

General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales

Exhibited Animals Protection Act

A publication of the Director-General, NSW Agriculture.
(pursuant to Clause 8(1) of the Exhibited Animals Act Regulation 1995)
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Definitions

Exhibitor: means a person or company that has a Licence, Approval or Permit under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act.

Approved: Approved means approved in writing by the Director-General.

Part 1 – General

Clause 1

Scope of Standards

- 1) These standards apply to all animals displayed, or kept for display, by exhibitors authorised under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 (EAPA) and must be used in conjunction with all other relevant existing standards and NSW Agriculture policies, where appropriate, including:
 - Standards for Exhibiting Carnivores in New South Wales.
 - Standards for Exhibiting Bottle-nosed Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in New South Wales.
 - Standards for Exhibiting Koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in New South Wales.
 - Standards for Exhibiting Captive Macropods (Kangaroos, Wallabies and Allies) in New South Wales.
 - Standards for Exhibiting Captive Raptors in New South Wales.
 - Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales.
 - Policy on Exhibiting Primates in New South Wales.
- 2) An applicant may seek the Director-General's approval to any variation of the application of these Standards. An applicant would be required to satisfy the Director-General that the proposed variation is appropriate for the particular species for display. The Director-General if so satisfied may approve a variation in the particular circumstances.

Clause 2

Purpose of the Standards

- 1) The standards within this publication have been primarily developed to ensure the welfare of animals kept for exhibit purposes but cover a range of areas including:
 - a) psychological and physical animal welfare;
 - b) educational value of exhibits;
 - c) public safety;
 - d) guidelines for new or existing displays; and
 - e) legal effect.
- 2) All areas provided within this document are minimum areas required. Exhibitors are encouraged to make enclosures larger than those listed in order to further increase the animal welfare benefit to the animals being held.

Note

All material found within the document in a box such as this one, is for information only.

Part 2 – Staff Experience

Clause 3

General

- 1) An exhibitor of animals must have appropriate qualifications, experience and knowledge of the species exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, Exhibited Animals Protection Regulations and standards prescribed under the Regulations.
- 2) The applicant for an authority, who is not the holder of a current authority, must have, to the satisfaction of the Director-General, completed a course of study of a kind approved by the Director General concerning the requirements of the Act and Regulations.

Clause 4

Requirements of the Exhibitor

An exhibitor of animals must:

- a) be at least 18 years of age.
- b) keep records of the experience and qualifications of all staff including a summary of the exhibitor's careers and a record of all species the exhibitor and their staff have previously had under their care. The exhibitor must provide these records to an inspector under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act on request by the Director-General or his/her delegate, or by an inspector under the Act;
- c) engage a sufficient number of adequately trained and competent staff to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry at all times to ensure compliance with the standards. The exhibitor must supply:
 - i) a record of staffing over a seven-day period and back-up staffing in the case of holidays, sickness, food collection and other duties that may divert the staff away from the maintenance of the animals and the animal enclosures; and/or
 - ii) a record of the time required to maintain each enclosure and the animal display establishment generally.
- d) must provide to the Director-General, upon the Director-General's request, proof that adequate levels of resources, including staffing and funding resources, are available for the maintenance of all animals for exhibit in compliance with the legislative requirements and the requirements of any other standards that apply to the particular animal or animals;

- e) encourage staff to improve their knowledge and practical skills through recognised training courses in animal husbandry, staff exchanges, and attendance at conferences;
- f) ensure that the senior staff in day to day contact with the animals have:
 - i) representation at the highest management levels to ensure full consideration of the needs of the animals, and
 - ii) authority to call for veterinary advice when required;
- g) ensure new staff are appropriately trained and provided with a job description that outlines the exhibitors responsibilities;
- h) make, and retain for at least two years after it is made, a record of the name and qualifications of a person who identifies a species of animals for the exhibitor.

Clause 5 Knowledge and Experience of Animal Keeping Staff

Animals kept for exhibit purposes must be under the supervision of persons who are responsible for and collectively capable of:

1) Operations

- a) implementing the requirements of the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, Regulations and prescribed standards;
- b) relaying animal requirements and associated budgetary implications to the budget controller who is responsible for providing adequate funds to ensure that all animals are held in a manner that meets the relevant standards;
- c) selecting, using and maintaining equipment required to perform the job of a zookeeper or animal handler;
- d) describing the role of zoos, wildlife parks, aquaria and circuses in society;
- e) maintaining daily animal records and compiling daily reports and relating these to individual and in-house species management and breeding; and
- f) recording behaviours, reproductive events, transactions, pairing and other information as required.

2) Safety and Welfare

- a) complying with and implementing Occupational Health and Safety legislation requirements;
- b) minimising the likelihood of attacks on handlers and visitors;
- c) properly maintaining and storing capture and restraint equipment;

- d) handling and storing chemicals in a safe manner;
- e) ensuring that serious accidents, injuries and incidents, required by legislation to be reported, are reported, including those caused by animals or in which exhibit design is a relevant factor;
- f) safely capturing and restraining the animals in the exhibitors care (except for dangerous or hazardous species that ordinarily must be anaesthetised to effect safe capture) as demonstrated by evidence of appropriate experience, and/or appropriate training courses; and
- g) identifying the range of zoonoses potentially carried by each exhibited species and an awareness of the measures necessary to prevent zoonotic disease transmission.

3) Animal Husbandry

- a) understanding the basic biological, behavioural, nutritional and environmental requirements of the animals in the exhibitors care and how this relates to their care in captivity;
- b) demonstrating good maintenance and husbandry of the exhibitors enclosures and animals with an understanding of hygiene, cleanliness and neatness in regard to enclosures, equipment and feed;
- c) renovating enclosures as required;
- d) appropriately transporting animals within and outside the institution;
- e) training new staff in the management of species displayed, or kept for display, within the collection; and
- f) maintaining enclosure security.

4) Identification and Taxonomy

- a) identifying all species under the person's care; and
- b) utilising sufficient knowledge of each species wild diet and behaviour to implement appropriate captive diets and captive husbandry systems.

5) Interpersonal Relations

- a) liaising with the visiting public and answering questions from the public regarding the animal's husbandry, welfare and biology (including sex identification, wild diet, distribution and breeding behaviour);

- b) liaising with the institution management;
- c) delegating responsibility in a manner that ensures ongoing compliance with the legislation (including standards);
- d) consulting with veterinary consultants when required; and
- e) using effective reading and writing skills to read and write basic work related documents.

6) Behaviour

- a) minimising stress to the animals when keepers carry out routine duties;
- b) identifying behavioural problems, including stereotypic behaviour, and implementing strategies to minimise such behaviour;
- c) identifying changes in behaviour that may be relevant to the physical or psychological welfare of the animal;
- d) implementing appropriate behavioural enrichment; and
- e) conditioning animals if required in order to undertake routine procedures safely.

7) Nutrition

- a) providing appropriate maintenance diets for the animals held; and
- b) understanding the relationship between an animal's biology and its diet.

