

IACUC Approval Decision Guide

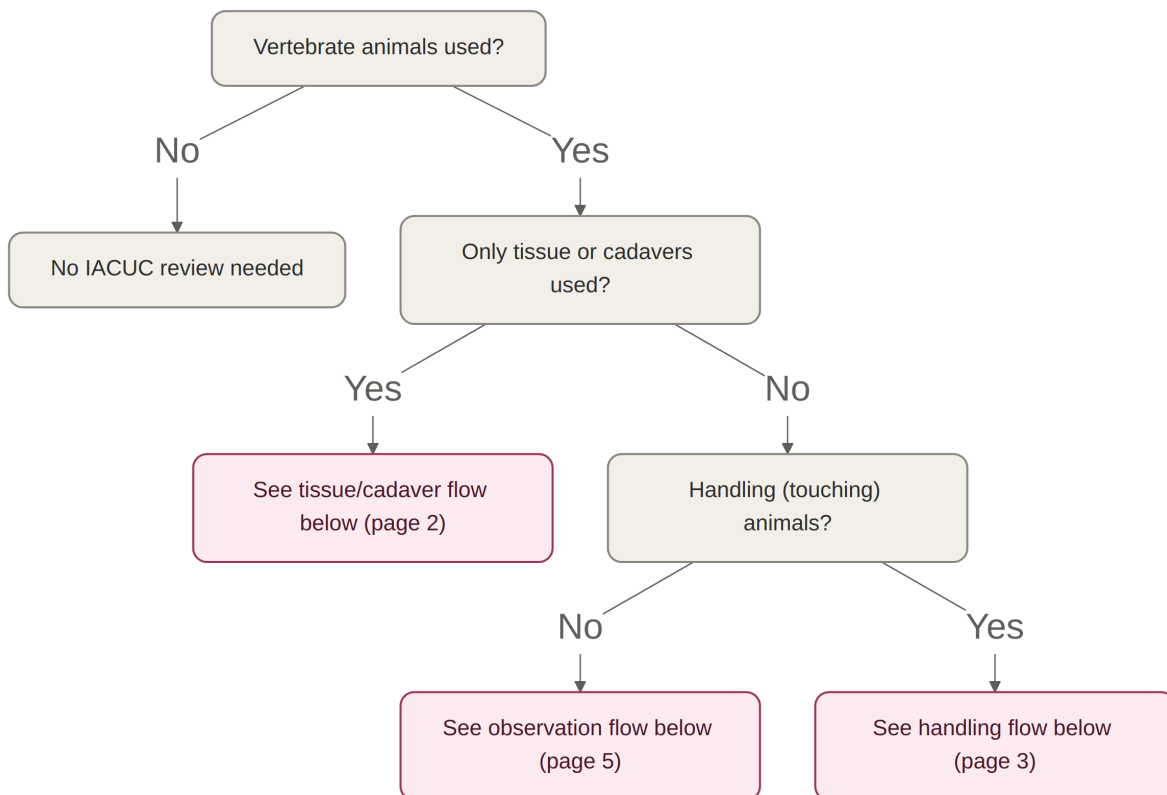
Ohio Wesleyan University — Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

A guide for students (and faculty!) planning projects that may involve animals

This guide walks through whether an independent study or research project needs IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) review ***before it begins***. It reflects the general framework set by the Animal Welfare Act and PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. If your project doesn't fit cleanly into one of the categories below, or you're unsure how a question applies to your specific situation, contact the OWU IACUC (iacuc@owu.edu) ***before starting***. It is much easier to resolve any issues in advance rather than after animal work has already begun.

