

AQUARIUM OF NAIGARA ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE (AWC) FORM B **APPLICATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE REVIEW**

INTRODUCTION

In order for your project to gain AWC approval, the Committee must determine that it is an ethically acceptable endeavor. The extent of detail needed depends on the nature of the project. Innocuous procedures are ordinarily readily acceptable and need little justification; invasive or noxious treatments require extensive documentation and justification.

The AWC membership includes at least one scientist, veterinarian, lay person, and member from outside the Aquarium. The information you provide should be intelligible to this mixed audience, but that does not mean you should gloss over details when they are pertinent. You are encouraged to consult with the AWC Chair as you prepare your application for guidance regarding the level of detail needed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

In determining if your project is an acceptable endeavor, the AWC will perform a cost/benefit analysis in the ethical sense. That is, the Committee will judge the relative weight of the costs to be borne by your subjects against the benefit to be obtained by the increase in knowledge to be derived as a result of your study. The present document (Form B) primarily focuses on the potential risks to your subjects. It is presumed that this Application will be appended to Form A -- your Application to Conduct Research Project -- and that you will have provided a sufficiently significant experimental question in that document to justify whatever potential risks are to be described here.

To complete Form B, provide information on each of the following topics. Expand each section as needed to provide the relevant detail.

1. TITLE OF PROJECT

2. **PERSONNEL:** Provide the names, titles and institutional affiliation of each person involved. For each individual, provide evidence that they have, or will have, received suitable training as described in the Regulations and Expectations presented in the Application Guidelines. Provide details on the nature and extent to which assistants will be supervised in the conduct of this project.
3. **PROCEDURAL OUTLINE:** In outline form, list each procedural step which may present an impact of any type on your animal subjects. Use titles or brief phrases to refer to each procedural step and align them to indicate the temporal sequence of these steps in the course of your investigation. If needed, also provide sufficient reference to risk-free steps to make your temporal outline clear and accurate.
4. **PROCEDURAL DETAILS:** Detail each procedural step which may have an impact on your subjects, with special attention to any potential source of harm and/or distress. Do not attempt to gloss over or understate the potential distress. You are supposed to accurately assess it here having justified in Form A earlier. Include details on any procedural step in which animals are to be handled or moved, any step in which the Aquarium's ordinary husbandry routine is to be altered, and/or any step involving biological or psychological treatments of any type. Also describe in detail all steps you will take to minimize the pain/distress of your subjects. Speculate about possible worst-case scenarios and explain how you will handle them. If your subjects are to die as a consequence of your investigation, detail the method of euthanasia. If the animals are alive at the end of your procedure, explain their ultimate disposition.
5. **ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING:** Document how, and how often, your subjects will be monitored for health problems.

6. **DECLARTIONS:** In the conduct of animal research, one is obliged to consider alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress. Additionally, we must carefully consider the necessity of the particular animal subjects chosen to study. When possible, one should substitute non-animals for animals, invertebrates for vertebrates, and non-mammals for mammals. Provide justification for the species and numbers of animals to be used, and give an accounting of your consideration of alternative subjects and alternative procedures. Explain how you determined that alternatives are not available or are inappropriate.
7. **DUPLICATION:** Scientific research with animals may not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments. Indicate what type of literature search was used to prevent unnecessary duplication of previous research.
8. **DECLARATION:** I certify that the animals to be used in this study will be used in accordance with regulations and standards as promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Public Health Service, the New York State Department of Health, and the Niagara Aquarium Foundation. I certify that any pain or discomfort to the subjects will be limited to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of this scientifically-justified project. To the best of my knowledge, the studies proposed do not unnecessarily duplicate any other in the published literature. I certify that the uses of non-animal-based procedures and of less invasive, alternative techniques have been considered. I have concluded that the species, numbers and procedures to be used are the most appropriate for the proposed activity.

Signature of Principal Investigator _____ Date: _____