8) Public Presentations

- a) delivering short impromptu presentations of at least 2-3 minutes;
- b) preparing and delivering educational presentations; and
- c) properly training animals using positive reinforcement techniques (this only applies at times when an animal is undergoing training/conditioning).

9) Animal Health

- a) visually assessing animal demeanours, physical condition, faecal output and feed intake which indicate health status;
- b) recognising signs of illness and good health;
- c) administering appropriate routine health treatments for external parasites as required;
- d) implementing appropriate quarantine requirements; and

- e) implementing appropriate pest prevention and control measures.

10) Reproductive Management

- a) demonstrating the exhibitors knowledge of effective methods for controlling the breeding of the animals under their care; and
- b) providing an environment conducive to breeding.

11) Species Management

- a) maintaining coherent, comprehensive and relevant records in relation to the animals under the exhibitors care;
- b) in the case of studbook species - keeping accurate records and participating in their management to the satisfaction of the Australasian Species Management Program;

Note

In order to be involved with the Australasian Species Management Program the interested party must be a member of the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA). They can be contacted at www.arazpa.org.au or admin@arazpa.org.au

- c) in the case of species subject to an Australasian Species Management Program Species Management Plan, understanding and being able to implement the plan recommendations when required; and
- d) implementing appropriate animal identification techniques.

12) Exhibit Design

- a) designing exhibits that provide for the basic requirements of each species to be exhibited.
- b) designing exhibits that comply with the requirements of the prescribed standards; and
- c) preparing, or arranging, for the preparation, of plans and diagrams of proposed constructions in accordance with the relevant guidelines distributed by NSW Agriculture.

Part 3 – Educational Value

Clause 6

Signage

- 1) On each enclosure or prominently displayed within the animal viewing area for animals on public display there must be signs and illustrations that:

- a) enable the visiting public to identify each species in the enclosure; and
- b) provide information about the animals.

Exemption: an exhibitor is exempt from this requirement in relation to any exhibit where the exhibitor routinely provides each member of the visiting public with a publication that provides the information and illustrations required to be placed on species identification signs.

Note

Where an enclosure contains more than one species, identification of the species by the visiting public is often enhanced by utilising coloured illustrations.

- 2) The information to be provided includes aspects of:
 - a) population status, range and habitat;
 - b) food habits; and
 - c) physiological, anatomical and behavioural adaptations to their environment.

Note

The use of pages out of textbooks is discouraged as a large number of words that may be written for another purpose does not provide clear concise information. As a general rule zoo educators recommend using less than 50 words on signs. Copying of text and figures from textbooks may also infringe copyright unless the publisher has granted approval.

Clause 7

Other Educational Opportunities

In addition to appropriate signage for each species, exhibitors must provide a satisfactory variety of other educational opportunities. These can include:

- a) talks that explain natural animal behaviours;
- b) handouts and/or guidebooks dealing with the behaviour and biology of different species;
- c) implementing targeted educational plans for adults, children and relevant ethnic groups;
- d) catering for school curricula;
- e) choosing species to illustrate ecological/conservation messages;
- f) interpretation of habitat settings; and

- g) displaying a reverence for life/nature via exhibit design, animal presentation and management techniques that avoid the raising of concerns about individual animal welfare.

Note

Visitors who become concerned about the conditions under which animals are being held are unlikely to take in the exhibit's desired educational message.

Part 4 – Visitors Facilities

Clause 8

General

- 1) There must be provided on authorised premises:
 - a) adequately clean and properly maintained toilet and hand-washing facilities for visitors;
 - b) adequate shelter and seating for visitors; and
 - c) a first-aid kit for the use of visitors.
- 2) Buildings and grounds, as well as exhibit areas, must be kept clean and in good repair.

Part 5 – Housing

Clause 9

Enclosure Construction

- 1) The enclosure must be constructed in such a way as to minimise the entry of:
 - a) predators of animals in the enclosure;
 - b) pests; and
 - c) wild animals of the same or similar species.
- 2) All enclosures (display, treatment, holding, isolation and other) must be constructed of such materials and be maintained in sufficiently good repair so as to ensure that they will contain the animals at all times and are safe for the animals, for the staff attending them and for the public.
- 3) If the material used in the construction of the enclosure is not new it must be of good quality and not contain blemishes or corrosion.
- 4) An enclosure must be so constructed that:
 - a) the visiting public are safe if they comply with appropriately displayed warning

signage, and that animal attendants are safe if they comply with such signage and instructions under these and any other Standards appropriate to the exhibited animals concerned; and

- b) an animal cannot escape except in circumstances that cannot reasonably be foreseen and guarded against; and
 - c) the risk of injury to an animal in the enclosure is minimised.
- 5) Vegetation or other material in or near an enclosure must be removed or repositioned if it would otherwise assist an animal to escape.

Clause 10

Enclosure Fences

Note

Different types of fences can be used to contain animals, depending on the species involved. These can include different sizes of mesh, glass, piano wire, electric wires, moats, tin and solid walls, or a combination of these.

Electric wires are recommended for open top enclosures and moated enclosures which contain carnivores that have climbing ability.

- 1) Moating systems must incorporate the following safety features:

- a) installations to prevent stormwater raising the level of the moat; and

Note

It is recommended that a 50mm float valve be installed to maintain the correct water level at all times.

- b) a base of clay or some other impervious material to limit the loss of water through the rock soil subgrade; and
 - c) a barrier (possibly incorporating vegetation) on the viewing side of the moat to minimise the risk of visitors falling into the moat.
- 2) The enclosure in which a digging or burrowing animal is kept must be constructed:
- a) with a subterranean floor consisting entirely of concrete covered by sufficient soil so that the animal can dig or burrow without escaping; or
 - b) with an enclosing fence of galvanised metal mesh or concrete extending below ground level to a depth of at least 1 metre and then extending horizontally within the enclosure for at least 1 metre so that the animal can dig or burrow without escaping; or
 - c) so that the animal can dig or burrow without escaping.
- 3) Fences must be maintained in good repair.

Clause 11**Gates, Doors and Slides**

- 1) A gate or door on the perimeter of an enclosure, which is designed to allow human entry to the enclosure, must be designed to minimise the escape of the enclosed animals.

Note

This normally involves the use of inward opening doors. However other designs, that are appropriate, may be approved by the Director-General.

- 2) If an entrance to an enclosure (other than the entrance corridor to a drive-through area) is a safety entrance through successive gates or doors, they must (if hinged) open inwards towards the enclosure.

Note

In designing safety entrances exhibitors should allow space for a keeper to shut the outer door while standing in the safety entrance with regularly used equipment such as wheelbarrows.

