



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

MIKE ENGLAND
COLONEL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Applicants rev/1/2024/jrh

FROM: Special Permit Unit

SUBJECT: Instructions for Completing Application

Wildlife Rehabilitation permit is now valid for 5 years, as opposed to the previous one year and will expire December 31st of the fifth year. Rehabber will continue to submit their yearly intake report for each year, which is due in this office by January 10th for the previous year. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of your permit.

This memo is in reference to meeting requirements for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 27-2-22 and Department of Natural Resources Regulation 391-4-9.3. Attached is a summary of the law's provisions and requirements and an application form that you must complete and return to the Law Enforcement Division -Special Permit Unit in Social Circle after completing the exam process. **Do not mail applications and required documents until you have passed the exam, and your facility is ready for an inspection by the Department of Natural Resources.**

The following information must be provided fully for each item on the form:

1. Give the complete name, mailing address, email, and contact telephone information.
2. Provide name, address (including county), and phone number of facility or business (if any) if different than specified in number 1.
3. Specify class or groups of wildlife you are qualified to care for. If you are a licensed veterinarian, please provide sufficient acknowledgment of qualifications.
4. Describe facilities, equipment, and layout in detail.
5. Show training or experience or both in the handling, care, and treatment of the types of wildlife (including dependent young) to be rehabilitated. Please list only those species for which you are qualified.
6. Give the name, address, and telephone number of consulting veterinarian
7. If you wish to be published on the Rehabilitation list on our website, complete the information in this box. If not, leave blank and make sure that your contact phone numbers are listed above, for your account only.

* Applicant must obtain a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Permit for Rehabilitation, if rehabilitating birds regulated by the USFWS; a copy of the rehabilitator's state license must accompany the USFWS application (USFWS Office, Atlanta, (404) 679-7070; regulations and application, www.fws.gov). Therefore, applicants who wish to rehabilitate migratory birds must obtain their state license first, then obtain their USFWS permit, and then send the Special Permit Unit a copy of the USFWS permit to complete their file. Permits to rehabilitate raptors (birds of prey) may be issued only to veterinarians, falconers possessing a permit under O.C.G.A. §27-2-17, or persons who can establish that they have had at least two years' experience in holding, training, and caring for raptors.

Applicant must conform to the attached specifications for facilities. No permit will be issued until DNR personnel have inspected the facilities. **Wildlife held for rehabilitation should be kept in the seclusion necessary for recovery and not exposed or exhibited to the public.**

Training and experience in the fields of veterinary medicine and wildlife biology are *prima facie* evidence of qualification. Training or experience as a veterinary assistant, zoo employee or pet shop employee working with animals may be some evidence of qualification depending on the types of wildlife to be rehabilitated. **Because of the public health risk associated with the likelihood of rabies infection in bat, bobcat, coyote, fox, raccoon, and skunk, rehabilitation permits for those species will be issued only to veterinarians; or persons that have met qualifications as outlined in DNR Regulation 391-4-9-.03 (2)(b), as attached.**

After completing and passing the exam process scoring at least an 80% on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Exam or 85% on the Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Exam (passing scores on both exams are required to rehabilitate RVS) administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Persons intending to take the exam should review wildlife rehabilitation literature and applicable regulations. If a passing score is not made on the exam, it may be taken again after 30 days.

The exam may be taken by a previous appointment, at the DNR Special Permit Unit office in Social Circle at the above address. If you live some distance from Social Circle, it is possible to arrange to take the exam at one of our field offices. <https://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact> or see enclosed regional office list/map.

