

SAMPLE INFORMED CONSENT
Informed Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Smithsonian Institution
Office of Silly Projects
P.O. Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013

Title of Research Project: Developing a Predictive Model for Gallus Bankiva Geographic Disbursement
Through the Study of Spatial Movement Decision Making in Gallus Domesticus
Name of Principal Investigator: Dr. Byrdie Cage
Phone Number of Principal Investigator: 202-633-0000

A. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Dr. Byrdie Cage of the Smithsonian Institution Office of Silly Projects is conducting research into why domestic chickens make decisions to move from one location to another. The purpose of your participation in this research is to help the researcher by providing data that can be used to develop a model that will predict movement of chickens from one area to another. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you raise and keep free range chickens on land that is larger than 5 acres in area and has a road cutting through it.

B. PROCEDURES

If you agree to participate in this research study, the following will occur: The researcher will come to your property and perform a survey of the land and record information on the physical conditions and other life (plants and animals) found on your land. The researcher will also mark up to 10% of your chickens with a temporary GPS (global positioning system) tag that will record where your tagged chickens are at all times. At this same time, the researcher will give you a GPS unit that you will wear when on your land so that your movements about the property can be recorded and compared to the chickens' movements. In addition to the GPS unit, you will be given a log book into which you will be asked to record each day what food and water you provide to your chickens, where you placed food and water within your property, the time(s) at which food and water were made available to the chickens, your physical contacts with the tagged chickens, health problems of tagged chickens, presence and location of any chicken nests on the property, and the presence of any predators on your property. This initial set-up visit and delivery of the log is expected to take approximately 1 hour of your time. Daily recording of the information you will be asked to log is anticipated to take approximately 15 minutes each day. At the end of each month you will mail your log to the researcher in a provided prepaid mailer. This project is expected to last one year so your total time commitment could be approximately 93 hours over 1 year.

C. RISKS

It is possible that the time commitment involved in this study could inconvenience you and you could feel uncomfortable wearing a GPS monitor and having your movements recorded. In addition, handling your chickens to place GPS tags on them could stress the chickens and result in decreased egg production and/or illness in the chickens, which could result in financial losses to you.

D. CONFIDENTIALITY

The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. No individual identities will be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study. All logs and GPS data will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Research information will be kept in locked files at all times. Only research personnel will have access to the files, logs and any reports or summaries generated from logs and GPS data collected and only those with an essential need to see names or other identifying information will have access to that particular file. After the study is completed, information that identifies you as a study participant will be kept for three years and then destroyed.