Clause 12**Gates, Doors and Slides for Dangerous Animals**

- 1) The entrance to an enclosure (other than a reptile pit) in which a dangerous (ie capable of causing death or serious injury) animal is kept must be through successive gates or doors which are kept locked by key or combination unless a person is within the enclosure.
- 2) Doorways and other entrances and exits of enclosure boundaries for dangerous species must be designed and positioned to prevent direct access to such entrances/exits from areas that are unable to safely and securely contain those animals.
- 3) A gate, door or slide giving entrance to an enclosure must be so designed that an animal in the enclosure cannot:
 - a) lift the gate or door off its hinges or a slide off its tracks; or
 - b) unfasten any security device.
- 4) Doors or gates that are electrically operated must also provide for easy manual operation without risk to the operator.
- 5) The operating position for gates, doors, slides or other means of access must provide for:
 - a) a safe means of access; and
 - b) a clear view of the gates, doors, slides and other means of access and the immediately surrounding area.
- 6) If a short-term management enclosure adjoins an animals enclosure for a dangerous species, the short-term management enclosure must provide for safe entry by staff for cleaning and maintenance, and also for easier capture or restraint of the dangerous

animals.

Clause 13

Weather Protection

Sufficient shelter must be provided to allow protection from wind, rain and extremes in temperature and allow sufficient access to shade during the hot periods of the day.

Clause 14

Substrate and Drainage

- 1) The substrate must not be abrasive or irritating to the animals, however where abrasive substrate is necessary for maintaining an animal's health or wellbeing, for example, for curbing excessive hoof growth, appropriate abrasive substrate must be provided.
- 2) To avoid the accumulation of faeces and urine in or on substrate around watering and feeding points:
 - a) a readily cleanable or replaceable substrate must be provided around fixed watering/feeding points; or
 - b) the feeding/watering points must be easily moved.
- 3) An animal enclosure must be provided with a drainage system that quickly carries excess water away from the enclosure.
- 4) Unless it carries only surface water, an open drain must be inaccessible to the animals.

Note

Collection drains provided for the enclosure should be fitted with baskets of wire mesh sufficiently fine to prevent animal hair and faeces from entering the drain.

Clause 15

Enclosure Furniture

- 1) An enclosure must:
 - a) include naturalistic furniture; and
 - b) include, where appropriate, such items as bedding material, branch work, burrows, nesting boxes and pools to aid and encourage normal behaviour.
- 2) Objects, furniture, apparatus, decoration, plants or other items that could interfere with the welfare of the animals or with efficient husbandry must not be kept in, or allowed to remain in, the enclosure.

Clause 16

Indoor Housing of Animals

- 1) Lighting in indoor housing for animals must be adequate to facilitate proper cleaning of the housing and the carrying out of routine health, hygiene and maintenance checks.
- 2) The length of light and dark phases must change throughout the year to mimic natural

light cycles.

Note

The change in day length has shown to be an important trigger for breeding in many species of animals.

- 3) Indoor housing for an animal must be provided with ventilation that:
 - a) is sufficient to maintain the health of the animal; and
 - b) is so designed as to minimise undue draughts, odours and moisture condensation.
- 4) If an animal is a diurnal animal housed indoors, light:
 - a) must be provided in the housing that is strong enough to mimic daylight; and
 - b) must be of such quality, intensity and duration as to disturb as little as possible the normal physiological and behavioural patterns of the animal.

Clause 17

Electrical and Other Equipment

Electrical apparatus and other plant and fixed equipment must be so installed that:

- a) it does not endanger the animals; and
- b) the animals cannot disrupt its operation.

Clause 18

Spatial Requirements

- 1) The size and shape of enclosures must provide freedom of movement, both horizontally and vertically.
- 2) An enclosure must be of sufficient size, and the animals in the enclosure must be so managed, as to:
 - a) avoid undue domination of a herd or group by an individual or individuals; and
 - b) avoid the risk of persistent and unresolved conflict between herd or group members or between different species in enclosures containing different species; and
 - c) make it possible for an animal to avoid, or withdraw from, contact with other animals or with people; and
 - d) ensure that the carrying capacity of the enclosure is not exceeded; and
 - e) prevent an uncontrolled accumulation of parasites and other pathogens; and
 - f) encourage and permit exercise and behavioural enrichment.

- 3) Each animal must be provided with sufficient space in all directions to enable it:
 - a) to take exercise; and
 - b) to be protected from undue dominance and conflict; and
 - c) to be provided with its social, breeding and husbandry needs.
- 4) With the approval of the Director-General, a bird rendered flightless may be kept in an enclosure smaller than that which would be required if it could fly.

Clause 19

Manner of Display

- 1) Each animal must be exhibited in a manner that:
 - a) as far as possible provides a naturalistic setting that resembles the animal's habitat and provides for its behavioural and physical well being. With the approval of the Director-General animals may be exhibited in a manner that does not provide a naturalistic setting resembling the animal's habitat where the exhibitor has demonstrated the exhibit will have sufficient educational merit and that this merit cannot be achieved if this requirement is enforced; and
 - b) provides the means for enrichment of the animal's behavioural activities in order to further its welfare, produce a more interesting educational exhibit and aid in the reduction of stereotypic behaviour; and
 - c) provides recreational and educational opportunities which encourage an increase in public understanding of, and responsibility for, animals and their environment; and
 - d) by the use of attendants and physical barriers, or both, protects the animal from abuse and harassment by the viewing public; and
 - e) as far as possible, uses modern display techniques.
- 2) Animals in multi-species displays must be displayed in ecologically and biogeographically correct species assemblages. With the approval of the Director-General exemptions may be given to display multi-species displays that are not in ecologically and biogeographically correct species assemblages if they provide adequate educational value.

Clause 20

Off-exhibit Holding Enclosures

- 1) All animal display establishments must have the resources to remove any animal within their care to off-display holding enclosures as required by subclauses 2 to 5 below.

Note

These enclosures may be used for a number of reasons, including:

- health and quarantine.

- social constraints.
- pre-departure.
- reproduction.
- additional housing.

2) Short-term management enclosures

Enclosures used for short-term holding (<24 hours with a maximum of 32 hours within a 48-hour period) to temporarily remove animals from the exhibit must have the following characteristics:

- a) For hazardous and dangerous animals short-term management enclosures must be located at the animal display establishment where the animal is kept and at any temporary establishment where the animal is kept.
- b) In the case of species covered by species-specific exhibit standards, the short-term management enclosures must comply with the relevant requirements for such enclosures in the relevant species-specific exhibit standards.
- c) For species that are not covered by species-specific standards the short-term management enclosures must be satisfactory to the Director-General.

Note

Management purposes include:

- cleaning of enclosures.
- maintenance of enclosures.
- overnight security.
- capture of animals for transport or veterinary reasons.
- overnight as sleeping dens.

Note

The Director-General may refer to the following general principles when assessing the suitability of short-term management enclosures:

- the animal can freely stand up, stretch and turn around.
- the length is at least three times the animal's length and the breadth of the enclosure is at least one and a half times its length.
- it has adequate protection from the weather.
- it allows safe access to for the keepers and does not include blind spots.

