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Wildlife Holding Premises Regulations

These regulations are made by me, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me, by section 83 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act.

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wildlife Holding Premises Regulations.

Interpretation.

2. In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires –

- (a) "Act" means the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act;
- (b) "animal" means animal as defined in section 2 of the Act;
- (c) "holding premises" means premises licensed under the Act for the purposes of holding and keeping animals for commercial and related purposes;
- (d) "licence" means a licence issued pursuant to the provisions of the Act;
- (e) "wildlife" means wildlife as defined in section 2 of the Act;

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PART II

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Staffing and  
Administration.

3. Every holding premises shall -

- (a) be managed by a person with adequate training, experience, knowledge of the behaviour, biology, food and health requirements of every species held or intended to be held at the premises;
- (b) be staffed by adequately trained and experienced persons, sufficient in number for the discharge of the operation at the premises.

PART III

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

Construction.

4.(1) Holding premises shall -

- (a) be constructed of materials appropriate to hold the wildlife involved;
- (b) be located and constructed so as to minimise human contact;
- (c) be secured so that the wildlife is reasonably protected from theft or predation by other domestic or wild animals;
- (d) be constructed with facilities for run-off from the premises so as to avoid contamination of rivers, creeks and trenches;



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- (e) be property fenced at the perimeter;
- (f) be constructed in such a way as to minimise contamination of adjacent premises;
- (g) be constructed with darkened or nightlight enclosures for nocturnal animals;
- (h) be constructed with floors that are made of smooth concrete or ceramic tiles so as to be capable of easy cleaning and disinfecting and constructed in such a way as to provide rapid drainage and drying; and
- (i) be constructed with a separate building for the care and isolation of sick animals.

(2) Holding premises shall not be -

- (a) constructed without the prior written approval of the Central Planning and Housing Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency and any other relevant authority;
- (b) located within a one mile radius of an active poultry farm;
- (c) located in or within 800m radius of a city, town, residential or built-up area;

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- (d) constructed as to cause or allow the run-off of liquid effluent, into adjoining or adjacent properties.

Design and  
maintenance.

5.(1) Holding premises shall -

- (a) provide adequate and appropriate ventilation, lighting and shelter from inclement weather conditions so as to provide for the protection and health of wildlife held;
- (b) be maintained in good repair so as to protect the wildlife from injury;
- (c) be cleaned daily or as often as necessary to minimise disease, hazards and odours;
- (d) possess roofs so configured as to provide overhangs along all external walls;
- (e) possess roof overhangs that extend such distance beyond the external wall face as to prevent the entry of wind-blown rain through meshed vents mentioned in item (f), but not less than 3 ft (1 m);
- (f) have external walls that are a minimum height of 9 ft. (2.7m) from the finished level of the floor, of which the top will comprise not less than 2 ft. (0.61m) and not more than 4 ft. (1.1m) of wire mesh;
- (g) provide footbaths at all entrances with approved disinfectant;
- (h) possess main compartment entry and exit doors which shall be meshed a minimum of one-third of their height, and shall be spring-loaded in order that they can be kept closed at all times;

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PART IV

OPERATIONS

Operations.

6. Holding premises shall be operated in the following manner -

- (a) an adequate supply of water shall be readily available on the premises for drinking and washing purposes at all times;
- (b) sufficient and efficient waterers and feeders shall be available for the management needs of animals;
- (c) except with the consent of the Commission, domestic animals not be kept at holding premises;
- (d) specimens for export shall be separated from other wild specimens including rats and all contact with these shall be avoided;
- (e) birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and arthropods and such other classifications shall be housed separately;
- (f) predators and prey should be housed separately, so as to minimise predator and prey interactions;
- (g) birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and arthropods and such other classifications shall be kept in a controlled manner, with effective lighting, which shall facilitate the observation and inspection of the animal;
- (h) unless distinguishing marks or features, documented in the animal records, can easily identify an individual animal, a permanent method



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of identification is required to identify that individual, if requested by the Commission;