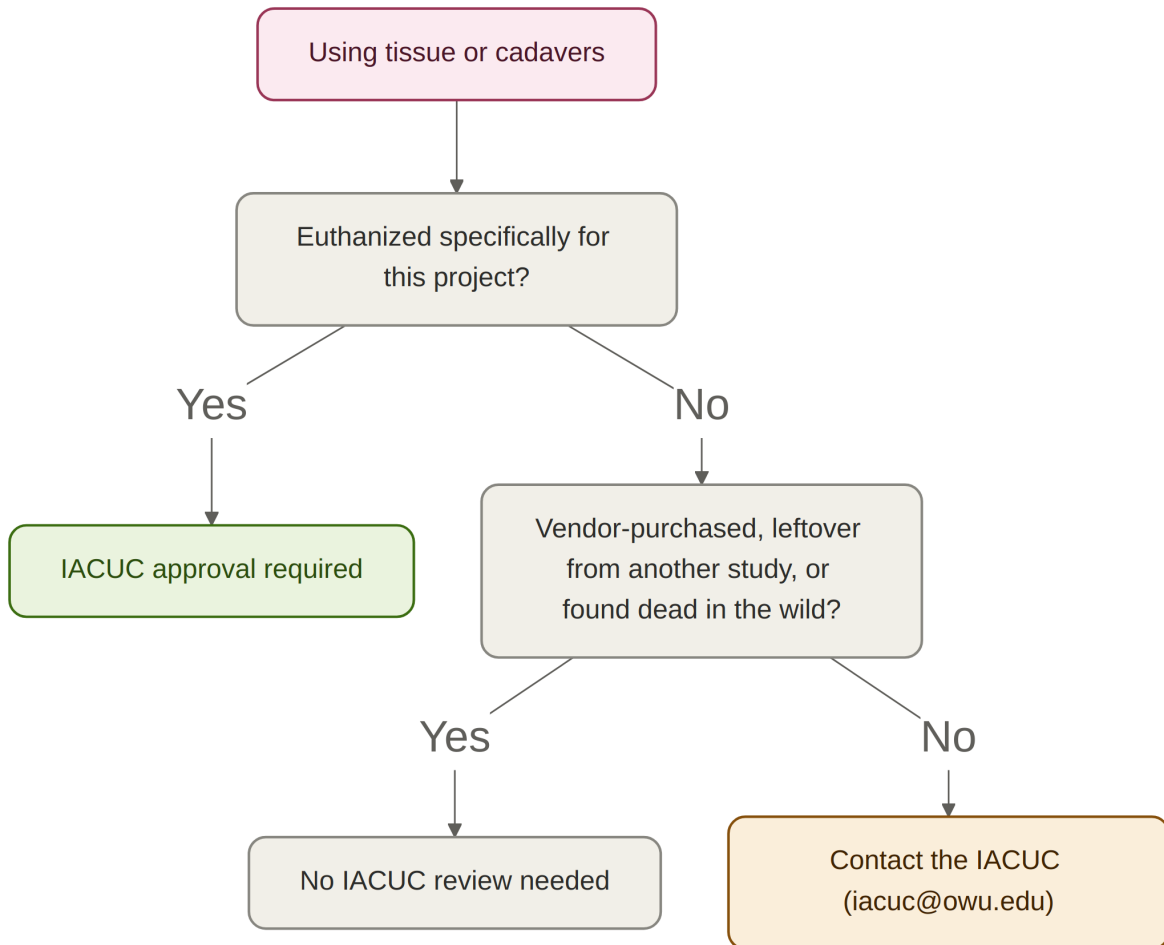
1. Start Here: Overview

Every project involving animals starts with three questions: whether it involves live vertebrate animals at all, whether it involves only tissue or cadavers rather than live animals, and whether it involves handling animals directly. Each “See ... flow below” box links to a more detailed set of questions later in this guide.



2. Using Tissue or Cadavers

If your project uses only tissue or cadavers — no live animal work — the key question is where that tissue came from. Please keep in mind that if you are collecting dead animals in the wild, some species are protected by state and federal regulations even after they are deceased. In those cases, IACUC approval may not be required, but you may need to seek state and/or federal collecting permits to maintain compliance.

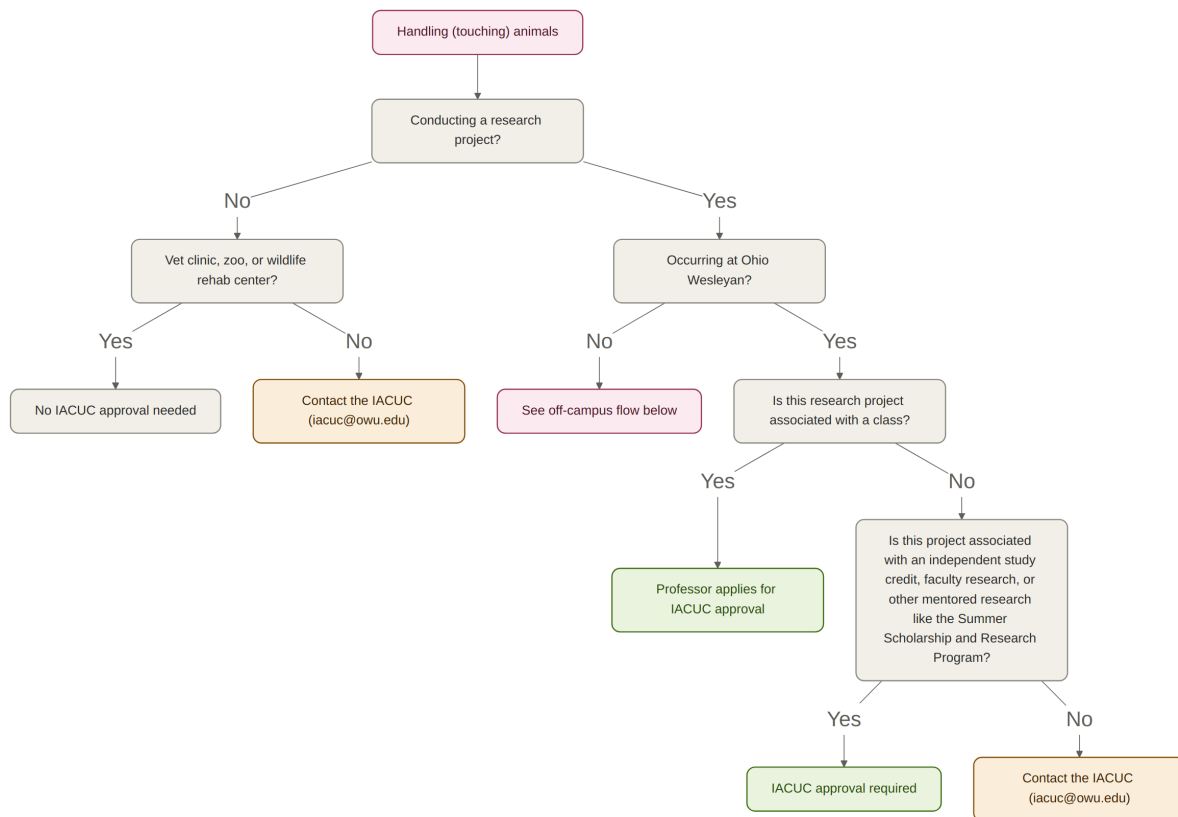


The distinction that matters

- Requires IACUC approval: an animal is euthanized specifically to obtain tissue or samples for your project. Both the justification for the research and the euthanasia method itself is part of what IACUC reviews.
- Does not require IACUC approval: tissue purchased from a commercial vendor, tissue left over from another already-approved study, or specimens collected from animals found dead in the wild.
- If your source doesn't clearly fit one of those three categories — for example, tissue donated by a veterinary clinic from a deceased patient — confirm with the IACUC rather than assuming it's exempt.

3. Handling (Touching) Animals

If your project involves handling live animals — capturing, restraining, tagging, or otherwise physically interacting with them (i.e., touching them) — the next questions depend on whether the work is a research project and where it takes place.

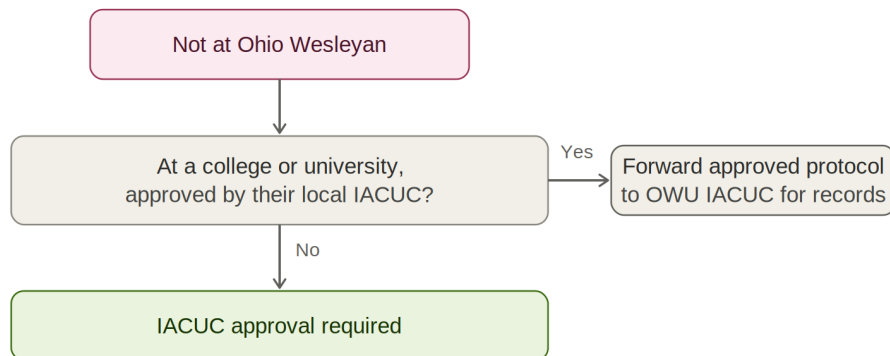


Key points

- Not a research project, and taking place at a veterinary clinic, zoo, or wildlife rehabilitation center: no IACUC approval needed.
- A research project taking place at Ohio Wesleyan: IACUC approval is required ***before work begins***.
- Anything that doesn't fit those patterns — non-research handling outside those settings, or research happening elsewhere — needs a closer look (see Sections 4 and 5).

4. Off-Campus Research

If your research involves handling animals but is not taking place at Ohio Wesleyan, check whether it's happening at another college or university under that institution's own IACUC approval.

