

Standards for Exhibiting Animals at Mobile Establishments in New South Wales

Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986

A publication of the Director General, NSW Department of Primary Industries
(pursuant to Clause 8(1) of the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation, 2005).

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Definitions

Attendant – A volunteer, under the direction of an employee or an authority holder who has been suitably trained to handle animals for display purposes.

Authority Holder - Approval and Permit holders authorised to display animals at mobile establishments; issued under the *Exhibited animals Protection Act, 1986*.

Crush Resistant Container – An animal transport container that resists squashing in the event that a weight is placed upon it or breaking in the event of an accident.

Employee – A person working for an authority holder for pay.

Handle – To remove or restrain an animal using one or more hands, or hand held instrument. e.g. a snake hook.

Home Base – The premises where the authority holder is required, by a condition on the authority, to keep animals when not being displayed.

Mobile Display – The display of animals at mobile establishments.

Mobile Establishments – An animal display establishment comprising premises that are of a type referred to in Section 22(2) of the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986.

Staff – Employees of an authority holder.

Stress - a disturbing physiological or psychological influence which produces a state of severe tension in an individual.

Part 1 – General

Note

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

Clause 1

Scope of Standards

- 1) These standards apply to the exhibition of animals at mobile establishments (other than circuses) by Approval and Permit holders authorised under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* (EAPA).

Note

These standards do not apply to the exhibition of circus animals as these are covered by the *Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales*.

- 2) These standards must be used in conjunction with all other standards and policies prepared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Note

Current versions of NSW Department of Primary Industries standards and policies can be obtained at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/exhibit or the Animal Welfare Branch on (02) 6391 3725.

- 3) An applicant may seek the Director-General's approval to any variation of the application of these Standards. Before a variation can be approved an applicant must satisfy the Director-General that the proposed variation is appropriate for the particular species involved. The Director-General if so satisfied may approve a variation in the particular circumstances.

Clause 2

Purpose of the Standards

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.

Part 2 – Staff

Clause 3

Staff

- 1) The authority holder must ensure that there is a suitably qualified person in charge of each mobile animal display of animals who is able to:
 - a) handle and restrain the species used in the display;
 - b) ensure members of the general public are not placed at risk;
 - c) recognise signs of behavioural and physical stress in the species used in the display and take actions to reduce this stress;
 - d) identify biological, behavioural and husbandry requirements of the species used in the display;
 - e) maintain hygiene to minimise disease risk; and
 - f) answer questions from the public regarding their husbandry and welfare.

Note

The Director-General may ask the authority holder for references or other evidence to confirm the competencies of a proposed person in charge of a mobile animal display.

The Director-General may also refer to industry to assist in assessing such a person's competencies.

- 2) The authority holder must ensure the person in charge of the mobile display of an authority holder's animal is:
 - a) the authority holder (if that is a person); or
 - b) one of the authority holder's employees.
- 3) When the authority holder is not present at a mobile display of the authority holder's animals, the authority holder must ensure:
 - a) an employee who possesses the qualifications listed under Clause 3(1) is present at the mobile display and is in charge of the authority holder's animals;
 - b) the employee is listed on the authority holder's Approval and Permit certificates as an employee who may exhibit animals on behalf of the authority holder;

Note

An employee will not be listed on an authority unless the holder has provided a resumé that satisfies the Director-General that the employee possesses the minimum qualifications listed in Clause 3(1).

- c) the employee is supervised by the authority holder so as to ensure the mobile display complies with these standards and other relevant standards under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*;
- d) the employee is able to immediately contact the authority holder via phone or radio at all times while the employee is in possession of the authority holder's animals; and
- e) the animals that are being used on behalf of the authority holder are returned to the authority holders premises when not being used. i.e. the animal cannot be held at the premises of an employee.
- f) That only the authority holder's animals are used. i.e. if animals are owned by the employee under a separate licence then these cannot be used for mobile displays.