- (i) identify the manner of acquisition whether caught in the wild or captive bred;
- (j) cages shall be arranged such as to allow for adequate sanitation and ventilation and separated between rows by a minimum space of two feet with a minimum of three feet walkway between them;
- (k) the keeping of large and extra-large cages shall be discouraged, unless approved by the Commission;
- (l) premises shall be maintained and kept in a clean and orderly manner at all times;
- (m) all parts of cages in which wildlife is kept shall be washed and disinfected at least twice weekly;
- (n) have an arrangement with a veterinary practitioner for visiting the premises to look after the animals;
- (o) excrement and other animal waste, leftover food, unwholesome food and other waste shall be removed daily, or more frequently if sanitation or odour conditions require;
- (p) all waste material shall be dampened, before being disposed of in such manner as not to create sanitation problem;
- (q) dangerous animals shall be kept separately in a securely locked enclosure labelled "Dangerous Animals – DO NOT ENTER";

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For the purposes of this part:

Dangerous animal means: any animal which is not naturally tame or gentle, and which is of a wild nature, and which is capable of killing, inflicting serious injury upon, or causing disease among, human beings or animals and having known tendencies as a species to do so.

Quarantine.

7.(1) Holding premises shall possess a specific and separate quarantine area for new arrivals.

- (2) Arriving mammals and birds shall be kept in separate buildings to be quarantined for specified periods.
- (3) The separate building shall be located down-wind of the prevailing winds.
- (4) Mammals and birds shall be de-wormed and treated for lice, ticks and other external parasites, on entry into the holding premises and de-worming shall be repeated not less than two weeks thereafter, or as directed by the attending veterinarian.
- (5) Approved oral antibiotics and vitamin supplements shall be administered as preventative doses for at least the first week of the quarantine period, or as otherwise specified by the attending veterinarian.
- (6) Sick animals shall be kept in a separate building or sick bay, which shall be down-wind of the station, until fully recovered.

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(7) Dead animals which have died under unusual circumstances while under quarantine or on an exporter's holding quarantine premises, shall be taken to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the Guyana Livestock Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, for necropsy and microbiological tests.

(8) The minimum quarantine periods shall be as follows:

(a) birds – not less than 30 days ;

(b) mammals – not less than 30 days; and

(c) reptiles – not less than 14 days.

Record keeping.

8.(1) Every holding premises shall keep a record of the birth, acquisitions, sales, disposals and deaths of all animals.

(2) The records kept pursuant to subsection (1) shall provide the following information -

(a) identification and scientific name;

(b) origin (i.e. whether wild or captive-born, including identification of parents, where known, and previous locations, if any);

(c) dates of entry into, collection, disposal from and to whom;

(d) date, or estimated date, of birth or hatching;

(e) sex (where known);



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- (f) any distinctive markings, including tattoos, freeze-brands, rings or microchips;
  - (g) clinical data, including details of and dates of any treatment given;
  - (h) behavioural and life history data;
  - (i) date of death and the result of any post-mortem examination and laboratory investigations;
  - (j) where an escape has taken place, or damage or injury has been caused to, or by, an animal to persons or property -
    - (i) the reason for such escape, damage or injury; and
    - (ii) a summary of remedial measures taken to prevent recurrence;
  - (k) food and diets.
- (3) Every holding premises shall keep an inventory of the animals housed in the holding premises as at 31st December of every year, which shall be submitted to the Commission by 31st of January of the succeeding calendar year.
- (4) Every holding premises shall submit to the Commission an annual report of the activities of the holding premises by the 30th April of the following calendar year.



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## PART V

## NUTRITION AND HYGIENE

## Diet.

9.(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) Food must be unspoiled and free from chemical and bacterial contamination.

(4) Care must be taken not to include food that is known to have deleterious effects to the animal.

## Quality.

10.(1) Food must be clean, fresh, wholesome, palatable and of a standard fit for consumption.

(2) The nutritional value of the food items must be sufficient to keep the animals healthy.

(3) Food must be free of pests or disease.

## Food preparation.

11.(1) Food for the animals shall be kept under strict hygienic conditions and shall be protected from contamination or deterioration.

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- (2) Unused food shall be properly disposed of so as not to pose a health and sanitation risk to the environment.

Cleanliness  
relating to food  
and drink.

