

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Use of Fertilized Non-Mammalian Embryos</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b>	2019-060
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
<b>Policy Contact:</b> <b>Designation:</b> <b>E-Mail:</b>	Donald E. Walters, Ph.D. Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee <a href="mailto:dewalters@westernu.edu">dewalters@westernu.edu</a>
<b>Approval Date:</b>	5/8/19
<b>Reviewed:</b>	8/12/2020 (No changes)
<b>Revised:</b>	

**Purpose of Policy:** To ensure that research or teaching activities involving vertebrate animals at WesternU owned or operated facilities are performed in accordance with all applicable regulations, guidelines and WesternU policies regardless of an animal’s stage of development.

**Policy Information:** Included in the [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) is the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training. WesternU’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) shall adhere to these principles when reviewing requests to use vertebrate animals in research or teaching at WesternU owned or operated facilities.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) [Frequently Asked Questions](#) states “Although avian and other egg-laying vertebrate species develop backbones prior to hatching, OLAW interprets the PHS Policy as applicable to their offspring only after hatching”. This includes larval forms of fish and amphibians.

**Policy:** Although imprecise, zebrafish larvae typically hatch three days post-fertilization and, therefore, IACUC approval is only required for zebrafish embryos after the third day post-fertilization. IACUC approval is not required for research or teaching activities involving embryos of non-zebrafish, non-mammalian, oviparous (egg-laying) species **UNLESS** embryos will be permitted to hatch or if they are extracted from live-bearing species. IACUC approval is also required if adult species will be maintained for the purpose of laying or fertilizing eggs. Additional requirements may be implemented for the use of embryos from exotic, endangered or restricted animal species. The use of embryos treated with biohazardous agents, recombinant DNA, carcinogens or radioisotopes must first be approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) or other oversight committees, respectively, prior to approval by the IACUC.