3) Health management enclosures

- a) Enclosures used to hold an animal under veterinary treatment must have the following characteristics:

- i) health management enclosures may be any size determined by the treating veterinarian as long as all appropriate husbandry requirements are maintained and the animal is permitted to rest and move without undue distress or discomfort; and
 - ii) if a health management enclosure is smaller than the size stipulated for short or medium term holding for that species then the benefit gained by the animal being in that enclosure must be greater than any detriment arising from it being in that enclosure.
- b) Health management enclosures may only be operated under the following conditions:
- i) health management enclosures may be used for any length of time determined by the treating veterinarian, as long as all appropriate husbandry requirements are provided for and the animal is permitted to rest and move without undue stress or discomfort;
 - ii) if the animal is held in the health management enclosures for longer than seven days, the exhibitor must hold written advice from the treating veterinarian that recommends continued holding in the health management facility; and
 - iii) a record must be kept relating to animals held in these enclosures, which includes:
 - a veterinary report outlining the illness of the animal;
 - the size of the health management enclosures determined by the treating veterinarian;
 - the date the animal went into the health management enclosure;
 - proposed duration of stay in the health management enclosure;
 - any adjustments of the proposed duration by the treating veterinarian.

Note

If an inspector believes the health management facility is inappropriate they may refer the matter to another recognised wildlife veterinarian for advice.

4) Medium-term holding enclosures

- a) Animals held off-display continuously for periods greater than one day and up to 90 days must be housed in enclosures that have the following characteristics:
 - i) the medium-term holding enclosures must be at least 1/3 the prescribed exhibit floor dimensions size for the species unless smaller dimensions for medium-term holding enclosures are prescribed within the relevant species-specific standards. The minimum prescribed height requirement for exhibits must be provided in the medium-term holding enclosures. The Director-General has the

power, upon an application, to exempt or vary the enclosure height requirements of the medium term enclosures;

- ii) Where no exhibit floor dimensions have been prescribed the medium-term holding enclosures must be satisfactory to the Director-General;

Note

If an inspector is not satisfied that the medium-term holding enclosures are large enough, the inspector may require the exhibitor to rehouse the animal in a larger facility, but not larger than the relevant exhibit size.

- iii) The design must permit normal behavioural requirements, eg. flying space for flying species, climbing or perching opportunities for arboreal species or water immersion for aquatic species.

- b) Medium-term holding enclosures may only be operated under the following conditions:

- i) an exhibitor who is unable to house an animal in an enclosure that meets the minimum exhibit size after 90 days is not in breach of these standards if the exhibitor has applied for, and not been refused, approval to hold the animal in the medium-term holding facility for a specified longer period. Such an approval can be granted to allow an approved transaction to another institution or exhibit construction to be completed; and
- ii) a record must be kept of animals held in these enclosures that includes the date the animal went into the enclosure and how long it is likely to spend in the enclosure.

5) Long-term holding enclosures

- a) Enclosures used to hold animals for periods greater than 90 days must be housed in enclosures that have the following characteristics:
 - i) Long-term holding enclosures must meet the exhibit sizes outlined in the prescribed standards. The Director-General has the power, upon an application, to vary the size requirements for the long-term holding enclosures.

Note

If enclosures for long-term holding are proposed to be less than the prescribed exhibit size, they will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Director-General or his delegate and may be referred to the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee for advice. The exhibitor should justify any proposal to use a long-term holding facility that is smaller than the relevant prescribed exhibit size.

Clause 21

Outer Property Fence

An animal display establishment (other than a temporary establishment) must have an outer fence sufficient to discourage unauthorised entry to the establishment.

Part 6 – Public Safety

Clause 22

Stand-off Barriers

- 1) If direct contact between a dangerous animal and the public would be possible, the animal must be separated from the public by a barrier so designed that:
 - a) direct contact with the animal is avoided if the public stand or sit behind the barrier or climb on the visitor side of the barrier, or if they lean over the barrier and reach towards the animal; and
 - b) evasion of the barrier by the public (especially children) is made as difficult as is reasonably practicable.
- 2) Subclause (1) does not apply in relation to a drive-through area operated in accordance with these standards.
- 3) Subclause (1) does not apply in relation to situations where supervised contact between a trained dangerous animal and the public is controlled by an animal trainer in the employment of an authorised exhibitor and the Director-General has been satisfied that the trained animal can be controlled by the trainer so that there is minimal risk of the animal causing serious injury or death to a person while under the trainer's control. If the animal is a carnivore the Director-General cannot be satisfied unless the animal also meets the requirements of the prescribed standards exhibiting carnivores in New South Wales as they relate to entering enclosures containing carnivores.
- 4) A pit containing dangerous snakes must be of sufficient depth to eliminate the possibility of physical contact between the enclosed snakes and members of the public, including those standing around the edge of the pit who attempt to reach inside the pit.

Clause 23

Warning Signs

- 1) If an enclosure is dangerous because it includes an electrified fence the enclosure must be provided with an adequate number of clearly visible and legible signs giving proper warning, by means of words or signs, or both, of the danger.
- 2) The signs in a drive-through animal enclosure containing dangerous or hazardous animals must warn visitors to the area:
 - a) not to leave the motor vehicle; and
 - b) to keep all the doors of the motor vehicle locked; and
 - c) to keep closed all the windows, and any sun-roof, of the motor vehicle; and
 - d) if the motor vehicle breaks down - to sound the horn, or flash the headlamps and

warning lamps, and await the arrival of a rescue vehicle.

Clause 24

Exit Signs

- 1) The means of egress from an animal display establishment must be clearly marked.
- 2) An animal display establishment must be provided with an adequate number of signs that clearly indicate the direction to be followed to locate the means of egress from the establishment.

Clause 25

Safety of Structures

If entry to a structure, or part of a structure, on authorised premises would present a threat to the health or safety of the public:

- a) access to the structure or part must be kept locked against access by the public; and
- b) there must be placed, so that they are readily seen and comprehended by the public, notices warning that entry to the structure or part is unsafe and that entry by the public is prohibited.

Clause 26

Drive-through Exhibits

An enclosure containing dangerous animals through which members of the public may drive motor vehicles must be so constructed that entry to, and departure from, the area is available to the public only through a corridor that:

- a) commences at the perimeter fence of the area and extends within the area for a distance of at least 25 metres; and
- b) is formed by fences of the same construction, and of at least the same height, as the perimeter fence; and
- c) has at each end a gate of a height and construction approved by the Director-General and so devised that, unless one of them is securely closed, the other cannot be opened; and
- d) is continuously monitored or operated by a suitably trained person while members of the public are inside the enclosure.

Clause 27

Access Points Between Separate Enclosures

If there are access points between separate enclosures within a drive-through area, they must be so controlled as to prevent an animal in one enclosure from entering of its own accord into another.

Clause 28

One-way Traffic Only

The road system within a drive-through area containing dangerous animals must, when used

by the public, provide for one-way traffic only.

Clause 29

Zoonoses

Note

Zoonoses are diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans and include Australian bat lyssavirus, chlamydia, cryptosporidiosis, hydatids, leptospirosis, psittacosis, ringworm, salmonella, tetanus, toxoplasmosis and toxocariasis.

- 1) Visitors who are in contact with animals must be encouraged not to:
 - a) suck fingers or objects.
 - b) kiss the animals.
 - c) touch the mouth with hands, or lick fingers.
 - d) eat food intended for animals.
 - e) eat.
 - f) wipe hands on clothing, if avoidable.
 - g) touch soil or faeces.
- 2) Where members of the public are allowed to contact animals, hand washing enclosures/toilet/bathroom must be provided on the premises or venue (for mobile exhibitors) and the members of the public must be encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands after touching any animals.

Note

Proper hand washing means:

- using soap and running water, warm to hot water is best.
- wetting hands thoroughly and lathering with soap.
- rubbing hands vigorously for at least 10-15 seconds as you wash them.
- paying attention to back of hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails.
- rinsing hands well under running water.
- drying hands with disposable paper towel, clean towel or air drier.
- turning off the tap with the used paper towel, if applicable.

Ideally a sign should be displayed that outlines this information.

Clause 30

Keeper and Public Safety

An exhibitor and his/her staff must ensure that dangerous animals are not inappropriately handled and that they do not place themselves or others in potentially dangerous situations with animals or equipment. For this purpose accepted industry practices that comply with

these Standards and any other relevant Standards must be complied with when feeding, handling and training potentially dangerous animals.

Part 7 - Husbandry and Management

Clause 31

Record Keeping

- 1) Establishments must keep records of all animals on an individual basis or group in a form that can be quickly and easily examined, analysed and compared with those kept by other establishments because of the potential value for the development of improved management practices.
- 2) Animal record books issued by NSW Agriculture must be used to keep up-to-date records for each species and the original completed pages provided to the Director-General of NSW Agriculture each year in accordance with the prescribed process for renewing exhibitor authorities. The Director-General may, at the request of the holder of an authority, exempt the holder from this requirement.

Note

The Exhibited Animals Protection Regulations stipulate additional requirements in relation to keeping and submitting the animal record books.

- 3) All documents and other information pertaining to each animal received from a previous location must be kept safely. Copies of all records relevant to each animal received must accompany animals moving to new locations.

Note

Exhibitors are encouraged to maintain records that include the following information for each individual or group:

- species (common and scientific name).
- given name of animal and its sex.
- date of birth.
- name of breeder, place of birth, sire and dam (if known).
- previous ownerships - names and dates.
- breeding history - mating dates, mating partners, number and sex of any offspring, and the fate of those offspring.
- medical History (including diagnoses of diseases, medical treatments, surgical procedures, vaccinations). Dates are essential.
- any noteworthy incidents involving this animal.
- identification - eg. legband, eartag, microchip, tattoo number, distinguishing marks or appropriate photograph.
- dietary preferences.

- 4) If required by the Director-General or an authorised inspector, the exhibitor must supply to the Director-General an audit of all animals in the collection and the results of cross-checking this with the animal records. If discrepancies exist between the audit and the records then the exhibitor must provide an explanation to the Director-General's satisfaction.

Clause 32

Planning

Where requested an exhibitor must supply to the Director General, within 30 days of being requested, a plan of future developments and species acquisitions and disposals over the requested time period.

Clause 33

Identification

- 1) Unless distinguishing marks or features, documented in the animal records, can easily identify an individual animal, a permanent method of identification is required to identify that individual, if requested by the Director-General or an authorised inspector.

Note

Preferably two methods of identification should be used in case one method fails. The attributes of effective identification techniques may include:

- being permanent.
- positively identifying the animal as an individual.
- being easy to apply.
- not unreasonably damaging the individual.
- having a relatively painless application.
- not interfering with the animals' mobility.
- being adaptable to modern data retrieval systems.
- being clearly visible.
- being unalterable.

Note

Different identification methods (depending on the species) that can be used include:

- passive Integrated Transponders (PIT) Tags (most species).
- ear tags.
- tattoos.
- collars.
- leg bands (birds).
- forearm bands (bats).

- 2) An exhibitor must use Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT) Tags to identify an animal when requested by the Director-General.

Clause 34

Hygiene

- 1) Excrement and other animal waste, leftover food, unwholesome food and water, bones, fur, feathers, dead animals and introduced rubbish and foreign objects must be removed daily. This is required to avoid unhealthy and unsightly accumulation of these matters and

to minimise vermin infestation and disease hazards, reduce odours and prevent the ingestion of potentially harmful objects.

- 2) Contaminated substrate material must be removed and replaced as necessary.
- 3) When disinfecting solid surfaces within the enclosure these surfaces must first be washed with soap and water, or steam. Disinfected surfaces must be rinsed before animals come in contact with them again. The disinfectants are to be of a kind approved by and used in compliance with veterinary advice.
- 4) The use in or around enclosures of insecticides and animal poisons, eg. rodent baits, must be with veterinary advice as required, and chemical registration and label requirements.

Clause 35

Signs

- 1) Signs requesting the public to refrain from:
 - a) interfering with the animals; and
 - b) feeding the animals (except, in the case of specified animals, with food provided by the exhibitor).

must be conspicuously placed at appropriate places.
- 2) If an exhibitor of animals has made rules to be observed by the visiting public, these must be conspicuously placed at the entrance to the authorised premises.

Part 8 - Nutrition and Hygiene

Clause 36

Diet

- 1) Each animal must be offered a variety of wholesome and palatable food and water in quantities that are sufficient to provide for its good health and normal growth.
- 2) The diet must be prepared with consideration of the age, size, condition and previous history of the animals.
- 3) Nutritional advice from professional sources must be obtained in relation to the addition of food supplements to the ordinary balanced diet of animals.
- 4) Food must be unspoiled and free from chemical and bacterial contamination.
- 5) Food supplements must be appropriately handled and stored, and stocks appropriately rotated.
- 6) Care must be taken not to include food that is known to have deleterious effects to the animal.

Note

For example, improperly thawed fish can contain high levels of thiaminase, which can destroy dietary thiamine.

Clause 37**Food Quality**

- 1) Food must be clean, fresh, wholesome, palatable and of a standard fit for consumption.
- 2) The food items' nutritional value must be sufficient to keep the animals healthy.
- 3) Food must be free of pests or disease.
- 4) The following must NOT be fed to animals:
 - a) any animal that has died from any toxic material, including euthanasia chemicals (CO₂ is acceptable), insecticides and rodenticides; or
 - b) animals showing clinical signs of being infected by disease; or
 - c) laboratory animals that have been used in those research programs that lead to the animals containing chemicals different from control animals; or
 - d) a diet consisting solely of muscle or organ meats; or
 - e) plant material that is toxic to the animals.

