

# University of Hawaii: IACUC Policies & Guidelines

## Policy 6 – Avian Embryos (6/15/17)

### Policy Statement and Scope

Avian embryos are not considered live animals by U.S. regulatory agencies. OLAW interprets the PHS Policy as applicable to their offspring, only after hatching, and egg laying adults. Avian embryos that hatch, intentionally or unintentionally, are live vertebrate animals, and regulated by the IACUC.

### Guidelines

Avian hatchlings and adults used for research, testing, teaching/training requires UH IACUC protocol review and approval.

Use of embryonic eggs of chickens or any other avian species requires an IACUC protocol exemption request. Humane euthanasia of embryonic eggs is required according to the following:

Carbon dioxide has successfully been applied for euthanasia of nonhatched eggs (pips). Concentrations necessary to achieve rapid euthanasia of pipped eggs or newly hatched chicks may be substantially greater (as high as 80% to 90%) than for adults of the same species. Embryonated eggs may be destroyed by prolonged exposure (20 minutes) to CO<sub>2</sub>, cooling (4 hours at 40°F), or freezing. In some cases inhaled anesthetics can be administered through the air cell at the large end of the egg. Egg addling (shaking, piercing, freezing, oiling) can also be used. Embryos in eggs that may have been opened may be decapitated.

Inadvertent hatchings may occur. The recommended method of euthanasia is CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia.

Other gases, cervical dislocation, decapitation, and blunt force trauma are allowed if the individual performing the procedure is properly trained and certified.

*Effective Date – June 15, 2017*

