1. **Purpose:** The policy describes IACUC procedures for safe and healthful procurement and transportation of research, exhibition and teaching use of vertebrate animals, in compliance with Public Health Service (PHS) requirements.

2. **Responsibility/Responsible Individuals:**
   2.1. All Research Faculty, Staff and Students; Facility Managers and Curators

3. **Procedure:** *(Procedure subtitles may be added as needed to clearly describe)*

   3.1. Animal Procurement
   
   3.1.1. Animal procurement will be through USDA licensed vendors or done under current appropriate state and/or federal permitting for wild caught animals.
   
   3.1.2. Sufficient facilities and expertise are confirmed prior to procurement
   
   3.1.3. Procurement must be linked to an approved IACUC protocol or IACUC monitored exhibit.
   
   3.1.4. The receiving facility must have sufficient advanced notice of intended shipment to assure adequate receiving facilities and appropriate staff to receive shipments. Shipping plans must be documented in writing and copied to the Facility Manager or Curator and IACUC administration (irb@georgiasouthern.edu).
   
   3.1.5. Population status of wildlife species will be considered prior to procurement as part of the IACUC protocol process
   
   3.1.6. Appropriate records will be maintained on animal acquisition in animal facility acquiring the animals. Field studies where animals are held for less than 12 hours do not require acquisition records.
   
   3.1.7. Animals must be physically separated by species during transport and interim housing to prevent interspecies disease transmission and to eliminate anxiety and possible physiological and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict. Once in the animal care facility, standard animal care procedures or protocol specified procedures will be used to house and maintain animals.
   
   3.1.8. Quarantined animals from different shipments will be handled separately or physically separated.
   
   3.1.9. All vertebrate animal species will be allowed to stabilize and acclimate to the animal housing facility and to recover from shipping stress prior to use in any survival procedure requiring anesthesia. The length of time, location and requirements for acclimation is at the digression of the Attending Veterinarian and the animal facility manager.
   
   3.1.10. Animals intended for use in approved non-survival surgery or terminal use protocols are not required to have a minimum conditioning period. However, it is strongly recommended that they receive an appropriate acclimation period prior to utilization in a research protocol.
3.1.11. All vertebrate animals will be housed in animal rooms based on species, health monitoring and/or disease surveillance history. When possible, animals from a single source will be housed separately from other animals until health status can be evaluated. Animals placed in quarantine require veterinary approval for use while in quarantine.

3.1.12. Diagnostic resources are available for preventive health program through the GSU attending veterinarian.

3.1.13. Animals procured from USDA licensed vendors require no quarantine or testing as long as animals are delivered directly into animal rooms and have appropriate documentation from the vendor. However, animals may be quarantined at the discretion of the Animal Care Facility Manager or Curator to assure animal and facility well-being.

3.1.14. Isolation or quarantine of wild-trapped vertebrate animals may be required by protocol or to assure facility health and welfare. The requirement for isolation/quarantine, length of time, location, and requirements for treatments and testing is at the discretion of the IACUC with input from the IACUC veterinarian and the Animal Care Facility Manager or Curator.

3.2. General Animal Transportation

3.2.1. Where research animals are transported, methods for transporting animals must be described in the animal research protocol and reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

3.2.2. When transporting animals in public areas in academic buildings, cages and carts must be draped with cloth or other covering to ensure animals and cages are completely shielded from public view. Wildlife exhibit animals will be transported in a manner best suited to reduce the stress on the animal without disrupting the educational atmosphere of presentations.

3.2.3. Animals must be transported within climate-controlled vehicles when the outside temperature is below 50°F or above 85°F. The heating/cooling system of the vehicle must maintain the inside temperature of the vehicle within this range (50°F to 85°F).

3.2.4. All animals must be transported in a species-appropriate container. The container must be sanitizable or disposable and must have no floor openings that may injure the animal. It must provide a secure environment that is escape proof, has a solid floor, and be free of sharp edges that could possibly injure the animal.

3.2.5. Animal transportation must meet all appropriate animal transportation regulations, including international requirements related to international field studies.
3.2.6. Transportation will be planned to ensure safety, security and minimize risk to the animals. Movement of animals is planned to minimize transit time and deliveries are planned to ensure receiving personnel are available.

3.3. Transportation of Wildlife Center Animals

3.3.1. Transporting wildlife to off-site programs or while on site will be done in the appropriate boxes.

3.3.2. Transport boxes will be kept in a cool, shaded area while in use to prevent overheating to the animals.

3.3.3. If the animals are to be left in a vehicle for any period of time, the vehicle must be parked in the shade with the windows rolled down and a scheduled health check made to assure animals do not overheat. If there is inadequate shade, the vehicle must be left running with the A/C on.

3.3.4. The containers will be secured and stable at all times.

3.3.5. Specific Guidelines

3.4. Birds will be transported in the giant hoods (box hoods, bird boxes). There are several sizes of hoods to accommodate the size of the bird.

3.4.1. If the birds head touches the top of the box, the box is too small.

3.4.2. Equipment (swivels, clips, leashes) should be left on the birds while they are in the boxes. If clips are used, unclip one clip from a jess, leave the other attached.

3.4.3. The doors are to remain locked until the birds are ready to be used.

3.5. Reptiles will be transported in the reptile boxes.

3.5.1. Use the appropriate size box for the reptile.

3.5.2. Make sure there is substrate in the box. (paper, aspen, mulch)

3.5.3. The doors are to remain secured until the reptiles are ready to be used.

3.6. Amphibians will be transported in the appropriate boxes.

3.6.1. Keep the substrate moist at all times.

3.6.2. The containers do not have locks on them; check often to make sure they are secure.

3.7. Mammals will be transported in the animal crates that are assigned to them.

3.7.1. Make sure there is adequate substrate in the boxes to absorb waste from the animal.

3.7.2. Take a water bottle or dishes to supply the mammals with water and food as needed.

4. If the animals will be kept in the transport boxes for extended periods, access to water must be supplied at appropriate intervals but not less than once per day.

5. References

5.1. Reserved