Part 3 – Animal Suitability

Clause 4

Suitability of Animals

Note

It is imperative that exhibitors understand the nature of their animals and be aware of the stresses that can be imposed on them by removing them from their normal environment and subjecting them to closer than normal interaction with crowds of people. At all times consideration must be given to the differing temperaments and tolerances to stress between and within species.

- 1) The authority holder must ensure that only animals that are conditioned or habituated to a high degree of human contact are normally used for temporary removals. Other animals must only be used after the authority holder has carefully considered how risks to the animals' welfare can be both justified and minimised.

Note

Animals that are only infrequently removed from their normal enclosure tend to react more adversely to being displayed than those that are regularly removed and have become conditioned to particular exhibit facilities while on temporary display. The inference from this situation is that authority holders who wish to regularly display animals should establish a routine to be followed in a consistent way so the stress to animals is minimised. However there are some instances where a natural response is desired for educational purposes (where an animal can be trained or conditioned) such as expanding the frill of a frilled lizard, eliciting the rattle of a rattlesnake and raising the crest of a cockatoo.

- 2) The authority holder must ensure the animals being exhibited are in good health before and after each display event.

Note

An authority holder needs to make sure the person in charge complies with this and any other requirements on behalf of the authority holder.

- 3) The authority holder must ensure the suitability of individual animals for each temporary removal, e.g. by assessing the normal weight range, condition or behaviour, before an animal is temporarily removed.

Note

Known pregnant animals (especially in the last trimester and obviously pregnant) should not normally be used for a mobile establishment.

- 4) Exotic reptiles and amphibians are not permitted to be displayed by mobile exhibitors. The only exception is the use of male cane toads if a standard operating procedure is provided and approved by the Director-General. The holding and display of male cane toads will only be permitted on the condition that no breeding or trading occurs and they are displayed with a message that discusses their role as feral pests.
- 5) An authority holder must ensure that a snake is not removed from its enclosure for demonstration purposes if there is potential for it to regurgitate.

Note

Experienced snake demonstrators usually wait at least 1-2 days following feeding but it may be necessary to wait longer.

- 6) A crocodylian may only be kept and used for mobile display under the following conditions:
- a) The crocodylian is less than 1.2 metres in total length. (Exception: Only Freshwater Crocodiles less than 1.0 metre in total length may be held/displayed by authority holders who are authorised to exhibit at mobile establishments). Authority holders must have written confirmation from an Australian institution legally able to hold crocodylians longer than the maximum size limits in this Clause agreeing to accept the animals when they reach the maximum allowable size;
- b) A person in charge may utilise mouth restraints on a crocodylian when it is used for hands-on interaction with a member of the public. Mouth restraints must be made of a soft material that does not rub on the animal's snout and must be placed on the animal immediately prior to, and removed immediately after, each individual demonstration with the animal.

Note

The investment of time in assessing an individual crocodylian's temperament to allow an experienced person in charge to display them without a mouth restraint is considered preferable to the message implied by the use of a mouth restraint for hands-on contact sessions.

- 7) A monitor lizard greater than 1.2 metres in total length cannot be held or displayed by an authority holder.
- 8) A bird may be displayed only if it is:

- a) not feather trimmed or pinioned to inhibit their flying ability for the purpose of undertaking mobile displays; and
- b) displayed in one of the following ways:
 - i) within a fully enclosed area which, for flighted birds, must have a maximum roof height that is sufficiently low to permit the recovery of the bird; or

Note

The height of the roof should ideally not exceed five metres in height to allow easy recovery.

