Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy #17
Use of Fertilized and Embryonated Avian Eggs

In concurrence with
TTUHSC El Paso Assurance #D19-01056
and Federal Regulations and Guidelines

Any investigator intending to use fertilized and embryonated avian eggs/embryos (i.e. chicken eggs and other avian species where eggs are commercially available) before day 15 of incubation need not have IACUC approval provided that the following criteria are met:

1. The PI must submit a letter of intent to the IACUC, briefly stating what procedures will be performed on the embryonated eggs.

2. The letter must state that the embryonated eggs will be used before day 15.

3. The letter must state a detailed plan for veterinary staff intervention in the event that any egg inadvertently hatches.

4. The letter must state that veterinary staff assistance will be sought for humane euthanasia of any embryo that reaches day 15 of development or beyond.

5. The letter must state that the IACUC Chair will be notified when eggs are discovered that have reached day 15 of development and/or have inadvertently hatched, in order to determine if corrective action is required.

6. The letter of intent will be reviewed by the Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC) staff and the Attending Veterinarian (AV). Clearance to engage in the proposed activities will be provided to the PI by the LARC staff after determining that IACUC approval is not required for the proposed activities. The PI must obtain this clearance prior to engaging in the proposed activities.

7. Once clearance has been provided the PI is responsible for submitting an updated form to the LARC staff regarding any planned changes prior to implementation.

Research, testing, teaching or training activities that require the use of embryonated avian eggs from Day 15 of development and beyond require IACUC protocol review and approval.

Use of embryonated eggs of avian species that are to be field-gathered (i.e., field studies) must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC.