Fauna Foundation Behavior Study Guidelines and Application

Guidelines

The primary mission of Fauna Foundation is to provide sanctuary for its nonhuman residents. Sanctuary is defined as a safe place for chimpanzees and other animals retired or rescued from use or abuse that provides excellent physical and psychosocial care within an environment designed to maximize benefit and minimize risks to the residents.

Behavioral studies at Fauna are allowed only when there is direct benefit to the residents, and potentially other animals held in captive environments. The work must be strictly non-invasive, observational, and must adhere to Fauna's guidelines that parallel, those set for the protection of human research subjects. Key to accepting any proposal or soliciting work of a certain nature is that the study must be in direct service to the chimpanzees and interventions to improve the care they are provided. Below are minimum criteria for what acceptable work must entail:

- Any protocols that occur cannot restrict, deprive, isolate, or harass the chimpanzees. A key criteria is that only studies which invite the chimpanzee(s) to participate of their own volition are accepted. As such, for example, a study that involves protocols following a chimpanzee despite his or her efforts to avoid or hide from the researcher. Examples of acceptable protocols would be enrichment, communicative conditions, or urine, fecal or hair from their nesting blankets collection.
- The chimpanzees must always be allowed at their sole discretion to terminate their participation in a study. For example if a chimpanzee repeatedly avoids the researcher during data collection, then that chimpanzee will no longer be available to participate despite possible implications to the study. Chimpanzees' reaction to the protocols are to be closely monitored by all staff. If senior animal care staff believes that the study is interfering with the chimpanzees' normal daily rhythm in a negative way or have received input from other staff to this effect, they too have the right to call an end to participation.
- Any study must have direct benefits for the chimpanzees at Fauna Foundation. Studies should utilize systematic approaches to understanding the needs of Fauna's chimpanzees and/or monkeys. Studies at Fauna are in service to interventions and caregivers to provide the best care possible of the chimpanzees and monkeys there. Ultimately, only studies which are a direct service to the residents meet the sanctuary's criteria for acceptance. This may take the form of better understanding of chimpanzees with psychological or other health needs, helping caregivers learn better how to interact with certain or all chimpanzees, identifying required changes to their physical environment which would benefit them as they age or group dynamics change, and other such examples.
- Any potential risks to Fauna, its staff (including volunteers) and its residents must be fully disclosed in writing including risks to privacy, dignity, and autonomy. Even minimal risk without clear benefit is unacceptable. Examples of studies with potential benefit which may impose some minimal risk would be attempting to access better ways to provide medication to a chimpanzee whose life depends on consistency of dosing, to encourage eating in a chimpanzee who has become anorexic, etc.
- The goal of any and all studies conducted at Fauna is to enhance the already excellent care the residents at Fauna receive by providing a body of information to review existing procedures and provide new or useful ways for improving caregiving at Fauna Foundation. This may or may not include publication or presentation of the information gathered. Any publication or presentation should include co-authorship with Fauna's director or a senior staff member approved to participate in the work. Fauna Foundation will own and retain a

copy of the data and the director must approve any and all possible venues for publication and or presentation.

- The number of hours of data collection in a day is to be determined by the chimpanzees involved. For example, initial protocols of no more than 3 10-minute trials in a day would be allowed. The frequency and length however would be shortened if a chimpanzee left or lengthened if a chimpanzee continued to show more sustained interest in the work.
- Data collection cannot occur during cleaning times, moving of chimpanzees from one enclosure or another, or during an illness or a terminal phase of life unless the study specifically involves the chimpanzees' behavior or needs during such times.
- The study must always fall within the daily routine of Fauna and should not impact the chimpanzees' day and life. Additionally the study must not greatly increase the staff workload. An additional per hour fee of $30 per hour would be applied if the work required more than a half hour of internal staff initial set up time.
- Any and all visiting investigators will sign a confidentiality agreement which clarifies that the work the do involving Fauna chimps both on or off Fauna property is the intellectual property of Fauna and that any and all information heard, gathered or observed during their stay at Fauna is strictly confidential.
- Under no circumstances can photographs be taken without the director's prior approval and written approval for a specific use. Protocols that require photographic data must spell out what will be photographed and how it will be used. In all circumstances the director shall have the right to rescind approval for use. Fauna would release the results of any studies only for the stated purpose of the proposal and only if it agreed with the proposed used of the information.
- All visiting investigators will sign a release form releasing Fauna from any and all liability for injury, theft or other hardship they sustained while on Fauna property. The visiting investigator will be provided with a Policy, Procedure and Safety Manual prior to their arrival. They are expected to read it, ask any questions they may have and then sign an affirmation that they have read, understand and will fully cooperate with all policies and procedures while their study is going on and in any possible future visits to Fauna.
- Fees are $200.00 per week or any part of a week, plus hourly staff time beyond an initial, one time, half hour set up.

Application

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Provide a brief description of the purpose(s) of the proposed study, including relevant background information (i.e., previous research findings) and the specific questions or hypotheses this study is designed to address.

RESEARCH PROCEDURES INVOLVED:

1. Using lay language, provide a complete description of:

- The study design
- Sequence and timing including dates of all steps of the study from data collection to data analysis in enough detail that reviewers can flowchart the entire process. Be sure to include such things as names of any and all materials to be used, anticipated time required to complete each procedure or phase of the work, approximate total time participants might anticipate being involved, etc.
- List and attach copies of all data collection instruments
- If your study involves multiple phases (e.g., pilot testing, screening, delivery of intervention), please provide requested information for each phase of the study.
- Describe staff needs, including what you would need for your initial half hour set up time.

2. Would the chimpanzees undergo these or similar experiences (psychological, educational, etc.) if they were not taking part in this research?

3. Will you make audio-visual or tape recordings or photographs of participants? If yes, please describe in detail including why they are needed in addition to written data collection.

4. Will you need access to the chimpanzees' medical, academic, or other personal records for screening or data collection purposes?

5. Do you have IACUC, IRB, or other institutional approval for your study? If so please provide the application and the letter of approval.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

1. Describe the nature and degree of risk of possible injury, stress, discomfort, disgrace, invasion of privacy, and other side effects associated with each of your study procedures.

2. Do you anticipate that individual participants can reliably expect a direct benefit from study procedures?

3. Describe the anticipated benefits for the chimpanzees of Fauna Foundation?

4. Explain how the anticipated benefits of this project outweigh the anticipated risks associated with your study procedures.

5. Will you retain subjects' direct identifiers or a link between identifiers and study code numbers after the data collection is complete? If yes, explain why this is necessary.

6. Describe how you will protect study data against disclosure to the public or to other researchers or non-researchers (e.g., coded master list stored separate from data, locked cabinet or office, restricted computer, etc.).

7. Provide the estimated month/year you plan to de-link the study data from direct subject identifiers. If there is no plan to do so, explain why.

8. Explain who—other than members of the research team—will have access to your data (e.g., study sponsors (if funded research), faculty sponsor, government agencies, Internet Survey sites like SurveyMonkey). In each case, specify whether they will have access to study data with identifiers or only to coded data with no access to the identifying study code.

9. Clarify each and any purpose for which you seek approval to use the data beyond the direct benefit to the Fauna chimpanzees.

9. Do you anticipate any circumstances under which you might be obliged or compelled to disclose data that could be linked with an individual or group?

10. Do you anticipate using the raw data from this study for other studies in the future?

11. Describe plans to disseminate the findings.