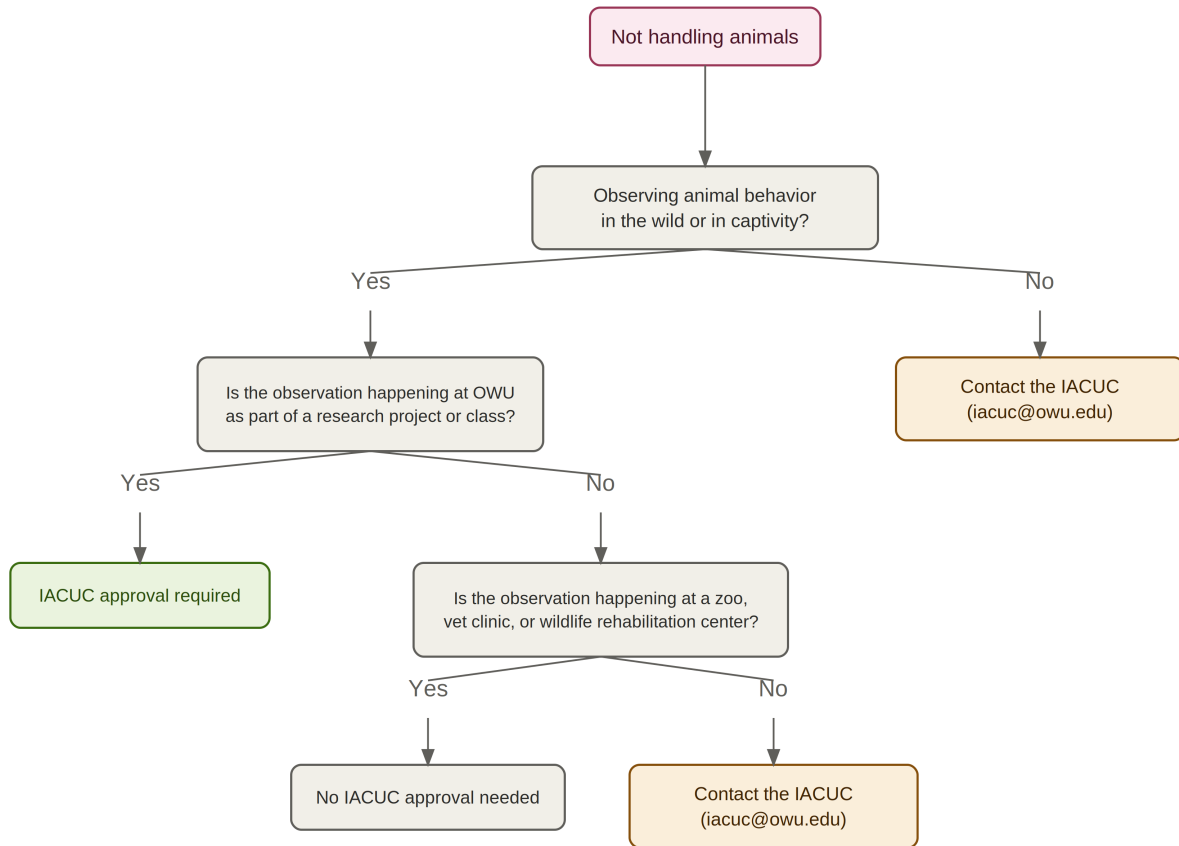


Key points

- Already approved by another institution's IACUC: a new OWU protocol is not required, but forward a copy of the approved protocol to the OWU IACUC for their records.
- Not at another college or university, or not covered by a local IACUC-approved protocol: OWU IACUC approval is required.

5. Observational Research

If a project involves live vertebrate animals but doesn't involve tissue/cadavers or direct handling, it likely involves observing animal behavior in the wild or in captivity.



Key points

- Observing animal behavior in the wild or in captivity: continue to the follow-up questions to determine whether IACUC approval is required.
- Observation happening at OWU as part of a research project or class: IACUC approval is required.
- Observation happening at a zoo, veterinary clinic, or wildlife rehabilitation center (not an OWU research project or class): IACUC approval is not required.
- If neither of those applies, something about the project doesn't fit the standard categories — contact the IACUC office (iacuc@owu.edu) with additional details so they can help determine what's needed.

*This guide is intended as a starting point for students and faculty, not a substitute for IACUC review. When in doubt, contact the Ohio Wesleyan University IACUC (iacuc@owu.edu) **before** beginning any project involving animals.*