The exam questions pertain to the diagnosis and treatment of common injuries and diseases, care of orphaned wildlife, facility requirements, and recommended diets. In order to prepare for the exam, it is recommended, but not required, that you obtain the following study guides which can then serve as reference books to assist you in future rehabilitation efforts. The exam is based largely upon the following publications:

“Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation: The Essential Guide for Novice and Experienced Rehabilitators”
<https://national-wildlife-rehabilitators-association.myshopify.com/products/principles-of-wildlife-rehabilitation-2nd-edition>

AND

“Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation”
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
2625 Clearwater Rd., Suite 110
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 230-9920

“Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation” can also be downloaded from International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council’s web page: <https://theiwrc.org/resources/guidelines-for-wildlife-rehabilitation>

Once you have passed the exam, the next step is to prepare your facilities for inspection. When you are ready, mail your application to the Special Permit Unit. Once the application is received, a DNR agent will call to schedule an inspection of your holding and treatment areas. Once approved and SPU receives the inspection report, the permit will be issued. The inspection process can take up to thirty (30) days. **Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing of permit after inspection.**

You will receive annual notices requesting a copy of the records you maintain on all animals received for care. Also, an annual report must be submitted even if no wildlife was received for rehabilitation. You must maintain records concerning the source of the animals, the treatment administered, and the disposition of the animals. You may use any system you prefer, as long as this basic information is included; there is a record-keeping system available through the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. These reports must be received in this office by January 10th each year, and no later than January 15th following each year in which a permit is held with a cover sheet with your name, affiliation, and customer ID number. Failure to do so may result in permit revocation or denial of permit renewal.

It is important to remember that you **may not rehabilitate any native wildlife until you have obtained a permit.** Rehabilitating native wildlife without a permit would be a violation of Georgia law and could result in a citation and/or denial of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.

The primary goal of a rehabilitator is to restore wildlife to a condition of health or to maintain health in young wildlife to an age of independence, so that it may be returned to the wild or otherwise disposed of in a manner approved by the Department. **Wildlife may never be held as a pet.** Injured or orphaned wildlife that, prior to being rehabilitated are determined to be nonreleasable to the wild shall be euthanized unless the Department grants an exception for a specific animal. Injured or orphaned wildlife that subsequent to rehabilitation efforts are determined by the Department to be nonreleasable to the wild shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the department. 391-4-9-.03

Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Special Permit Unit
2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, GA 30025

**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION
PERMIT APPLICATION**
5 Year permit

DVM Passed Exam Date _____

1. Applicant name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: GA Zip: _____ County: _____

Email: _____ *Driver License Number: _____ (Required)

*Date of Birth (Required) _____ Social Security Number: _____ (Required)

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Office # _____

2. Provide the specific location of facility (including county) for treating wildlife, if different from above.

Address: _____ City: _____ GA Zip _____

County: _____ Organization Name: _____

3. Specify classes or groups of wildlife you are qualified to care for (check appropriate box(s)) :

Birds* Raptors* Deer *(Non-Rabies Vector) Small Mammals Reptiles
 *USFWS Permit (if checked, Submit copy) DVM - RVS (if checked, Submit copy of Titters record)

*Must have two years rehab experience as a licensed rehabber and have taken in 20 individuals for care, scoring a minimum of 85 percent on RVS exam. before rehabbing RVS species. (Check effective date on permit).

* If migratory birds are to be rehabilitated, a USFWS permit is required. A copy of the USFWS permit must accompany your application.

4. Describe facilities, equipment, and layout in detail:

5. Show training, experience or both in the handling, care, and treatment of the types of wildlife (including dependent young) to be rehabilitated. Please list only those species for which you are qualified, which meets the requirements of DNR Regulation 391-4-9-.3:

6. Name, address, and telephone number of consulting veterinarian(s):

7. Do you wish to be published on the Rehabilitation List on our website? Yes or No (If you do not wish to be on the list, please leave this area blank):

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____

**** Birds without a USFWS will not be published on list.**

O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20: "A person who knowingly and willingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement...in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government...shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not less than one or more than five years, or both." Rev1/24/jrh

Date

Signature

27-2-22.

