



## ***Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidelines and Policies***

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### **GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CHICKEN EMBRYOS**

The PHS Policy is applicable to activities that involve live vertebrate animals. While embryonic stages of avian species develop vertebrae prior to hatching, OLAW has interpreted 'live vertebrate animal' to apply to avians (e.g. chick embryos) **only after hatching**. Thus, avian embryos are not covered by federal regulations and many universities do not regulate their use in research. However, if an egg hatches intentionally or unintentionally they are subject to oversight by the IACUC. IACUC has adopted the following guidelines for avian embryos. The guidelines specifically address chicken embryos and can be adjusted for other avian species according to hatching time.

- Investigators using avian embryos should inform the IACUC using the sample form (below) or in 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 specifically requested by the investigator.
- Unused chicken embryos can be killed by hypothermia (typically by placing the eggs in a -20° C freezer).
- 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.

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### **Notification of Use of Avian Embryos**

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#### **1. Contact Information:**

**Principal Investigator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Summary of Proposed Use:**

**A. Avian Species:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**C. Method of Disposing of Unused Embryos:** (e.g. Freezing in the shell overnight at -20°C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**E. Location of Embryo Use:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Principal Investigator Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_