Standard Operating Procedures for Obtaining Donated Endothermic Vertebrate Tissues for Use in Anthropological and Archeological Experimentation and Instruction

Overview and Statement of Purpose

Herein, we propose Standard Operating Procedures for Obtaining Endothermic Vertebrate carcasses/tissues for use in Anthropological and Archeological Experimentation and Instruction. Such uses include, but are not limited to, investigations into prehistoric diets; body composition, proportion and morphology of prehistoric prey items; prehistoric projectile performance and penetration; prehistoric tool performance. Such studies will require the use the carcasses of endothermic vertebrates. However, at no point will any endothermic vertebrates of any kind be collected exclusively or explicitly for use in such studies. Rather, researchers will seek out donors who, for legal documented reasons unrelated to the proposed research, are sampling taxa which are also central to the proposed research and who are willing to donate these animals to Washington College and the researchers for research or instructional purposes. The policies and procedures for identifying, acknowledging, verifying and entering into collaboration with potential donors are described below.

Standard Operating Procedures

The following procedures and policies will be followed while obtaining anthropological and archeological experimentation –

- 1. No animals will be collected exclusively for this research. Instead, all animals will be collected from donors who are legally collecting (*i.e.* hunting or trapping) animals as part of a management regime both endorsed by and approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or other appropriate governing body. Such management regimes include, but are not limited to, removal of varmint (*i.e.* pest) species, thinning of herds of nuisance deer, and legal, game hunting.
- 2. Propsective donors will be sought out by word-of-mouth, by approaching local sportsman's groups and through discussions with local land-owners with whom we have existing research collaborations.
- 3. Donors will be required to divulge proof of permission to collect animals as granted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or other appropriate governing body. Such proof is to include expressed written consent from these organizations and all required permits (*e.g.* hunting, trapping or scientific collection permit). The researchers will not enter into collaboration with from anyone unable to show such evidence of licensure and sanction.
- 4. Once voicing initial interest in collaborating with the researchers, all donors will be given briefing/debriefing forms clearly stating a) the purpose of the study; b) a description of the study. c) the role of the donor, and d) the entirety of the Standard Operating Procedures for Obtaining Endothermic Vertebrates for Use in Anthropological and Archeological Experimentation.
- 5. After reading the briefing/debriefing forms and agreeing to collaborator with the researchers, donors will be given a consent form / memorandum of understanding to sign. This form will include all of the information contained in the aforementioned briefing/debriefing form.

Additionally, this form and will require that the donor, though his or her signature, acknowledge that all animals are to be collected as part of a management regime both endorsed by and approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or other appropriate governing body collected and that no animals are to be collected exclusively for donations. The researchers will not enter into collaboration with from anyone who fails to or refuses to sign this form.

- 6. Animals will be collected within the specific, legal guidelines outlined in the individual permits for each donor. These will very based on the species being collected and he time of year, and will b determined solely by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or other appropriate governing body that oversees the donor's permit. As neither Washington College not the researchers is overseeing the harvesting of donor animals, neither can exert say, sway or influence over the legal means by which animals are taken.
- 7. As neither the researchers nor Washington College will be responsible for the collection the researchers need not, but may, be present during the collection of animals.
- 8. If not present during the collection of animals, the researchers will take custody of any donated carcasses upon notification by the donors.
- 9. Donors will not be compensated for their contributions.
- 10. A complete list of active donors will be available to the Washington College Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee upon request.

Additional Considerations

- 1. These procedures and policies will be used to obtain the carcasses of endothermic vertebrate for the use in anthropological and archeological experimentation. Though proposed experiments will not require the use of live animals nor will any animals be captured, handled or killed for the proposed research, the researchers will nevertheless submit a completed Washington College Animal Care and Use Committee research protocol prior to beginning any research.
- 2. Any public presentation of data stemming from experimentation, including oral and poster presentation and publications will openly acknowledge those individuals who donated the carcasses for use in the study and will include a statement describing that the donated animals were not sacrificed for research, but rather, were taken for another primary purpose (see above).
- 3. These procedures and policies will be used to obtain the carcasses of endothermic vertebrate for the use in anthropological and archeological experimentation. Should non-endothermic vertebrates (*i.e.* reptiles, amphibians and / or fish) or invertebrate animals be required for experimentation, they will be collected under scientific collecting permits from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and subject to other standard operating procedures pending the approval of the Washington College Institutional Animal Care and use Committee