines.
- The IACUC recognizes that inadvertent hatching may occur. In such rare cases, AVMA approved euthanasia methods must be used. Investigators are asked to describe their method for humane euthanasia of inadvertent hatchlings.

**Notification of Use of Bird & Reptile Embryos**

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**1. Contact Information:**

*First Name*

*Last Name*

**Principal Investigator:**

**Department:**

**E-mail:**

**Phone:**

**2. Summary of Proposed Use:**

**A. Species:**

**B. Age(s) of Embryos:**

**C. Method of Disposing of Unused Embryos:**

**D. Method of Euthanasia in Cases of Inadvertent Hatching:**

**E. Location of Embryo Use:**

**3. Principal Investigator Signature:**

**Date:**