Clause 38**Food Preparation**

- 1) The area in which food for the animals is prepared:
 - a) must be indoors or completely screened; and
 - b) must be constructed of materials that will withstand steam-cleaning and chemical disinfection. Walls must be non-porous and without cracks or crevices.
- 2) All chemical and bacterial contamination must be avoided when preparing food.
- 3) Thawing and preparation of the food must be done so that it retains its nutritive and wholesome qualities.
- 4) A toxic chemical or other harmful material must not be used or stored in the area used for preparing the food.
- 5) Toxic chemicals or other harmful materials must not be allowed to contaminate food provided to animals.
- 6) Subclause (4) does not apply to cleaning products or disinfectants used in cleaning the area, the food containers or the food preparation utensils.

- 7) All foods must be fed to the animals within 24 hours of removal from freezers for thawing, or properly discarded. Discarded food must not be kept in fresh food storage areas.
- 8) The thawed product must be kept iced or refrigerated until just before feeding.

Clause 39 **Cleanliness Relating to Food and Drink**

- 1) High standards of cleanliness must be observed:
 - a) by staff engaged in the preparation of food and drink for the animals; and
 - b) in relation to the utensils and equipment used, and adequate equipment must be provided to enable this to be done.
- 2) Utensils and equipment used in preparing and distributing the food and drink must be cleaned after use and kept clean when not in use.
- 3) Food preparation areas must be washed down daily and treated with appropriate non-toxic cleaning products.
- 4) Boots, aprons and brooms used in the food preparation area must be cleaned after use and kept clean when not in use.
- 5) Utensils and other equipment used in preparing the food and drink must not be used for any other purpose.

Clause 40 **Food Storage**

- 1) Supplies of food for the animals must be stored in enclosures in which they are adequately protected against deterioration, mould, contamination and pests.
- 2) Toxic substances, live animals, unrefrigerated dead animals and discarded foodstuffs must not be kept in a food storage area.
- 3) Stocks of food supplements must be handled, stored and rotated in a way that minimises nutritional loss.
- 4) Frozen food must be stored at a temperature that is not higher than 18 degrees below zero Celsius.
- 5) No non-food cadavers must be placed in food storage areas.

Note

Food should be protected from rodent access, as many species of mammals such as primates, elephants and tree kangaroos, are susceptible to diseases such as Encephalomyocarditis (EMC) virus (a virus which causes heart failure and is spread in the urine of feral rodents).

Clause 41**Food Presentation**

- 1) Utensils and equipment used for the offering of food and drink to animals:
 - a) must not be used for any other purpose;
 - b) must be easy to clean and designed to avoid risk of injury to the animals;
 - c) must, when in an enclosure, be placed in such a position that each animal in the enclosure has easy access to sufficient food and water and the risk of contamination from soiling by the animals is minimised. The exception is where food is being used to entice animals into a catching cage, nest box or night area;
 - d) must be kept in a sanitary condition and, except in the case of a self-feeder, must be washed daily following use; and
 - e) in the case of a self-feeder, must be inspected daily to ensure that it is working effectively and does not contain caked or unwholesome food.
- 2) Food items must be presented on an uncontaminated surface that is covered and not exposed to weather. Exception: Carcass feeding and enrichment feeds can be provided in areas that are not covered.
- 3) Where appropriate to encourage animal activity, at least some food must be scattered across substrate or included in wood chips, hay, paper, feeding puzzles or other suitable material or presented amongst the climbing structures for arboreal animals.
- 4) Activity feeds must not promote weight gain or dietary imbalances.
- 5) Only food supplied by the exhibitor may be fed to animals and visitors must be discouraged from feeding any food to animals except food supplied by the exhibitor.
- 6) The provision of live vertebrate animals as food is not permitted. With the approval of the Director-General an exhibitor may be exempt from this requirement for up to six months in relation to wild caught predatorial animals that are being fed live captive-raised fish or live captive-raised tadpoles while being trained to eat dead food items. This period may be extended if the Director-General considers it to be essential to the maintenance of the species.

Clause 42**Drinking Water**

- 1) Clean potable water must at all times be available for the animals to drink.

- 2) Animals must be provided with sufficient fresh drinking water daily to meet each animal's requirements and must:
 - a) be either reticulated to, or changed daily in, each enclosure; and
 - b) not be allowed to become stagnant.

Clause 43**Pest and Predator Control**

- 1) A safe, effective and regular program for the control of insects, ectoparasites and vertebrate pests must be established and maintained.
- 2) Enclosures must be so designed as to exclude predators.

Part 9 - Capture, Handling and Transport**Clause 44****Capture and Handling**

- 1) An animal must be handled only by, or under the supervision of, staff authorised for the purpose by the exhibitor of the animal.
- 2) A sufficient number of trained staff must be available at all times to handle the animals in the manner prescribed in these standards. Care must be exercised to avoid harm to the animal handlers.
- 3) An animal must not be handled in a way that causes it undue discomfort or distress or causes it physical harm.
- 4) The supervision of physical contact between an animal and a member of the public must be limited to a period, and must take place under conditions, consistent with the welfare of the animal.

Clause 45**Transport**

Except as indicated in other standards prescribed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulations or as the Director-General otherwise determines, transportation of animals within Australia by NSW exhibitors must comply with current International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations.

Part 10 - Health**Clause 46****Daily Health Checks**

- 1) Arrangements must be made:

- a) for the health of each animal to be checked each day; and
- b) for the person checking the health of the animals to provide the exhibitor of the animals with an appropriate report on any distressed, sick or injured animal.

Note

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act creates offences for persons who fail to provide adequate veterinary treatment.

- 2) In particular, a report must be made in relation to an animal suffering from:
 - a) obvious under-nourishment or weakness; or
 - b) bare spots in fur or feather covering; or
 - c) persistent diarrhoea; or
 - d) unusual nasal discharge; or
 - e) sores or open wounds; or
 - f) broken bones or other physical injury.
- 3) If a report under subclause (1) is made in respect of an animal or poor physical health of an animal is otherwise detected, all reasonable steps must be taken to restore the animal to good physical health.

Note

This will ordinarily require consultation with a veterinarian.

- 4) Such enclosures must be maintained as are necessary for compliance with subclause (3).

Clause 47

Veterinary Care and Preventative Medicine

- 1) Arrangements must be made with a qualified veterinarian for the care of each animal. This includes:
 - a) routine inspections of each animal (at least annually); and
 - b) treatment of sick or injured animals; and
 - c) vaccination for potential diseases; and
 - d) administering of drugs including: anaesthetics, analgesics, tranquillisers, antibiotics, anthelmintics, or other chemotherapeutics; and
 - e) monitoring and control of the level of external and internal parasites; and
 - f) being able to safely anaesthetise individuals of each species when desired.

- 2) Enclosures must be provided on the authorised premises for:
 - a) routine examination of animals in surroundings that are clean and well-ventilated; and
 - b) the restraint of animals; and
 - c) the administration of a general anaesthetic; and
 - d) euthanasia for animals.
- 3) An enclosed treatment area must be provided on the authorised premises for the care of distressed, sick and injured animals and those recovering from sedation.
- 4) Records of all veterinary inspections and treatments must be maintained by the exhibitor and be available for review by authorised inspectors.