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess in captivity any sick or injured wildlife, except fish, without first obtaining, at no charge, a wildlife rehabilitation permit from the department; provided, however, that such permit shall only be issued to persons determined by the department, based on criteria established by regulation of the board, to be competent and capable of rehabilitating the wildlife for which a permit has been requested; provided, further, that the department shall only issue such a permit when it has determined that the issuance of the permit is in the best interest of the wildlife of this state. If such a permit is issued, the department shall prescribe the term for each such permit and may impose any conditions it determines necessary to ensure adequate public safety and to be in the best interests of the wildlife of this state.

391-4-9-.03 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits.

(1) Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms as used in this rule shall have the following meanings:

(a) Rehabilitation means the action or process of restoring wildlife to a condition of health and shall include maintaining a state of health in young wildlife to an age of independence.

(b) Veterinarian means any person possessing a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia.

(c) All other terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 27-1-2 of the Game and Fish Code.

(2) Permits - When used.

(a) Pursuant to authority granted in Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code, the Department may issue a rehabilitation permit, conditioned as deemed appropriate to assure compliance with this Rule, to any person determined by the Department to possess the experience or training or both necessary to restore, or in the case of dependent young to maintain the health of ill, injured or dependent wildlife until it may be returned to the wild or otherwise disposed of in a manner approved by the Department. The qualifications for the permittee include, but are not limited to :

1. Sufficient knowledge of the type(s) of wildlife sought to be rehabilitated to assure identification of the species(s) and familiarity with food preferences thereof.

2. Training or experience or both in the handling, care and treatment of the type(s) of wildlife (including dependent young) sought to be rehabilitated.

3. Applicants who are not licensed veterinarians must score a minimum of 80 percent on a general examination on wildlife rehabilitation developed by the Department. Any applicant not achieving this minimum score may retake the test after 30 days.

4. Injured or orphaned wildlife that, prior to being rehabilitated, are determined to be nonreloadable to the wild shall be euthanized unless the Department grants an exception for a specific animal. Injured or orphaned wildlife that subsequent to rehabilitation efforts are determined by the Department to be nonreplaceable to the wild shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Department.

(b) College-level training and experience in the fields of veterinary medicine or wildlife biology are prima facie evidence of qualification. Training or experience as a veterinary assistant, zoo employee or pet shop employee working with animals, or as a falconer, may be some evidence of qualification depending upon the type(s) of wildlife sought to be rehabilitated. Permits for rehabilitation of birds of prey (raptors) may be issued only to veterinarians, falconers possessing a permit under Section 27-2-17 of the Game and Fish Code, or persons who are able to establish that they have had at least two years of experience in holding, training, and caring for raptors.

Rabies Vector Process:

Because of the public health risk associated with rabies infection in bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks, rehabilitation permits for those species will be issued only to veterinarians; or persons that:

1. Have at least two (2) years' experience as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and have taken in at least 20 individuals for care.
2. Score a minimum of 85 percent on a qualifying examination covering all aspects of rabies including symptoms, reporting, and other areas as determined by the Department.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/publication/georgia-rabies-manual-updated-april-2018/download>

3. Receive rabies pre-exposure vaccination and can demonstrate rabies antibody levels that are recommended for adequate protection before a permit is issued and at least every five years thereafter.

(c) The issuance of a rehabilitation permit is further conditioned upon the Department's determining that an applicant's rehabilitation services are needed or are likely to be utilized in the area he/she proposes to operate.

(d) Applications for rehabilitation permits shall be submitted, on forms provided by the Department, to the Special Permit Unit at the address indicated on said form.

(e) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit or prohibit a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician from providing emergency care, vaccination or other veterinary care that otherwise falls within the scope of professional and ethical judgment.

(f) Persons permitted to rehabilitate bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall be required to contact the appropriate rabies control authority as prescribed by the Department to report possible rabies exposures; to hold these species in arrival groups and in isolation for the duration of convalescence and release rehabilitated animals only in areas designated by the Department; and to submit for rabies testing all bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks accepted for care which are dead on arrival or which subsequently die during care.

