

Office of Research Support and Compliance

Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

University of Texas at Austin Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee IACUC Policy # 1.3

Title	Use of Embryonated Eggs in Research, Teaching, or Testing		
Date of Approval	09-11-23	Version	2.0

Federal policy requires institutions have guidance in place that address the care or euthanasia of egg-laying vertebrate species that hatch unexpectedly while used in research, teaching, or testing. The intent of this policy is to describe procedures for notifying the IACUC of intent to use embryonated eggs of avian and other egg-laying vertebrate species, describe procedures to address inadvertently hatched eggs, and define when an IACUC protocol is required with embryonated eggs.

A full animal use protocol must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to starting work if embryonated eggs of avian and other egg-laying vertebrate species are used at or after 80% incubation time. Similarly, the use of offspring after hatching, including zebrafish larvae 4 days post fertilization, must receive prior IACUC review and approval via submission of an animal use protocol. All embryo and offspring euthanasia procedures must be described in the protocol and consistent with the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition.

Investigators must inform the UT Austin IACUC of their intent to use live embryonated eggs of avian and other egg-laying vertebrate species less than 80% incubation time by either

- 1) Completing the form, "Notice of Intent to Use Embryonated Eggs" (preferred method) or
- 2) Describing usage within an animal use protocol. If included in an animal use protocol, the questions in the form must be addressed.

If eggs inadvertently hatch, then the investigator must contact the ARC to arrange for humane euthanasia by trained ARC staff. The investigator must also contact the IACUC to report the hatching.

The investigator must notify the IACUC and Animal Resource Center (ARC) of the location of the incubator and place this posting on the door:

This incubator is used to hold fertilized [species] eggs, which are used for research purposes at an early stage prior to hatching. However, if unintended hatching should occur and live [species] are ever found inside, immediately contact the Animal Resources Center at 512-471-7534 to arrange for euthanasia by trained ARC staff.

The "Notice of Intent to Use Embryonated Eggs" form can be found on the [IACUC Documents, Forms & Materials webpage](#). It must be completed and submitted to IACUC@austin.utexas.edu and will be evaluated by designated member(s) of the IACUC.