



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

CAPTURE OF WILDLIFE FOR PHYSIOLOGICAL OBSERVATION FOR <24 HOURS

Number: WILD 04

Version: 1.2

Date: 02/04/2012

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Date of Approval: 02/04/2012

Reviewed:

DATE	4/5/2017				
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Purpose: To assess the general health of any animal captured for short-term studies (<24 hours) to avoid use of animals in poor condition in experimental procedures. This standard operating procedure (SOP) provides parameters to be assessed for each animal captured before use in experiments.

Scope:

This standard operating procedure applies to all researchers who need to capture wildlife for short-term (< 24 hour) experiments.

Definition:

The Wildlife Assessment Form (Form 13) provided is to be used to assess the overall health of the animal before it is taken into captivity for short-term studies.

An overall assessment of the animal should be made, and use of animals in poor condition should be avoided for experimental purposes. Animals unsuitable for experiments should be released immediately. However, if the animal requires first aid, please use the Department of Parks and Wildlife SOP First Aid for animals available on its website. Animals captured with severe injuries/illness resulting in significant pain or distress, with little prospect of recovery, should be euthanized. See the DPAW website for guidance.

The form should be kept until after the completion of the project to ensure transparency should any adverse events occur.

Occupational Health and Safety

A fieldwork safety form should be routinely completed prior to undertaking fieldwork to capture animals. Considerations for safety analysis include:



- 1) Potential injury resulting from handling animals (bites, scratches, kicks)
- 2) Potential transfer of zoonoses

Further Reading

It is recommended that investigators are familiar with the following SOPs when proposing to undertake a study involving the capture of wildlife.

Department of Parks and Wildlife:

SOP 11.1 Transport and temporary holding of wildlife

SOP 14.2 First Aid for Animals

SOP 10.1 Animal handling/restraint using soft containment

See <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/96-monitoring/standards/99-standard-operating-procedures>

Accompanying Form: Wildlife Assessment Form – Form 13

