



PERMANENT ANIMAL EXHIBITIONS

The Animal & Veterinary Service (“AVS”) is a cluster of the National Parks Board, a statutory board constituted under the National Parks Board Act (Cap. 198A).

A. No person shall use any premises for the permanent exhibition of animals without a valid licence from AVS issued in accordance with the Animals and Birds (Pet Shop and Exhibition) Rules 2004.

B. A permanent exhibition shall be defined as the exhibition of animals on a premises for such purpose, and over such duration, as to require approval by the Urban Redevelopment Authority or Housing Development Board, and exhibitions that require annual licence renewal.

C. The conditions and procedures detailed herein apply to all classes and species of animals held under a permanent exhibition licence. The licensee must be able to demonstrate that the facilities and the management of the animals meet all the required standards. He must ensure that the special needs of each species are met.

THE LICENSEE (THE EXHIBITOR)

1 The licensee is the person identified in the licence as being responsible for the orderly and proper operation of the exhibited animal collection and for compliance with the requirements of the licence.

2 The licensee is responsible for the welfare of the animals and must ensure that staff are adequately trained to perform their duties in this regard.

3 If the person specified in the licence is no more connected to the exhibition, an application for transfer of licence must be made by the person taking over.

PRINCIPLES OF MANAGING THE ANIMALS

4 The licensee must provide for each animal for its lifetime. Long-term plans for the animal should take into account the role that it plays as a captive species in the collection.

5 The licensee must be able to show that provision has been made to meet all requirements for the welfare of all animals in the collection. The animal’s physical, physiological and psychological needs must be considered in order to assess whether or not the welfare needs of a particular animal or group of animals are met. Assessment of these needs must be based on an understanding of the species in the context of both its natural history and captive husbandry.

6 The licensee should keep the animals in an environment that is conducive to their well-being, to allow them to display their natural range of activities and behaviours.

7 The animals must not be subjected to any situation (such as overcrowding, conflict situations, etc) which could result in their suffering from chronic stress. Likewise, the animals must not be subjected to excessive public attention such as patting, riding, etc.

8 Live animals displayed must be of a suitable age and past the weaning age.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EXHIBIT SECURITY

9 The licensee must ensure the safety of staff and visitors through appropriate exhibit design, adequate staff training and good management practice.

10 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent accidental spread of disease from the animals to the staff or visitors.

11 Animal holding facilities must be designed and maintained to ensure that staff handling the species can be properly protected.

12 The licensee must ensure that the staff are trained to prevent and control potential hazards in the work-place.

13 The licensee may be required to take out a Third Party Insurance cover.

ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS

14 There is to be no sale, giving away or exportation of animals without prior approval from AVS.

15 No live animal is to be used for any performance or promotion without prior approval from AVS. Any use of animals in an animal act or in product advertising must be done in a manner that will not compromise the welfare of the animal or be viewed as cruel.

16 No live animal is to be given away as part of a performance, as a promotion "item" or for any other reason.

17 Live animals listed on the CITES appendices I & II are not to be displayed without prior approval from NParks.

18 All transfers of animals to and from the facility must be registered in the animal records.

19 The welfare of the animals and public safety must be strictly observed at all times while transporting the animals.

ACCOMMODATION

20 All animal accommodation must provide the basic physical and psychological needs of the species.

21 There must be sufficient space available for the animal to exercise and rest as well as afford protection from rain, sun and strong winds.

22 Accommodation must be built to an acceptable design and the building materials durable.

23 High standards of sanitation must be maintained. Husbandry and servicing activities must not cause undue stress to the animal.

24 The holding area is for short-term holding of animals. It must allow the animal to stand, sit and lie comfortably. Where holding facilities are away from the exhibit area, the animals must be accustomed to being moved between exhibit and holding facilities without causing them undue stress.

25 The licensee must provide evidence that the animal accommodation is designed to meet or exceed the biological requirements of the species.

26 Evacuation procedures must be in place in case of an emergency.

FOOD AND WATER

27 The licensee must provide each species of animal with an appropriate diet which is nutritious and wholesome so as to meet the physiological needs of the animal.

28 An adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water or other appropriate fluid must be available to all animals at all times, or at such intervals as would be required by the species and class of animal under the prevailing climatic conditions.

ANIMAL HEALTH

29 Staff responsible for the care of the animals must be trained to recognise poor health in the animals.

30 Any deviation from normal health and behaviour must be recorded and appropriate action taken to remedy it.

31 A veterinarian should be consulted to give appropriate treatment if any animal is ill or seriously injured. Provision for proper restraint must be provided.

32 Health records must be kept for all animals.

BREEDING MANAGEMENT

33 To avoid the problems of surplus animals for which there is no satisfactory future, the operator must ensure that animals in their collection breed on a planned basis. The breeding program must be consistent with the long-term welfare considerations for the animal.

RECORDS

34 Records must be kept and produced for inspection on request for the following:

- (a) animals held - their numbers, species, sexes and ages
- (b) source of all animals
- (c) health records for each animal and group
- (d) the numbers and cause of death of any animal in the collection
- (e) details of dates of transfers of animals.

35 All management plans and animal records, including health, breeding and diet details must be produced on request.

INSPECTIONS

36 Site inspections will be carried out by AVS officers to ensure that all provisions of the conditions imposed are complied with before a licence is approved or renewed.

37 All animal facilities and premises may be subjected to inspection at any time by AVS officers to ensure that the conditions of the licence are fully complied with.

38 The Director-General reserves the right to impose further conditions as and when it is deemed necessary.

PENALTY

39 Under the Animals and Birds (Pet Shop and Exhibition) Rules 2004, the Director-General may compound the relevant offence(s) committed by the licensee, or revoke or suspend the licence if the operator contravenes or fails to comply with any condition(s) of this licence.

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