- ii) within an unroofed enclosed area, if the birds are of a flightless species or cannot fly due to accidental injury or have been previously pinioned or feather trimmed for other husbandry reasons (Note the Director-General may require evidence of the reasons for pinioning or feather trimming); or
 - iii) outside an enclosed area if the bird is:
 - a homing pigeon; or
 - a tawny frogmouths displayed on a perch during daylight hours; or
 - a bird of prey that are prevented from flying away by a handler holding on to jesses fitted to the bird; or
 - free flown as part of a free flight display, or during conditioning for a free flight display, operated in accordance with standard operating procedures specifically approved by the Director-General. This will require the birds to be adequately conditioned to minimise the risk of escape. Raptors are to be fitted with a working transmitter that the person in charge can use to track the bird if required.
 - adequately conditioned to minimise the risk of escape. e.g. hand-reared birds.
 - a flightless waterbird on an open body of water.
- 9) Deer may be displayed by mobile exhibitors only under the following conditions:
- a) The only species of deer to be used for mobile displays are Fallow Deer, Red Deer and Rusa Deer. Adult male Rusa Deer are not to be used.
 - b) No entire adult male deer (stags) are to be displayed to the public during the months of February through September unless the display is undertaken in accordance with a standard operating procedure approved by the Director-General.
- 10) Pigs are not allowed to be held in an enclosure containing any other species.

Note

Under the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2004* a person must not feed a prohibited substance to stock or cause or permit stock to feed on a prohibited substance. Under Clause 60 that relates to the feeding of substances to pigs, animal products or their excreta are not to be fed. Therefore as pigs are not allowed to be held with any species of bird or mammal due to their potential to consume other animals or their excreta.

- 11) An authority holder is not permitted to display at mobile establishments a primate or carnivore of the Order Carnivora (except domestic dogs and cats), except where:
- a) the authority holder can demonstrate the display will comply with the security, display and enclosure requirements of the Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in NSW;
 - b) the mobile display is undertaken in accordance with a standard operating procedure approved by the Director-General.
- 12) During a display of a carnivore of the Order Carnivora (except a domestic dog, dingo or cat), the authority holder must ensure the carnivore is not handled in public, i.e. without being in a cage environment, unless it weighs less than 20kg and is at a stage of development and conditioning that presents no risk of serious injury to people (eg. biting and/or scratching).
- 13) Primates may be displayed at a mobile establishment if the primate:
- a) is being hand reared; and
 - b) weighs less than 20kg or is at a stage of development and conditioning that presents no risk of serious injury to people (e.g. biting and/or scratching).

Part 4 – Authorisation

Clause 5

Prior Preparation

- 1) Authority holders must provide NSW Department of Primary Industries Animal Welfare Branch with an itinerary of each planned mobile display at least seven (7) days prior to the mobile display or, by agreement with the Director-General, at a later time. If this is provided satisfactorily an “Application to Remove an Animal from Authorised Premises” will not normally be required. See Clauses 5(3) below for exceptions.
- 2) In the event that an authority holder shows a poor record of providing itineraries with adequate notice, or undertakes displays contrary to these or other standards, the authority holder may be required to apply at least seven (7) days before each proposed mobile display for permission to remove animals from the authorised premises recorded on the authority using the “Application to Remove an Animal from Authorised Premises”.
- 3) An authority holder is required to lodge a completed “Application to Remove an Exhibited Animal from Authorised Premises” at least seven (7) days before a proposed exhibition of an animal at a restricted age premises as defined under the *Liquor Act 1982*.

The application must be approved by the Director-General before the animal is taken to the restricted age premises.

- 4) The itinerary for each planned display at a mobile establishment must clearly outline the:
- a) proposed date(s) of departure from and return to the home base;
 - b) proposed date(s) and duration of each display;
 - c) number of each species of animal, indicating any that are not adult;
 - d) destination – the name and address where the animals are to be held and/or displayed; and
 - e) type of event:
 - i) educational institution;
 - ii) party entertainment ;
 - iii) shopping centre;
 - iv) fair;
 - v) agricultural show or field days;
 - vi) filming;
 - vii) radio;
 - viii) television;
 - ix) photo shoot;
 - x) promotion;
 - xi) trained performance
 - xii) other (provide description).
- 5) The authority holder must retain a record of each mobile display carried out for a period of at least one year, including a copy of each itinerary.

Part 5 – Transport and Exhibition

Clause 6

Requirements for Animal Containers and Vehicles

- 1) Animals are to be transported in a manner that protects them from being injured or exposed to unsuitable or stressful climatic or environmental conditions. The transportation of an animal in the uncovered section of a vehicle or trailer is unacceptable.

