

Field research : Training and the 3Rs

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Central Science Laboratory

“Assess, protect, respond”



CSL is an Executive Agency of Defra established in 1992 with a staff of approximately 700.



Wildlife studies by CSL



Wildlife Management and Animal Welfare Team

- Development of non-invasive techniques to monitor welfare
- Development of novel non-lethal wildlife management techniques
- Assessing welfare implications of a range of human animal interactions
- Directing the CSL Ethical Review Process



Training courses in the UK for animal researchers

Animal Scientific Procedures Act – licence must be gained

Accredited courses must include:

- Recognition of pain and distress
- Humane killing
- Animal handling
- Health and Safety
- Local procedures
- Husbandry
- Disease/health monitoring
- Minor procedures
- Introduction to anaesthesia



34 courses available (laboratory/ farm animals)



What do you need to know to carry out field studies?

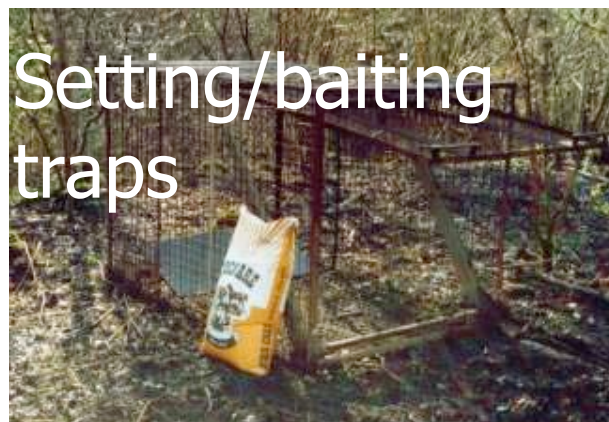
legislation breeding seasons
risk assessments public
site permission blood sampling
equipment humane killing
trapping marking release criteria
local interest groups handling/sexing
non-targets anaesthesia



Practical sessions/workshops



Handling videos



Setting/baiting traps



Marking techniques



Discussions: Welfare and ethics

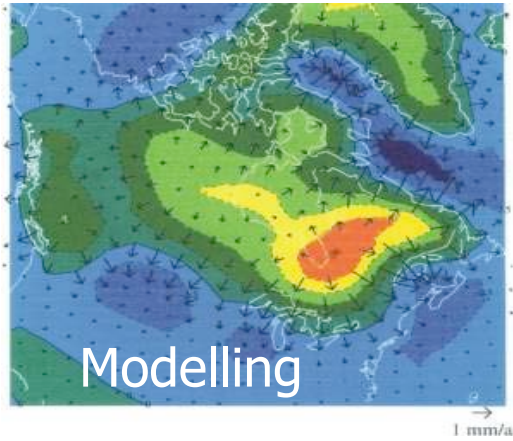
Duty of care

Practical scenarios:

- To treat or not to treat?
- Expect the unexpected – what could go wrong?
- Care of others (not just target)



Replacement



Hair traps



Faecal analysis

Reducing numbers in the field?

- Get the sample size right:
 - Don't use more than you need
 - Don't use fewer than you need
- How many are you going to catch?
- If bad weather will this affect numbers?
- Do you need just one gender?
- Do you need just adults?
- Public/animal disturbance
- Can you carry out more than one trial?



Reduction



Refinement: Non-invasive methods



Saliva sampling

Bait marking



Urine sampling



Species specific baiting

Refinement : “Best practice



Where to trap (eg away from sett)

When not to trap

Frequency of checking

Reducing injuries (eg mesh size)

Reducing stress (eg covering)

Reducing non-targets



CSL Wildlife training course

- Run in conjunction with University of York
- 3 day course (approx. £400)
- 2-3 X a year (depending on interest)
- 15 maximum participants
- Both naïve and experienced

- *Feedback from course in April 08*
- Recommended/very informative/enjoyable/fully met needs
- More practical sessions
- Include ectotherms

Next course Oct 20-22 2008





3Rs and Wildlife: 1 day workshop
Central Science Laboratory, York, UK
Thurs Oct 2nd 2008

**Free Registration but limited places
available. Please contact holo@csi.gov.uk**

Funded by the UK's National Centre for 3Rs
<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/>