



ADVANCING
CONSERVATION
THROUGH
**EMPATHY FOR
WILDLIFE®**

ACE for Wildlife® Network AI Usage Guidelines

2026



www.zoo.org/empathy

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AI Usage Guidelines

The Advancing Conservation through Empathy for Wildlife (ACE for Wildlife[®]) Network strongly values human-centered, human-created content. However, the Network recognizes that, in some contexts, artificial intelligence (AI) tools can support our work. With that in mind, the Network offers the following guidelines and parameters for AI usage in content generated for and by the Network.

1. The use of generative AI in creating presentations, reports, papers, or other resources for the Network is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to, Empathy Matters, resources in our library, Network events, and committee/working group notes and projects. Generative AI is defined as using an AI model (such as ChatGPT, Claude, CoPilot, etc.), to create or synthesize new content based off of user generated prompts.
 2. All Network generated materials (such as literature reviews, reports, and toolkits) should include a statement that the resource may not be used to train AI models.
 3. AI companions or transcribers may not be used in unrecorded Network meetings (such as committee meetings). If a transcriber is needed for accessibility reasons, the Empathy Network Strategist and committee chairs (if applicable) are responsible for finding an equitable solution.
 4. Photos submitted to the annual Empathy Photo Contest may not be AI generated or significantly altered using AI systems. Auto-corrections, such as those for color or contrast, are permissible.
 5. AI summarization tools (such as those used in Mentimeter) should be used sparingly.
 6. AI use in materials submitted to the Network, including proposals, papers, presentations, and resources) should be limited to the following support tools:
 - a. Spelling and grammar checkers, as found in most word processing software.
 - b. Slide designer tools, as found in most slide-creating software (ex: Slide Designer in PowerPoint).
 - c. AI 'thought partners' used for reviewing or refining ideas
 - d. Basic photo editing, including: cropping, simple removals, edits for contrast, brightness, etc.
 7. Creators who utilize AI support tools (such as those listed above), must verify that all content is accurate and does not contain misleading information. The ACE for Wildlife Network reserves the right to remove any resources or content containing false or misleading information from our website.
 8. If AI is utilized in any component or function of the ACE for Wildlife Network (such as for the collection or analysis of data), that usage will be clearly stated.
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The ACE for Wildlife Network reserves the right to remove resources or content created with the use of AI from our website or events if it is found the resource includes false or misleading information.

ACE for Wildlife Network Members and Affiliates may be asked to agree to one or more of the following regarding usage of AI. These agreements are most likely to be found in, but are not limited to: applications or nominations to programs, committee/working group call for services, and/or awards, presentation proposal forms, Empathy Matters submissions, and the Empathy Photo Contest.

Agreement options:

1. I certify that the material(s) and/or content submitted were not created with the use of AI tools or were created with limited, acceptable use of AI tools (as outlined by the Network’s AI usage guidelines).
2. The material(s) submitted were created with the use of the following AI tools (select all that apply):
 - a. Data collection tools
 - b. Data analysis tools
 - c. Data visualizations
 - d. Generative AI (text or images)
3. I certify that my submission does not contain false or misleading information. I understand that any resources containing false or misleading content will be removed from the Network’s website.