Note

Adequate ventilation can be provided in the form of an air intake device or air conditioning. The space in which the animals are being transported may require modifications to ensure transport conditions are maintained at an appropriate ambient temperature (whether heating or cooling).

- 2) Each animal is to be transported within a container that:
 - a) is structurally sound so that it is crush proof and escape proof; and
 - b) is constructed in such a way that it will not injure any enclosed animal; and
 - c) can be easily loaded and unloaded; and
 - d) provides suitable barriers between animals where there is risk of an animal injuring another; and

Note

It is recommended that individuals are transported in separate containers so they can be more easily monitored. This makes it easier to determine which animal is the source of any faeces, urine or blood that may be of concern.

- e) for terrestrial animals, has a non slip floor and allows freedom of movement for the enclosed animals to stand, sit, lie down, turn around and stretch out their full length, with the following exceptions: equids must not be allowed room to turn around due to injury concerns; snakes and lizards may be transported in containers that do not allow them to stretch out their full length; and
 - f) allows frequent visual or environment (e.g. monitoring of ambient temperature) inspections to be undertaken; and
 - g) includes an appropriate warning sign if it contains venomous or dangerous species; and
 - h) is designed to allow ease of cleaning and disinfection.
- 4) The animal transport vehicle must incorporate:
 - a) facilities to securely fasten animal transport containers to prevent them moving within the vehicle; and
 - b) a vehicle exhaust system that does not pollute the air inside the animal transport container; and
 - c) a barrier between the animal transport container and the driver's compartment strong enough to hold the weight of animals and their containers in the event of an accident.

- 5) Any compartment within which animal containers are transported must:
- a) allow handling of transport containers without risk to the handlers; and
 - b) be designed to control spillage of faeces and be disinfected after each use

Note

Animals are susceptible to injury or the exacerbation of sub-clinical infection during loading, handling and transportation. These problems often arise due to cumulative stresses. Common stressors include:

- a) unusual yarding and handling;
- b) deprivation of food and water;
- c) changes in climatic conditions;
- d) overcrowding or isolation, unfamiliar surroundings, noises and sensations;
- e) inappropriate care during road transportation; and
- f) physiological responses associated with pregnancy and lactation.

The greater the number of stressful experiences you can remove from the temporary removal experience, the better the chances of the animal arriving at its destination in the same condition as it departed.

Clause 7

Transportation

- 1) The authority holder must ensure that a sufficient number of experienced staff accompany animals during a mobile display, to ensure compliance with these standards.
- 2) An authority holder must ensure the person in charge of a display of the authority holder's animal(s) has a documented contingency plan detailing how the person in charge is to manage the animals in the event of an accident, breakdown or escape of animals while transporting the animals.

Note

For many animals it is recommended that inspection of animals be carried out by the person in charge, not more than two hours after the commencement of a journey, and thereafter at maximum intervals of two hours. During these inspections clean fresh water should be offered to all animals.

Temperature probes can be installed into boxes or the compartment carrying animals and temperature reader can be fixed to the dashboard of the car to allow constant monitoring.

Additional food and water, and ideally a generator to allow air flow, in the event of a vehicle breakdown should be carried by the transportation vehicle.

- 3) Veterinary assistance must be sought as soon as possible for any animal seriously injured during transportation to or from the display site.
- 4) Each animal must be checked as soon as possible upon arrival at the display destination by the authority holder or his or her delegate.
- 5) Where an animal is to be displayed within an enclosure, it must, where possible, be released directly into the exhibit enclosure from the transport vehicle or container. If the animal must be walked from the transport vehicle to the exhibit the authority holder must ensure appropriate crowd control is in place and that the animal does not walk on unsuitable substrate, i.e. slippery floors.

Clause 8

Requirements at the Exhibition Site

- 1) The authority holder must ensure the person in charge of the mobile display has a copy of the relevant current New South Wales Department of Primary Industries authority, which must be prominently displayed at the mobile display location during the entire display period.
- 2) The authority holder must ensure the mobile display is conducted in accordance with any applicable standard operating procedure that has been approved by the Director-General.
- 3) All staff of an authority holder must be clearly marked as representatives of that authority holder during the entire display period. i.e. they must be wearing a uniform with appropriate patches or badges that identify the authority holder (except during private functions where the staff are wearing a themed costume).
- 4) The authority holder must ensure there are sufficient staff members and appropriate use of barriers to safely handle and control the animals used in the display, and to safely control the public interactions with and access to the animals used in the display.

