

DPIRD – POLICY ON STUDIES OF WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY

A DPIRD Scientific Use Licence under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* will not be required for studies of wildlife or ecology limited to:

1. ANIMAL OBSERVATION WITHOUT INTERACTION.

There is no interaction with any animals and they are not affected by the conduct of the study.

Examples could include:

- Observing animals in their natural habitat or recording population numbers from a distance which does not disturb the animal in any way (that is, there is no close range inspection). For example, standing on a transport bridge counting birds on a lake.
- Collecting information regarding a target animal in a way that does not disturb the animals in question, or any other animals in the environment, in any way. For example, using an ultrasound detector to identify the presence of wild bats.
- Day-time and night-time aural surveys.

2. ANIMAL OBSERVATION WITH MINIMAL INTERACTION.

There may be interaction between licence holder and animals in the environment however, the interaction has no implications for animal welfare and does not cause any direct or indirect disturbance to the habitat that would alter behaviour of an animal to its detriment (e.g. walking, driving in places to which people have general access such as tracks, roads or previously cleared areas).

Examples of activities could include:

- The use of off-animal Audio Recording Units (ARU).
- The use of daytime cameras or video recording devices that do not involve the use of any flash, bait or lure and are not placed in close proximity to sensitive areas such as breeding or roosting sites (no modification of habitat is required).
- Collection of scats or shed feathers.
- Searching for and recording animal tracks/signs.
- Daytime surveys such as bird census.
- Call broadcast or playback outside of breeding season.
- Spotlighting on an ad hoc basis or for less than four consecutive nights.

A DPIRD Scientific Use Licence under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* is normally required for procedures such as:

3. ANIMAL OBSERVATION INVOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL MANIPULATION OR MODIFICATION.

The interaction between license holder and animals in the environment causes direct or indirect disturbance to the habitat that would alter behaviour of an animal to its detriment and may have implications on animal welfare.

Examples could include:

- Cameras which involve the use of baits, lures, flash or any modification of the environment that causes disruption to the habitat in question.
- Call broadcast or playback during breeding season.
- Repetitive spotlighting i.e. for more than 3-4 nights over successive weeks in the same location and targeting the same species or suite of species.
- Nest marking, nest excavation, egg counting. Active searching and animal tracking techniques such as burrow digging, rock turning, bark peeling or log splitting that causes disruption to the habitat in question.
- Surveying using any Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) e.g. Drones and Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPV).
- Monitoring or surveying of marine fauna at less than the minimum approach distances identified under the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.

4. MINOR INTERVENTION – ANIMAL IS CONSCIOUS.

Animal is subject to minor procedures which would not normally require anaesthesia or analgesia and which has animal welfare implications. Any pain is minor and analgesia unnecessary, although some distress may occur as a result of trapping or handling.

Examples could include:

- Injections, tagging, banding, tissue sampling, hair sampling, microchip or blood collection in a conscious animal
- Marking or tagging a conscious animal with a temporary mark e.g. paint, external marker, trimming hair
- Morphometric measurements in a conscious animal.
- Activities such as to fit an internal or external tracking device.
- Trapping and release as used in species monitoring, surveys or impact activities.

5. MINOR INTERVENTION – ANIMAL IS TEMPORARILY UNCONSCIOUS.

Animal is rendered unconscious in an appropriate manner, a minor procedure is carried out and the animal is allowed to recover.

Examples could include:

- Activities such as to fit an internal or external tracking device where anaesthesia is required.
- Any other procedures requiring sedation or anaesthesia.

Further advice regarding the above categories and classifications can be provided by the Scientific Licensing Unit at scientific.licensing@dpird.wa.gov.au .

A DPIRD Scientific Use Licence under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* is always required for procedures such as:

6a. PROCEDURES WHERE ANIMALS ARE TAKEN FROM THE WILD OR HELD IN CAPTIVITY FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME.

This includes overnight captivity for species identification.

6b. DEATH AS THE ENDPOINT.

This category applies where the death of the animal is a planned part of the procedure and does not include death by natural causes or accidents, humane intervention or euthanasia.

6c. PHYSIOLOGICAL CHALLENGE.

The animal's physiological or psychological processes are modified, e.g. the induction of metabolic disease.

6d. SURGICAL INTERVENTION.

A surgical procedure is carried out and the animal is allowed to recover with analgesia, e.g. implantation of a device such as an intra-abdominal radio-transmitter.

6e. PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMALS.

6f. HUMANE EUTHANASIA FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMENS.