

## Research Guidelines

**Purpose:** This document outlines general principles to follow when designing a research project to be conducted at LCF and provides an overview of conditions researchers should aim to meet while developing their study.

**Research Conditions:** LCF facilities and lemur populations are better suited for certain types of projects than others. Some research projects are not possible because they require conditions which LCF cannot accommodate. Prospective students and researchers should inquire at [research@lemurreserve.org](mailto:research@lemurreserve.org) whether or not a project is feasible before applying. Research projects which meet the following criteria are given priority:

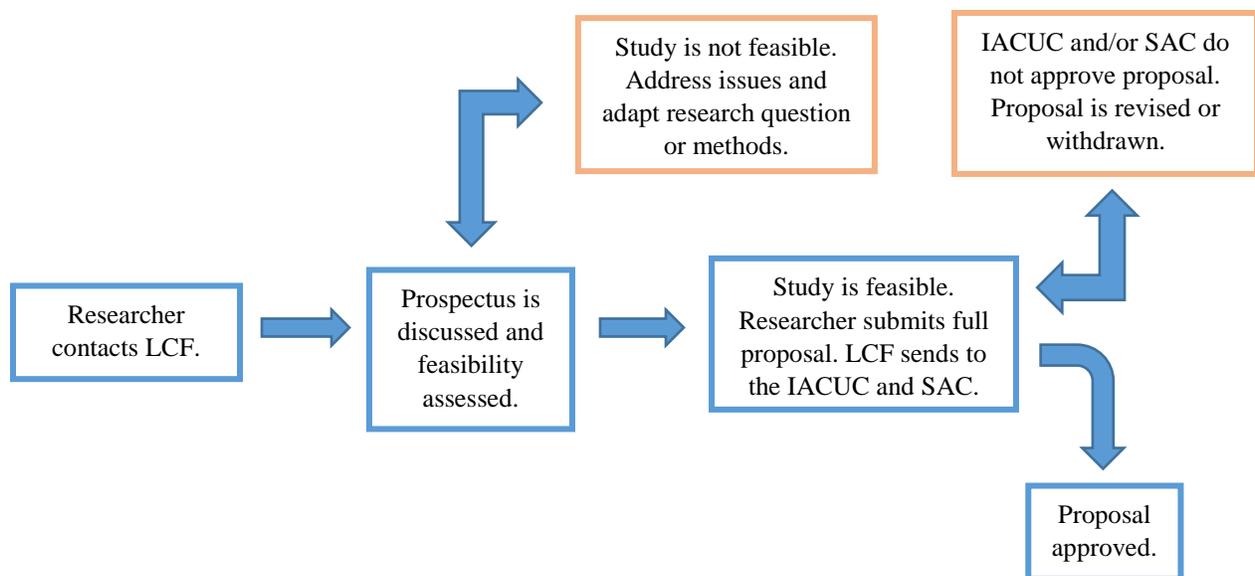
- Study is noninvasive and primarily observational in nature.
- Study does not cause stress or interfere with normal behavioral patterns.
- Study does not require excessive time commitment from LCF staff.
- Study is designed around existing LCF husbandry protocols and does not significantly alter animal care routines.
- Study is carried out by a qualified person enrolled at an academic institution, or is being supervised by a qualified advisor.

**Approval Process:** Interested persons should first propose their project idea to LCF informally in a written prospectus of no more than 2 pages so that the feasibility of the project can be assessed. After reading the prospectus and judging whether the study is appropriate, we will provide a research proposal form to complete with details about the project rationale, study design, timeline, subjects and personnel. It is important that

projects have clearly stated objectives and research questions, and that they be based on a solid justification drawn from pertinent peer-reviewed literature.

Research proposals must be reviewed and approved by LCF's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). We encourage the submission of proposals and supporting documents no less than six weeks prior to the anticipated start date to ensure adequate time for review.

### Overview of the research approval process



**Research Fees:** Research fees are based on the costs associated with lemur care and the direct costs of research or program activities. An estimate of total research fees for a project will be provided for an approved prospectus. Approved research projects which are not purely observational in nature and require minor manipulations will have added fees. Examples of added project costs include introducing food rewards, staff support in



data collection, changes to lemur housing, or assistance in shifting lemurs from one area to another.

**Contact:** To discuss possible research projects or apply to carry out a study, please contact the Conservation Program Manager at [research@lemurreserve.org](mailto:research@lemurreserve.org) or write to Lemur Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 249, Myakka City, FL 34251.