Note

It is important to brief the security staff at the venue that their assistance would be appreciated if crowd behaviour is unacceptable.

Use of barriers, or assistants, may be unnecessary where the ratio of authority holder and associated staff to visitors/onlookers does not exceed 1: 15, however barriers must always be available so that appropriate visitor control can be achieved if more visitors/onlookers arrive than are expected. To avoid any such problems arising, it is recommended that a rule be enforced that the visitors can only touch tame animals.

- 5) The authority holder, and associated staff, must prevent members of the public from coming in contact with dangerous or venomous animals.
- 6) Appropriate facilities must be available to allow animals not being displayed to be held in an area that:
 - a) is secure from members of the public;
 - b) is secure so they cannot escape; and

- c) provides suitable stable environmental conditions for the animals.
- 7) The authority holder must ensure that no visitor contact with an animal occurs unless the person in charge is present and can recognise the behavioural characteristics indicative of an animal of that species objecting to being touched and:
- a) the animal can withdraw from the contact if it wishes by moving away from the enclosure fence or, in walk-in exhibits, into a suitably identified refuge area that excludes visitors and onlookers. In the case of small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and birds such as chickens and ducks, the animals must be able to withdraw into a hutch or enclosure that is accessible by the authority holder and associated staff but not by visitors and onlookers; or
 - b) the period of contact is sufficiently short for an animal that is not able to withdraw, e.g. a hand held python, or a goat being walked on a leash, to ensure the animal does not display behaviours indicative of stress.

Unacceptable practices include carrying or leading non-tame animals through crowds at venues such as sports events and shopping centres.

Note

It must be recognised that not all species show obvious behaviours indicative of stress.

- 8) Mobile exhibit enclosures must provide:
- a) shelter from rain, wind, extreme temperatures and loud noise;
 - b) adequate space to move in all directions; and
 - c) a supply of adequate amounts of fresh food and water; and
 - d) where appropriate, sight barriers from the viewing public so that the animal can screen the public from its view; and

Note

Exhibit furniture can be used as sight barriers from the viewing public so that the animal can screen the public from its view.

- e) the opportunity for the enclosed animals to avoid being touched by visitors;
 - f) external radiant heating where the ambient temperature is below 30°C, in the case of newly hatched birds, less than five weeks of age.
- 9) Any animal whose fight-or-fright reaction, signs of stress or aggression do not subside after a short exposure to an audience must be removed from display to an area that complies with subclause 6 (above). If this is in an area where the public could stress the animal then the authority holder, or associated staff, must stay with the animal to ensure that the animal will not be harassed.

Clause 9**Exhibition**

- 1) The exhibition facilities for the animals must be designed so that the animals cannot escape.
- 2) The construction of any display facilities must be safe for the animals, staff and the public.
- 3) Authority holders must ensure the enclosure temperature is monitored and ensure that it is kept within an appropriate temperature range for the animals held in the enclosure.
- 4) Only the authority holder and/or staff employed by the authority holder are permitted to handle an animal displayed at mobile establishments and they must be in control of the animals at all times. Exception: an authority holder may permit a third party to handle such an animal if the authority holder and/or staff employed by the authority holder is in the immediate vicinity of the animal and is able to ensure its welfare in circumstances where the other prescribed standards allow such an animal to be held.

Note

For example, an authority holder and/or staff employed by the authority holder may use a teacher, student or member of the audience to hold an animal while the authority holder or staff member gives a talk or takes a photo.

