

## Animal Program Policy

Title: **Policy on live embryonated eggs of egg-laying vertebrate species**  
Date Created: 11/19/2025  
Date Reviewed: 11/19/2025

### Chick Embryos

Chicken embryos less than 15 days of gestation are not considered live animals and their use is not subject to IACUC review. The planned use of older embryos requires submission of an IACUC protocol.

Investigators planning to use chicken embryos of 15 days of age or younger should provide the following information to the IACUC.

- 1) Justification for the use of embryos.
- 2) A statement of the age of embryos that will be used.
- 3) Where the embryos will be used and who will work with them.
- 4) Where the eggs will be obtained.
- 5) Euthanasia method for embryos  $\leq 15$  gestation. (Hypothermia (-20°C for 4 hours) is recommended).
- 6) Euthanasia method for embryos > 15 days gestation – hatching. (Decapitation recommended).
- 7) Euthanasia method for hatched embryos (Decapitation or CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia recommended. CO<sub>2</sub> requires secondary confirmation of death).
- 8) A statement that the IACUC will be informed if any embryos accidentally hatch.

### References:

Boston University <https://www.bu.edu/research/forms-policies/iacuc-use-of-live-embryonated-eggs-of-egg-laying-vertebrate-species/>

Cal Poly Pomona <https://www.cpp.edu/research/research-compliance/iacuc/docs/iacuc-guidelines-on-euthanasia-of-chicken-and-embryos.pdf>

Wayne State <https://research.wayne.edu/iacuc/avianembryospolicy>

Baylor University [https://resources.research.baylor.edu/sites/g/files/ecbvkj1006/files/2025-03/iacuc-23\\_use\\_of\\_embryonated\\_avian\\_eggs.pdf](https://resources.research.baylor.edu/sites/g/files/ecbvkj1006/files/2025-03/iacuc-23_use_of_embryonated_avian_eggs.pdf)