

Are you using VERTEBRATE ANIMALS?

FORM 5A & 5B QuickSheet

What Organisms are considered **Vertebrates**?

- Nonhuman vertebrates at hatching or birth.
- Live nonhuman vertebrate mammalian embryos or fetuses
- Hatched Fish and Tadpoles (amphibians)
- Bird and reptile eggs starting three days (72 hours) prior to hatching

In your **Research Plan**...

- Justify why Vertebrate Animals must be used in your study...
- Provide a **COMPLETE** description of how vertebrate animals will be used, including detailed methods and role of animals within the project.
- Discuss how pain, stress, and discomfort will be minimized for the vertebrates

On Form **5A**...

- Fill in **ALL** sections with full detail, including final disposition of animals
- Have a Veterinarian review and approve your Research Plan
- Ensure they fill out the **ENTIRE** boxed section, including all checkboxes
- Ensure they sign and date the form **BEFORE** experimentation
- **Form 5B** is filled out by a Qualified Scientist (see rules)

Vertebrate Studies at **Home, School, Zoos, Farm, and Ranch**

- Must be non-invasive and protect the vertebrate's well-being
- Can use agricultural, observational, behavioral, or nutritional standard practice appropriate for the setting
- Animals must be treated kindly and cared for properly

ALWAYS Check Complete ISEF VERTEBRATE ANIMAL Rules!

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/vertebrate-animals/>



Vertebrate Studies that are **EXEMPT** from SRC Pre-approval

OBSERVATIONAL studies where..

- There are no interactions between observer and animal, **AND**...
- There is no manipulation of the environment, **AND**...
- The study follows all State and Federal wildlife laws

Vertebrate Studies **MUST**...

- Have SRC Pre-approval **BEFORE** experimentation begins
- Follow **ALL** applicable laws
- Have the direct supervision of a Qualified Scientist or Direct Supervisor with appropriate training (except for Exempt Vertebrate studies)
- Be re-approved by the SRC team prior to experimentation if significant changes to initial research protocols are made
- Report and investigate any deaths to determine cause (incidental or due to experimentation)
- Discontinue and Fail to Qualify for competition if deaths are attributed to experimental practice
- Adhere to ISEF rules (Regulated Research Institution rules may differ)

It is **PROHIBITED** to...

- Cause more than momentary pain or distress to vertebrates
- Cause the death of any vertebrate subjects
- Cause more than 15% weight loss
- Conduct toxicity, pain, predatory, or stress-inducing studies on vertebrates
- Deny food or fluids to vertebrate animals for more than 18 hours
- Capture or release wild vertebrate animals **WITHOUT** appropriate pre-approval and state/federal permits
- Permit students to electroshock for fish or amphibians
- Allow students to euthanize vertebrate animals in any setting