Clause 48

Quarantine

A newly-acquired animal must be kept in isolation for as long as may be necessary to provide for its examination, acclimatisation and, if necessary, restoration to good health before being placed in the company of other animals.

Clause 49

Drug Administration

- 1) S4 and S8 drugs administered to animals must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon. Administration of drugs may be performed by exhibitor staff with previous experience in the procedures, but only in accordance with a prescription of a veterinarian.

Note

Exhibitor staff should be aware of the limitations that the Veterinary Surgeons Act and Poisons Act in NSW place on the procedures that may be performed by lay people.

- 2) Non-prescription drugs must only be used in accordance with labelled directions.

Note

Animals should ordinarily be properly restrained for injections. Some animals can be trained to submit to injections. Others may have to be injected remotely by projectile syringes or pole syringes.

- 3) Sterile disposable needles and sterile syringes or sterile projectile syringes (darts) must be used for all injections.

Clause 50

Euthanasia

Euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian, except in an emergency when a veterinarian is not available.

Note

The decision to perform euthanasia is ultimately the responsibility of the authorised exhibitor or the exhibitor's delegate. In emergencies the advice of a veterinarian should be obtained verbally.

Note

The individual performing the euthanasia must meet the relevant legislative requirements in NSW regarding correct euthanasia techniques. The person should have knowledge or prior experience in the methods of successfully euthanasing that particular species of animal. The animal to be euthanased may need to be properly restrained to ensure the operation is undertaken correctly. The correct procedures for undertaking euthanasia are outlined by the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) who have published the "Euthanasia of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes". Copies of this booklet can be obtained from ANZCCART at the address below:

Dr R.M Baker

Director ANZCCART

Room 128, Darling Building

Department of Environmental Biology

Adelaide University

Adelaide SA 5005

Ph: (08) 8303 7586, Fax: (08) 8303 7587

Email: anzccart@adelaide .edu.au

Clause 51**Dead Animals**

- 1) Provision must be made for the handling of a dead animal in a way that minimises the risk of transmission of infection or disease.
- 2) Unless there is an arrangement approved by the Director-General for a dead animal to be quickly removed to veterinary enclosures outside the authorised premises:
 - a) facilities must be provided on the premises for conducting a post-mortem examination in a safe and hygienic manner; and
 - b) provision must be made for material to be stored under refrigeration if an immediate post-mortem examination is not possible.
- 3) Without affecting the generality of subclause (3), the facilities provided for post-mortem examinations must include:
 - a) an efficient drainage system; and
 - b) washable floors and walls; and
 - c) an examination table; and
 - d) facilities for taking and preserving specimens.
- 4) Equipment used for the storage of post-mortem material must not be used for any other

purpose.

5) A veterinary examination to determine the cause of death must be made if:

a) a dead animal is a member of a prescribed species; or

Note

Prescribed species are listed in Schedule 2 of the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulations and should be the subject of a permit.

b) it appears that there may be a pattern of deaths; or

c) such an examination is directed by an authorised inspector; or

d) in any other case, it is reasonably practicable to do so.

6) Unless the remains of a dead animal:

a) are used for scientific or educational purposes; or

b) are offered to, and accepted by, an approved museum or other approved scientific establishment;

they must be disposed of by incineration or burial or by any other method adopted on veterinary advice.

Clause 52

Infectious Diseases

If an animal is identified as having an infectious disease:

a) all hard surfaces of the enclosure must, after removal of the animal, be sanitised by:

i) washing with hot water (at least 75 degrees Celsius at source) and soap or detergent; or

ii) washing with detergent followed by application of a suitable disinfectant; or

iii) applying high-pressure steam; and

b) veterinary advice must be obtained and followed.

Part 11 - Behaviour

Clause 53

Multiple Species Displays

1) Two or more species can be held together as long as none of the species are likely to prey

on or cause serious injury to the others, be persistently aggressive to the others, or persistently deny the others access to food, water or shelter.

- 2) All mixed species groups must be monitored, particularly when first introduced and during breeding, to assess aggression, competition or predation.

Clause 54

Social Behaviour

- 1) An enclosure occupied by several animals must allow for normal patterns of group behaviour.
- 2) Animals must be housed in social groups typically found in wild populations. Exceptions: the Director-General may exempt an exhibitor from this requirement where the animals:
 - a) were housed in an appropriate social group and following the death of one or more animals the exhibitor either cannot obtain replacements or is in the process of obtaining replacements;
 - b) are being held in quarantine prior to being placed with others of the same species to form an appropriate social grouping;
 - c) are being held in a short-term management facility, a health management facility or a medium term holding facility in circumstances permitted by Clause 10; and/or
 - d) cannot be housed in groups without significant risk of serious injury.

Note

Social groups may include:

- solitary animals.
- mother with offspring.
- paired animals with or without offspring.
- single sex groups.
- single males and more than one female.
- several males and females together.

Clause 55

Training Animals

- 1) General Requirements
 - a) Any training must be done by or under the personal supervision of experienced trainers.
 - b) Trainers must use positive reinforcement (ie. the anticipation of a reward for successfully completing a desired behaviour) and know the physical limits of each animal being trained.
 - c) Negative reinforcement (ie. the completion of a desired behaviour to avoid punishment for failure to "perform correctly") must never be used.

- d) The reward for the successful completion of a desired behaviour must be immediate and tangible for the animal.
- e) Trained animals must receive at least 45 minutes exercise per day in the form of training sessions and/or public performance. For the rest of daylight hours the animal must have access to the display cage size dimensions unless more specific standards for these animals permit trained specimens to be held in enclosures smaller than the display cage size dimensions when not being trained or performed.
- f) The training methods used must be humane and not include physical or mental punishment resulting in distress, pain or injury to any animal involved, in the long or short term. For this reason the use of fire in animal acts is prohibited.
- g) Trained animals must be trained to co-operate with regular handling and with regular veterinary procedures.
- h) When the animals are being trained care must be exercised in ensuring that the skeletomusculature of the animals is developing or has developed sufficiently to meet the demands placed on it by the training.
- i) All training must be discontinued if a worsening musculoskeletal condition manifests itself, until this condition and its cause are properly diagnosed and treated by a veterinary surgeon experienced with the species of animal involved.
- j) Special care must be exercised with young growing animals and old animals with training regimes being modified accordingly.
- k) An animal that is clinically ill must not be trained until a veterinary surgeon experienced with the species of animal involved states that the animal has fully recovered or is capable of training or performing.
- l) Any stools, ladders, planks or steps used as props must either be fixed to a sturdy support or have a wide enough base to be sufficiently stable. If there are any wood elements within these items, this wood must not be splintery or have sharp edges.