- 5) Where visitors are permitted to enter an enclosure containing animals:
 - a) the enclosure must have a double gate through which the public can enter;
 - b) the enclosure must include a designated area where animals can retreat from visitors without being touched. The retreat area must include adequate bedding and be large enough to allow at least half the animals on display to rest there at any one time.
 - c) the person in charge must ensure suitable supervision is provided to ensure the welfare of the animals.
- 6) Where deer are displayed within an enclosure, the exhibitor shall not permit members of the public to enter the enclosure unless the deer are juvenile, and/or tame adult female Fallow Deer. In this situation the exhibit must include a designated area where the deer may retreat from visitors.

Note

Hard-hoofed animals like deer can easily slip and hurt themselves on smooth surfaces such as tiles or floorboards.

- 7) To prevent injuries, juveniles of small sized species (e.g. rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, duck etc.) must be displayed separately from larger animals, such as juvenile or adult sheep or cattle, unless approved by the Director-General.

Note

Approval may be granted by the Director-General if animals within the mixed exhibit are within a similar weight range.

- 8) Animals must not be tethered while on display, except in the case of working dogs and domestic hoof stock, where they have access to shelter and clean water while tethered, and adult female goats or cows where they are being used for milking demonstrations.
- 9) The walking of deer through public areas can only occur if:
 - a) each deer is tame and controlled by a handler via the use of headstall and rope;
 - b) deer handlers are at least 16 years old (Exception: younger handlers may be used to control deer that are less than one year old);
 - c) all persons, other than the holder's deer handlers, are kept at least one metre from the deer while they are in motion in public areas;
 - d) the deer are never placed or walked on escalators or moving walkways;
 - e) any adult male deer being walked have been castrated before their first rut, and individually identified by microchip. Evidence of castration before first rut must be supportable by a veterinary certificate which also states the microchip number given to the animal;

Exception: entire adult male deer (stags) may be walked through public areas if the holder's Permit contains a condition specifically authorising this use.

Note

Approval is usually conditional upon applicants demonstrating to the Director-General's satisfaction their knowledge and experience with handling entire stags.

- 10) The maximum length of time animals are allowed to be displayed at any one location on a continuous basis is 14 days. This allows for displays at agricultural shows including the Royal Easter Show. If animals are to be displayed at the same location for more than 14 days, all animals and display structures such as pits or enclosures must be removed daily and returned the following day. Exhibitions exceeding 14 days in the length at the one location must be approved by the Director-General.

Note

Exhibitions at any one location longer than 14 days, where the animals and/or display structures are left in the one location, can be considered a stationary exhibit and therefore may require a Licence for an animal display establishment at the location where the animals are being displayed.

Clause 10

Supervision and Safety

- 1) The authority holder must ensure any person in charge of a mobile display is supervised so as to ensure the mobile display complies with the standards.

- 2) The authority holder must ensure there is a person adequately trained in First Aid available at each mobile display location, and that this person has access to a First Aid kit adequately equipped for accidents or incidents.
- 3) A venomous snake must be displayed at a safe distance from members of the audience/film crew or enclosed within by an approved safety barrier, such as a walled pit, designed to protect all members of the audience from being bitten by these animals unless the mobile display is undertaken in accordance with a Standard Operating Procedure approved by the Director General.
- 4) The authority holder must ensure that any person handling one of the authority holder's venomous reptiles:
 - a) uses the appropriate safety equipment such as hooks and hoop bags;
 - b) handles only one animal at a time and ensures that no other animals are loose within the display enclosure;
 - c) uses a hook to assist with handling the animal, except during venom extraction carried out as part of a recognised program;
 - d) does not cause the reptile to be physically touched to promote striking behaviour;
 - e) situates lockable transport boxes in a secure location within the confines of the display enclosure/pit;
 - f) has a mobile phone immediately available to call for an ambulance if required; and
 - g) never uses animals that have had their venom glands removed.

Note

The escape of a Permit species (listed in Schedule 2 of the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation) must be notified to the Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries within two hours of the escape. Failure to do so is an offence carrying a maximum penalty of \$1100.

Any incident involving the death of a person or injury to a person that requires medical treatment caused by an animal to which the authority to exhibit relates, must be reported to the Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries. Failure to do so is an offence carrying a maximum penalty of \$1100.

