

Updated September 1, 2020

In the context of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 outbreak, Academic Affairs and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is providing guidance related to research involving vertebrate animals. This guidance is being issued to promote animal welfare, and to protect researchers and the community from risk of infection with COVID-19. This COVID-19 guidance is effective immediately for all research involving vertebrate animals.

- Research projects that involve vertebrate animal subjects can proceed, but any research activities that require face to face contact between research investigators should follow the safety plan established by the campus leadership outlined in the Return to Campus Plan; see <https://www.uwec.edu/coronavirus-updates/>. The procedures used to ensure face to face research is conducted safely should be included in the submitted IACUC protocol.
- All university faculty and staff who need to maintain live vertebrate animals for research and/or teaching must have specific plans to provide for the daily care of these animals while ensuring the safety of the caretakers. These plans, if not included in the original IACUC protocols, must be submitted to the IACUC chair in writing through email (janikds@uwec.edu).
- If investigators with active IACUC approved protocols find it necessary to modify the contents of their protocols during this period, they should consult with the IACUC chair about the need to submit any protocol amendments.
- Principal Investigators remain responsible for renewing or terminating IACUC-approved research protocols that might otherwise expire during this time.
- Study specific questions or questions about unique circumstances should be directed to the IACUC chair (janikds@uwec.edu).