(3) Permits - Term.

(a) Rehabilitation permits may be issued for a period not to exceed five years and shall expire at the end of the fifth calendar year (i.e., December 31). Intake logs are due each year no later than January 10th.

(b) Prior to expiration of an initial permit, a permittee may apply for permit renewal. A renewal permit may be granted only if, upon inspection of the reports or records required by Section (6) hereof and reinspection of applicant's facilities, it appears that applicant has complied with Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code and this Rule and that there is a continuing need for his/her rehabilitation services in the area.

(c) If the Department determines, in any case wherein a person has notified the Department that such person has found or is holding any recently found ill, injured, or dependent wildlife, that the circumstances clearly indicate it to be in the best interest of the wildlife that treatment or care not be delayed pending assignment to a permitted rehabilitator, it may, at the request of such person, waive such of the qualifications and facilities requirements herein as are necessary and justified under the circumstances and immediately issue to the finder or holder of such wildlife an emergency one-time rehabilitation permit. Such permits will not be issued for any wildlife requiring care of a nature which the Department concludes the wildlife finder or holder is incapable of providing. Such permits shall expire at the earlier date the wildlife is fully rehabilitated and released, or the date of expiration stated herein. If an expiration date is specified in the permit, the wildlife shall be surrendered to a Departmental representative for appropriate disposition on or before that date.

(4) Facilities - Generally. A rehabilitation permit will be issued only after the Department has inspected the applicant's wildlife holding facilities and has determined that they conform with Section 27-5-6 of the Game and

Fish Code. In order to be approved, facilities must also be constructed in a manner sufficient and of a dimension adequate to provide security and protection for both the wildlife held therein and humans or other animals which may be or come in close proximity thereto. The facilities must also be located so as to provide the seclusion necessary for recuperation from illness or injury.

(5) Facilities for Raptors. In addition to the requirements of Section (4) above, raptors may be held in facilities that either:

(a) Allow for the bird(s) to be tethered to a perch when appropriate, with sufficient room in the enclosure to allow full wing extension without breakage of flight feathers; or

(b) Area equipped with an appropriate perch for each member of each species held and with vertical bars over any windows; and are free from any other hazards to the health and safety (including plumage) of the birds so held.

(6) Other Rehabilitation Requirements.

(a) In all other respects, e.g. relating to feeding, watering, sanitation, veterinary care, handling, separation, and transportation of wildlife, as well as qualifications of employees, permittee's rehabilitation practices must comply with Section 27-5-6 of the Game and Fish Code.

(b) Permittee shall maintain complete records on all wildlife held for purposes of rehabilitation, which records shall document at least the following information for each animal held; annually these data shall be compiled into a report which shall be submitted to the Department by December 31st or no later than January 5th following each year in which a permit is held:

1. Date received.
2. Species.
3. Condition requiring rehabilitation.
4. Treatment administered and results.
5. Final disposition and date thereof.

(c) In the case of migratory birds, permittees shall also comply with any applicable federal regulations or requirements for rehabilitation.

(7) Enforcement. Upon determination by the Commissioner that any permittee has violated Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code, any provision of this or any other applicable Rule of the Department, or any condition of his/her permit, he may, in his discretion, proceed:

(a) Pursuant to Section 27-1-37 of the Game and Fish Code, to issue an administrative order to the permittee to take corrective action or authorizing other appropriate enforcement action including seizure of wildlife held by permittee; or

(b) To initiate criminal prosecution pursuant to Section 27-1-38 or civil penalty proceedings pursuant to Section 27-1-36 of the Game and Fish Code; or

(c) To deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the rehabilitation permit pursuant to Section 27-2-25 of the Game and Fish Code.

27-5-6.

It shall be unlawful to import, transport, sell, transfer, or possess any wild animal regulated by this chapter without meeting the specifications expressed in this Code section for the humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of such animals:

(1) **FACILITIES IN GENERAL.**

(A) The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect and contain the animals. The facilities shall be designed in such manner, including the inclusion of barriers of sufficient dimensions and conformation, to safeguard both the animals and the public against injury by direct contact.