- 5) The animal exhibit must never be left unsupervised by the person in charge while members of the public have the potential to access the animals.
- 6) Promotion of direct contact between reptiles and members of the public must only take place if the reptile is a non-venomous species, and if the person in charge can recognise the behavioural characteristics that indicate that the reptile is objecting to being handled.
- 7) During the display of any species of bat the authority holder must ensure the bat cannot be reached by members of the public due to the potential for infection with Australian Bat

Lyssavirus. The authority holder, any staff and any voluntary attendants involved in the display of a bat must be vaccinated against the Australian Bat Lyssavirus.

Clause 11

Education

- 1) All displays must provide educational value (except for displays for film and television advertisements) and promote appreciation of and respect for the animals and their environment.
- 2) The use of animals in a degrading way is not permitted. Degrading uses include practices that promote an audience to laugh at the degradation of an animal or involve dressing up animals.

Note

It should be understood that most people requesting exhibitors to display animals are doing so because they see the presence of the animals as an attraction for their event/promotion/business. Therefore exhibitors should promote their exhibition business, in order to create an awareness and respect for animals and interest in their conservation.

- 3) If animals are to be displayed through presentation by a handler, educational information must be given verbally to the audience. The information must be sufficient that it would comply with the information requirements for signs under Clause 6 of the 'General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW'.
- 4) If the animals are to be exhibited in an enclosure, the enclosure must:
 - a) provide a naturalistic setting which resembles the animals' habitat and provides for its behavioural and physical well-being as required by Clause 19 of the 'General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW'; and
 - b) provide animal information signs for each animal species contained within, in accordance with Clause 6 of the General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW.

Exception: an exhibit enclosure need not meet these requirements while a presenter is verbally providing the audience with educational information about the animal.

- 5) When handling dangerous or venomous species, a presenter must explain to the audience that he/she is an experienced handler, and that it would be unsafe for a member of the public to copy the actions of the presenter.

Clause 12

Demonstration of Education Benefit

Note

Approvals and Permits to display animals at mobile establishments are issued on the basis that the animals will be used for that purpose and not as a means of holding a private collection of animals. Therefore mobile exhibitors are required to demonstrate that they are legitimate exhibitors by completing a minimum number of displays per year.

The Director-General must be satisfied that the authority holder is a bone fide exhibitor and that sufficient public benefit, especially educational benefit, arises from the exhibitor

continuing to hold the authority. In forming such an opinion the Director-General may request and consider the following:

- a) references from recipients of displays;
- b) contact details of display locations;
- c) size of the audience at each location or display;
- d) details of displays at educational environments such as schools and kindergartens; and
- e) frequency of display (number of displays and days) over the last 12 months. As a guide the Director-General will expect a minimum number of displays to be conducted each year. These include:
 - i) 24 displays Year 1 after issue of Approval and/or Permit
 - ii) 48 displays Year 2 after issue of Approval and/or Permit
 - iii) 100 displays Year 3 after issue of Approval and/or Permit onwards

Multiple displays at the same locality, on the same day, will each be counted as a display up to a maximum of six.

Note

In Clause 12a “display” means an exhibition of animals in one or more enclosures and/or a verbal presentation to a group of people (10 or more) of information relating to live animals exhibited in proximity to the presenter.

Clause 13

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) Due to the risk to members of the public of contacting zoonotic diseases, authority holders must ensure that members of the public who have contact with their animals are discouraged from:
 - a) sucking or licking fingers or other objects that the animals may have contacted or soiled;
 - b) touching their mouth with their hands;
 - c) kissing the animals;
 - d) eating food intended for animals;
 - e) eating food of any type until their hands are thoroughly cleaned;

- f) wiping hands on clothing; and
- g) touching animal faeces, soil and/or other substrate used by the animals.
- 2) Where members of the public are allowed to touch any animals, hand-washing facilities (eg. bathroom or sink) must be readily available on the premises or venue and the members of the public must be encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands after touching any animals due to the potential for transmission of zoonotic diseases. Exception: where hand washing facilities are not readily available, an authority holder must ensure that members of the public who touch animals can clean their hands with anti-bacterial gel and/or wipes provided and are encouraged by the authority holder to use them.

