

Please keep the following in mind when considering research with FCP cats

1. IACUC approval of a research project does not mean that cats are available.
2. Before writing an IACUC protocol, it is recommended that you meet with FCP officers, FCP advisors and the FCP coordinator.
3. It also is advised that you attend a FCP “Spay Day” to better understand the procedures.
4. Given the high demand for these cats, studies will be assigned on a “first-come first-serve” basis.
5. FCP is managed by volunteers; if your project is expected to delay procedures, you must provide the personnel to cover the extra time.
6. Be familiar with the FCP IACUC approved protocol. If your research requires any changes, this must be in your protocol.
7. All research specific supplies (needles, syringes, extra sedative if longer sedation is required, etc.) must be provided by the researchers.
8. Unless agreed with the FCP officers, all research data/sample collections must be performed by the research team. Collecting samples is not part of the FCP IACUC approved protocol.
9. Training in procedures should be avoided on “Spay Day”.

Prior to starting a study with FCP cats

1. A meeting **MUST** be scheduled with the FCP officers, FCP faculty advisors and/or FCP research coordinator and a plan on how best to coordinate the research with “spay day” developed and agreed upon. See “questions to address”.
2. A copy of the approved IACUC protocol must be supplied to FCP.
3. Researchers must sign a waiver for working with feral cats; FCP can provide a template.
4. The PI must provide a brief summary of the study (see below) that can be distributed to FCP volunteers. Key points to address are: contribution of the study to human or animal health; and advantages of the research to FCP.

Questions to address for coordinating research

1. Does the animal need to be unconscious?
2. Who does your team consist of? Is your team willing to stay for the full spay day, and if not, what is your plan for the day?
3. Do you have endpoint criteria, and are you willing to allow members of the Feral Cat Project Team forfeit your study if we deem necessary?
4. How many procedures and cats (male or female) will be needed in order to finish your project?
5. Can your research be conducted any time before or after spay day to minimize stress during spay days themselves?