(B) Reliable and adequate electric power, if required to comply with other provisions of this Code section, and adequate potable water shall be available on the premises.

(C) Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect the supplies against deterioration, molding, or contamination by vermin. Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food.

(D) Provision shall be made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, trash, and debris. Disposal facilities shall be provided and operated so as to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards. The disposal facilities and any disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, trash, and debris shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.

(E) Facilities such as washrooms, basins, showers, or sinks shall be provided to maintain cleanliness among animal caretakers.

(2) **INDOOR FACILITIES.**

(A) Temperature in indoor housing facilities shall be sufficiently regulated by heating or cooling to protect the animals from extremes of temperature, to provide for their health, and to prevent their discomfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below nor rise above temperatures compatible with the health and comfort of the animal.

(B) Indoor housing facilities shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health and to prevent discomfort of the animals at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation.

(C) Indoor housing facilities shall have ample lighting, by natural or artificial means, or both, of good quality, distribution, and duration as appropriate for the species involved. Such lighting shall be uniformly distributed and of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning. Lighting of primary enclosures shall be designed to protect the animals from excessive illumination.

(D) A suitable sanitary method shall be provided for rapid elimination of excess water from indoor housing facilities. If drains are used, they shall be properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors and installed so as to prevent any backup of sewage. The method of drainage shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.

(3) **OUTDOOR FACILITIES.**

(A) When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort of the animals, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means shall be provided to allow all animals kept outdoors to protect themselves from direct sunlight.

(B) Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals. Individual animals shall be acclimated before they are exposed to the extremes of the local climate.

(C) A suitable method shall be provided for rapid elimination of excess water. The method of drainage shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.

(4) **SPACE REQUIREMENTS.** Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of malnutrition, poor condition, debility, stress, or abnormal behavioral patterns.

(5) **FEEDING.**

(A) The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health. The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of animal. Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

(B) Food and food receptacles, if used, shall be sufficient in quantity and located so as to be accessible to all animals in the enclosure and shall be placed so as to minimize contamination. Food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times. If self-feeders are used, adequate measures shall be taken to prevent molding, contamination, and deterioration or caking of food.

(6) **WATERING.** If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall take into consideration the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(7) **SANITATION.**

(A) Excreta shall be removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors. When enclosures are cleaned by hosing or flushing, adequate measures shall be taken to protect the animals confined in such enclosures from being directly sprayed with the stream of water or wetted involuntarily.

(B) Subsequent to the presence of an animal with an infectious or transmissible disease, cages, rooms, and hard-surfaced pens or runs shall be sanitized either by washing them with hot water (180 degrees Fahrenheit at source) and soap or detergent, as in a mechanical washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with saturated live steam under pressure. Pens or runs using gravel, sand, or dirt shall be sanitized when necessary.

(C) Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this Code section. Accumulations of trash shall be placed in designated areas and cleared as necessary to protect the health of the animals.

(D) A safe and effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

(8) **EMPLOYEES.** A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this Code section. Such employees shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

(9) **SEPARATION.** Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Animals shall not be housed near animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

(10) **VETERINARY CARE.**

(A) Programs of disease prevention, parasite control, euthanasia, and adequate veterinary care shall be established and maintained. The pest control programs shall be reviewed for the safe use of materials and methods.

(B) Animals shall be observed every day by the person in charge of the care of the animals or by someone working under his direct supervision. Sick, diseased, stressed, injured, or lame animals shall be provided with veterinary care or humanely destroyed, unless such action is inconsistent with the research purposes for which the animal was obtained and is being held.

(C)(i) In the case of a research facility, the program of adequate veterinary care shall include the appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs, when such use would be proper in the opinion of the attending veterinarian at the research facility. Such drugs shall be used in accordance with the currently accepted veterinary medical practice as cited in appropriate professional journals or reference guides and shall produce in the individual subject animal a high level of tranquilization, anesthesia, or analgesia consistent with the protocol or design of the experiment.

(ii) It shall be incumbent upon each research facility to provide guidelines and consultation to research personnel with respect to the type and number of tranquilizers, anesthetics, or analgesics recommended as being appropriate for each species of animal used by that institution.

(iii) The use of these three classes of drugs shall effectively minimize the pain and discomfort of the animals while under experimentation.

(11) **HANDLING.**

(A) Handling of animals shall be done expeditiously and carefully so as not to cause unnecessary discomfort, behavioral stress, or physical harm to the animal. Care should be exercised also to avoid harm to the handler.

(B) Animals to which the public is afforded direct contact shall only be displayed for periods of time and under conditions consistent with the animals' health and not leading to their discomfort.

(C) During public display, the animals must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the public with sufficient distance allowed between the animals and the viewing public to assure safety to both the public and the animals. Performing animals shall be allowed a rest period between performances equal to the time for one performance.

(12) VEHICLES.

(A) Vehicles used in transporting animals shall be mechanically sound and equipped to provide the animals adequate fresh air, both when moving and stationary, without injurious drafts or discomfort.

(B) The animal cargo space shall be so constructed and maintained so as to prevent the ingress of the vehicle's exhaust gases.

(C) The interior of the animal cargo space shall be kept physically clean.

(D) The ambient temperature shall be sufficiently regulated by heating or cooling to protect the animals from the extremes of temperature and to provide for their health and to prevent their discomfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below or rise above temperatures compatible with the health and comfort of the animals.

(13) PRIMARY ENCLOSURES USED TO TRANSPORT ANIMALS.

(A) Primary enclosures, such as compartments used to transport animals, shall be well constructed, well ventilated, and designed to protect the health and assure the safety of the animals. Such enclosures shall be constructed or positioned in the vehicle in such a manner that each animal in the vehicle has access to sufficient air for normal breathing, the openings of such enclosures are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of the animals, and the animals are afforded adequate protection from the elements.

(B) Animals transported in the same primary enclosure shall be compatible. Socially dependent animals (e.g., siblings, dam, and young cage mates) must be allowed visual and contact.

(C) Primary enclosures used to transport animals shall be large enough to ensure that each animal contained therein has sufficient space to turn about freely and to make normal postural adjustments; provided, however, that certain species may be restricted in their movements according to professionally acceptable standards when such freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the animals or their handlers.

(D) Animals shall not be placed in primary enclosures over other animals in transit unless each enclosure is fitted with a floor of a material which prevents animal excreta or other wastes from entering lower enclosures.

(E) Primary enclosures used to transport animals shall be cleansed and sanitized before and after each shipment. All bedding in the vehicle shall be clean at the beginning of each trip.

(14) FOOD AND WATER REQUIREMENTS.

(A) Potable water shall be provided to each animal at least once in each 12-hour period except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, or other professionally accepted practices. Those animals which, by common accepted practice, require watering more frequently shall be so watered.

(B) Each animal shall be fed at least once in each 24-hour period except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices. Those animals which, by common accepted practice, require feeding more frequently shall be so fed.

(C) A sufficient quantity of food and water shall accompany the animal to provide food and water for the animal for a period of at least 24 hours, except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

(15) CARE IN TRANSIT.

(A) It shall be the responsibility of the attendant or driver to inspect the animals frequently enough to assure the health and comfort of the animals.

(B) In the event of a breakdown or delay of the vehicle, it is the responsibility of the animal caretaker or vehicle operator to assure that animals get adequate ventilation and protection from fumes, vehicle exhaust, and extremes in temperature and to assure that the animals are not subjected to undue discomfort.

(C) In an emergency concerning the health and welfare of the animals, adequate veterinary care shall be provided without delay.