Note

Unless the hands are thoroughly cleaned the bacteria and other pathogens associated with reptiles and other animals are likely to be ingested after contact, either directly from the hands or via food that is consumed. Though any person is potentially susceptible to disease as a result of such exposure, it has a higher potential to cause disease in individuals with weak immune systems.

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 15-20 seconds as you wash them.
- paying attention to back of hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails.
- rinsing hands well under running water for 15-20 seconds.
- drying hands with disposable paper towel, clean towel or air drier.
- turning off the tap with the used paper towel, if applicable.

Exhibitors are encouraged to display a sign that outlines this information.

Clause 14 **Exhibition During Transit as Part of an Acquisition or Disposal**

Unless specifically approved by the Director-General, during the transportation of an animal to effect its acquisition or disposal, an authority holder is not permitted to break the journey between the authority holder's licensed animal display establishment premises and the premises of the other party involved in the transaction. Stopping for media or other displays is prohibited once the animals have left the home base of the authority holder during a transaction process. The filming of animals while in the transport container during the transport process (such as being loaded or unloaded onto or off a vehicle or aeroplane) is acceptable.

Part 6 – Animal Welfare

Clause 15 **Return of Animals to the Home Base**

- 1) An animal used for a mobile display must ordinarily be returned to its enclosure at the authority holder's home base at the end of each day, except in circumstances approved by the Director-General.

Note

The Director-General is unlikely to make an exception unless the authority holder has demonstrated that the authority holder can provide facilities to manage the animals for extended periods away from the home base.

- 2) An authority holder must ensure the authority holder's animals are not held at the residence of an employee or voluntary attendant.

Note

Diurnal species should not be returned to their exhibit less than one hour prior to sunset. They would be safer to be held in their transport container until one hour after sunrise.

- 3) Where an animal to be displayed at mobile establishments stays away from the home base overnight the animal must be placed in an enclosure that provides the animal with:
 - a) adequate space to move in all directions;
 - b) shelter from rain, wind and extremes of temperature;
 - c) a supply of adequate amounts of fresh food and water;
 - d) an environment that prevents escape, injury to, and theft of, the animal;
 - e) a suitable substrate that allows the animal to comfortably sit or lie down. An animal must be provided with suitable bedding to allow it to stay warm;
 - f) a refuge/hide area depending on the species;
 - g) an appropriate temperature gradient in the case of reptiles; and
 - h) an area away from lights and loud noises.

Note

Specific requirements for the overnight housing of some specific groups can be found in the Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in NSW and the Standards for Exhibiting Reptiles in NSW.

Part 7 – Film and Television

Clause 16

Code of Practice for Film and Television

All displays of animals for film and theatrical performances must be undertaken in compliance with the “Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Films and Theatrical Performances”, under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation, 2006*.

Note

The Code sets out a standard of practice that establishes clear guidelines for the use of animals in the film and television industry, corporate and educational functions, stage performances, and commercial photography for advertising or promotion.

A copy of the Code and application forms can be obtained from the NSW Department of Primary Industries - Animal Welfare Unit (02) 6391 3725; Animal Welfare League NSW (02) 9709 5433 or RSPCA NSW (02) 9606 9333.

Appendix 1 –Referee report proforma

(To be used to assist in demonstrating the competencies of a proposed person in charge:
Clause 3 Note Box.)

Name of person reference refers to (applicant):

Name of referee:

Address of referee:

Phone number of referee:

Length of time referee has known the applicant:

Amount of time the applicant has held the species applied for (list species):

Referee's familiarity with applicant's animal husbandry skills.

Referee's familiarity with applicant's presentation skills.

The amount of time the applicant has given talks while assisting or employed by referee:

- Type of talks given:
- Types of audience:
- Length of talks (approx time in minutes):
- Number of talks given per year / total:

The amount of time since the applicant has worked with the referee:

General comments about the applicants experience and general character: