

## STANDARDS FOR FREE-RANGING WILDLIFE

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With the 1985 and 1986 revisions of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), and the Public Health Service policy, greater attention was given to review of experimental methods, supplementing the previous emphasis on animal care. Where most Animal Care and Use Committees (ACUC) had only dealt with animals in a laboratory setting, these revisions brought the care of experimental animals studied in their native environment into focus. The National Science Foundation (NSF) received many requests for information from ACUC's on how to interpret current standards (i.e. the National Institutes of Health *Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals* and AWA). To address these questions, the NSF suggested that the professional societies of field biologists (American Society of Mammalogists, Ornithological Societies of America, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Fisheries Society and American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists) take the lead in developing standards for the vertebrate taxa. Once they were developed,<sup>1-4</sup> a workshop was held in 1987 to present and discuss the guidelines.<sup>6</sup> Previously, in 1984, the Canadian Council for Animal Care published guidelines on "Wild Vertebrates in the Field and in the Laboratory."<sup>5</sup> The Wildlife Society has developed guidelines for the "Proper Care and Use of Wildlife in Field Research" which are to be published in the near future.

### LITERATURE CITED

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