Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns for Wildlife Research Activities

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires that research institutions have "methods whereby deficiencies in animal care and treatment are reported, including deficiencies in animal care and treatment reported by any employee of the facility. No facility employee, Committee member, or laboratory personnel shall be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for reporting violations of any regulation or standards under the Act".

- Should NPS employees, any personnel participating in wildlife research, or members of the public:
    - witness or be involved in an incident that may impact the welfare of wildlife during **research** activities in NPS Units
    - have a concern about the conduct of personnel handling wildlife during **research** activities in NPS units
    - see animals that appear to be in pain/distress following use in **research** activities in NPS units

If animal(s) is/are in immediate danger, the complainant should work with local Park representatives and research personnel to resolve concerns

- If concerns are not addressed at the time of the events, a report can be made to NPS IACUC
    - Please include details such as date, Park unit, personnel involved, animals involved, actions raising animal welfare concerns
    - May be made in writing, by email, or by phone
    - May be anonymous* or provide contact information if complainant wants to receive report of IACUC findings

- IACUC Investigation
    - Investigation will be conducted by at least two members if concerns suggest noncompliance with AWA, IACUC approved animal use activity, and/or NPS IACUC policy
    - Report of findings (investigation or not, actions recommended) will be presented to IACUC at next scheduled meeting
    - Reports of investigative findings, with IACUC review and actions taken, will be sent to Institutional Official (IO) and will seek concurrence if suspension of activities recommended by IACUC
    - Reports of findings, with IACUC review and actions taken, available to complainant, if not anonymous

No retaliation for reporting animal welfare concerns will be tolerated

*anonymous—the NPS IACUC will make all attempts to protect complainant's anonymity but investigative process may require collection of personal contact information or additional incident details that might disclose/reveal the identity of the complainant or others involved

Report Animal Welfare Concerns to NPS IACUC at NPSIACUC@nps.gov, (970) 966-0756, or 1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80525