



From: Miami University – ORI # 31-R-0029 (Cust ID 235).
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To: USDA APHIS - Animal Care
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Building B, 3W11
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

November 21, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

For this year, we are reporting 110 prairie voles although this is the maximum population estimate (it varied through the year) because they are "housed" in two 1/4 acre field enclosure/exclosures. The estimate is based on mark-and-recapture methods.

Exceptions : For research conducted in large field based enclosures we have continued the exception to policy for some aspects of the AWA regarding housing of the prairie voles. The outdoor enclosures are meant to simulate natural field conditions. This simulation makes relatively impossible some of the aspects of monitoring animal welfare that can be accomplished for other holding facility conditions. Daily checks consist of checking the condition of the enclosure structure and general interior condition of the 1/4 acre fields as well as observations for predators. When animals or nests are observed, the conditions are noted; any observations of animal in distress will be noted along with issues with the integrity of the enclosures and habitat. Integrity of the enclosure to be restored immediately; if adverse events are observed these will be reported to the IACUC and protocol PI notified. During research activities (sampling, live trapping etc.), the animals are observed for condition and the population size estimated to ensure overpopulation does not occur outside of IACUC approved parameters. These exceptions were discussed with our VMO and HQ representatives in October of 2020.

Respectfully,

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Susan McDowell, PhD
Institutional Official
Vice President for Research