Note

When deciding on the colour of a prop that the animal must be able to see in order to utilise it properly, it should be remembered that most animals are colour blind and therefore the colour of the prop should contrast clearly with that of its background. As animals eyes are sensitive to shape and motion the shape of the prop should also contrast with that of its background in order to enhance its visibility to the animal. Swirling designs on the prop that break up its outline should not be used as they make the prop harder for an animal to see.

2) Commands and Bridging Signals

- a) No training or command implement must be used in such a manner that pain, injury or distress will be inflicted on the animal. An exception to this requirement is provided under 2h.
- b) Any device capable of administering an electric shock must not be used for training animals for performance.
- c) Elephant hooks must have a probe (blunt) point on the hook, and must never be applied in a painful manner. Gentle pressure to the ears, or to the elbows with the hook is acceptable. All other guiding pressures must be applied with the butt or the side of the stick.
- d) Collars, head collars or leads must not be jerked or pulled forcefully in order to guide an animal.
- e) Rattans (canes) and other types of rods may be used to push or guide an animal, and they may be struck against each other or against apparatus to provide a noise stimulus, but they must not be used to strike an animal. The ends of these devices must always be blunt.
- f) The use of sharp spurs, or spurs with fixed rowels, is not permitted under any circumstances for the training of animals.
- g) All training implements must be non-toxic to animals by virtue of their composition and construction.
- h) Animals must not be struck with any training device unless the safety of humans or other animals is under direct threat.

3) Types of Behaviours

- a) Trained behaviours must incorporate bodily movements that are within the enhanced normal physical capability of the animal. Animals must not perform movements that carry a high risk of injury.
- b) The apparatus that animals may make use of in the course of their trained behaviours must be easy for them to use and have minimal foreseeable potential to cause them injury.
- c) Animals unwilling, for whatever reason, to perform a desired behaviour, must not be forced to continue.

Note

If an animal is unwilling to perform a desired behaviour, it may:

- initially refuse, or balk at performing the behaviour;
- attempt to please the trainer by performing an alternative behaviour;

- perform a displacement activity (such as a grooming manoeuvre) which may be stereotypical in nature;
- attempt to escape the proximity of the trainer.

- d) Trained animals must be constantly provided with minor changes in their behavioural repertoire, except if it becomes apparent that variation is causing distress in the animals, then variation must either be decreased or ceased altogether.

Note

This will provide a constant level of mental stimulation for the animals. The level of variation instigated will ordinarily remain the prerogative of the trainer. This variation is intended for the benefit of the animals.

- e) Trainers must halt a training/performance session if decreased attention span and an increasing level of unwillingness to perform a behaviour by the animal becomes apparent.

Note

This should be taken as a signal that the animal has "had enough".

The training level that animals are able to cope with is very much dependent on the individual animal. It is important that the trainers develop sufficient rapport with their charges to detect signs that the training session should be terminated for the moment.

Clause 56

Stress Management and Behavioural Problems

- 1) Regular inspection and evaluations of animal housing by staff must take place when feeding and cleaning, to monitor hygiene levels and to detect potential housing problems.
- 2) Nocturnal animals must at all times have free access to sleeping quarters.
- 3) Aquatic and semi-aquatic animals must be provided with water for swimming.
- 4) Semi-aquatic animals must be provided with dry areas for resting.
- 5) The animals must be checked daily by a person capable of recognising signs of distress and stress in such animals and ascertaining the causes of such. The causes must then be removed or alleviated as much as is possible. Veterinary advice must be obtained where the cause cannot be identified.

Note

Signs of psychological distress and stress include:

- self mutilation of no dermatological cause,
- excessive self grooming,
- repetitive stereotypical behaviour,
- changes in eating, defecating and urination habits,
- abnormal aggression towards or withdrawal from either keepers or cage mates.

Clause 57**Behavioural Enrichment**

Behavioural enrichment activities must be provided to increase activity, simulate natural behaviours and reduce the incidence of boredom.

Note

Behavioural enrichment includes:

- physical Enrichment – Providing space and furniture to encourage natural behaviours. This can include planting enclosures with native species to provide additional smell and shade or providing plenty of climbing opportunities for arboreal species with the use of trees, trunks, branches and ropes.
- occupational Enrichment – Providing objects for the animals to manipulate.
- feeding Enrichment – Providing activity feeds and novel food items and feeding devices to increase foraging times. Examples include provision of browse for herbivores and providing live invertebrates for omnivorous and carnivorous birds, small to medium sized mammals and reptiles. It can also promote foraging behaviours by hiding food or involve varying feed times to increase activity. Care must be taken to ensure these feeds are part of the normal diet, rather than in addition, in order to decrease the likelihood of obesity.
- senses Enrichment – Providing novel smells or noises such as vanilla, blood and peppermint or playing sounds of predators and/or prey.
- physiological Enrichment – Providing proper temperatures, humidities and photoperiods to stimulate natural behaviour patterns.
- social Enrichment - Providing opportunities to interact with the same or other species by keeping in pairs or groups.

Clause 58**Inter- and Intra-Specific Interaction**

- 1) Animals must be provided with sufficient space to ensure intra- and inter-specific aggression and/or proximity-related stress does not harm the animals in the enclosure.
- 2) If an animal is being unduly stressed or harmed by the aggression/presence of other animal(s) in the enclosure, then it, or the aggressor(s), must be removed from the enclosure.
- 3) An exhibitor must not hold social species alone except as required for veterinary reasons or where the establishment is arranging for acquisition of a mate or disposal of the animal to another establishment.
- 4) Signage for a lone animal of a social species must explain the normal social grouping of the species and advise of the intended acquisition of a mate or its intended disposal to another establishment.
- 5) Animals in different enclosures must be so managed as to minimise stressful interactions between the animals.

Part 12 - Breeding

Clause 59

Controlled Breeding

- 1) Species within exhibit collections must only be bred as part of carefully managed programs.

Note

The production of excess animals is discouraged except when requests for these animals have been submitted prior to breeding.

- 2) Studbook species must be bred in accordance with the recommendations of the studbook keeper except where this would contravene the conditions on the exhibitor's authority or directions from authorised inspectors.
- 3) The intentional breeding of hybrids is not permitted.

Note

All species, except for domestic species, should be bred in order to maintain their wild phenotype. There may be other situations warranting an exception to this recommendation.

Clause 60

Growth and Development

- 1) Records must be kept on the growth and development of offspring being handraised.
- 2) The use of artificial breeding techniques such as double-clutching or cross-fostering is permitted.

Note

Artificial breeding techniques increase the risks of the offspring imprinting on the foster parent species or the human hand-rearer. This could be detrimental for the animal's future breeding potential with members of its own species or for its potential for release to the wild.

- 3) If an animal is hand-reared for eventual release to the wild, then all attempts must be made to ensure that animals are not imprinted on their human carers and that they are adequately rehabilitated prior to release.

Clause 61

Disposal Plans

The Director-General may require any exhibitor to provide a written plan for the disposal of all animals that can only be held under an exhibitor's authority, or under an authority issued under the Non-Indigenous Animals Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Act or the Companion Animals Act.

Part 13 - Bibliography

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