12.(1) High standards of cleanliness shall 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, 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.

Food storage.

13.(1) Supplies of food for the animals shall 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.

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- (3) Stocks of food supplements must be handled, stored and rotated in a way that minimises nutritional loss.

Food  
presentation.

14.(1) Food presentation utensils and equipment used for the offering of food and drink to animals -

- (a) shall not be used for any other purpose;
- (b) shall be easy to clean and designed to avoid risk of injury to the animals;
- (c) shall, 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;
- (d) shall 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.

Drinking water.

15.(1) Clean potable water shall at all times be available for the animals to drink.



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(2) Animals must be provided with fresh drinking water at all times and shall:

- (a) be provided in appropriate receptacles;
- (b) be changed daily in, each enclosure; and
- (c) not be allowed to become stagnant.

Pest and predator  
control.

16.(1) A safe, effective and regular program for the control of insects, ectoparasites and vertebrate pests shall be established and maintained.

(2) Enclosures must be so designed as to exclude predators.

PART VI

CAGES

Cage  
Specifications.

17.(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) cages for the keeping of the animals identified in paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be constructed according to the following specifications –

- (a) materials used for the construction of cages, waterers, feeders, perches and exercise bars shall be of such a type so as not to pose a health hazard to the animals and shall be either of wood, metal, plastic, welded mesh, expanded metal, steel rod or a combination of any of these materials;
- (b) the size of the cage shall be capable of accommodating not more than ten non-human primates and to permit the animals therein to move about comfortably;



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- (c) cages shall be so constructed so as to facilitate easy handling by keepers and cleaning;
- (d) cages should be sufficiently large to allow animals to extend their limbs completely without coming into contact with the sides or top of the cage;
- (e) perches shall, when within a cage, be so placed so as to not allow droppings of one animal to be deposited on another within the cage;
- (f) perches shall be placed in such a way as to allow animals to perch upright within the enclosure and be so arranged so as to prevent damage to plumage;
- (g) wooden perches shall be replaced after each quarantine period; and
- (h) food containers shall be placed within the cage such that the possibility of contamination, by droppings or otherwise, is diminished.

(2) The specifications in respect of cages for the keeping of certain specimens of birds are:

a.	<b>Parakeets and Small Macaws</b>	
	Minimum cage size	8 cu. ft. of side 2 ft. (0.23m <sup>3</sup> of side 0.61m) equivalent)
	Maximum Capacity-	Ten birds
	Perches	Placed nine inches above cage floor
b.	<b>Parrotlets</b>	
	Minimum cage size	4 cu. ft. of side 1.6 ft. (1.2m <sup>3</sup> of side .49m)
	Maximum Capacity-	Ten Birds
	Perches	Placed seven inches above cage floor
c.	<b>Toucans</b>	

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- (c) in the case of water snakes, possess adequate access to water sufficient for their purposes.

PART VII

INSPECTIONS

Inspections.

18.(1) Inspections of each licensed holding premises shall be carried out by inspectors at least once every twelve months for the purpose of determining whether the conditions of the licence are being met.

(2) In carrying out an inspection of a licensed holding premises or a holding premises that is the subject of an application for a licence or renewal of a licence, an inspector shall -

- (a) consider the extent of compliance with these Regulations;
- (b) have regard to the condition of the holding premises and to all features of the holding premises relevant for the purposes of the required conservation measures,
- (c) in the case of a licensed holding premises, ascertain whether the conditions of the licence are being met, and
- (d) in the case of a holding premises that is the subject of an application for a licence or renewal of a licence, ascertain whether, if the licence is granted or renewed, the required conservation measures are likely to be implemented in a satisfactory manner.



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	Minimum cage size	8 cu. ft. of side 2 ft. (0.23m <sup>3</sup> of side 0.61m)
	Maximum Capacity-	Two birds
	Perches	Placed one foot above cage floor
<b>d.</b>	<b>Powis, Marudis, Trumpeters</b>	
	Minimum run size	8 ft. x 6 ft. x 7 ft. high. (2.44m x 1.83m x 2.13m)
	Maximum Capacity-	Four birds
<b>e.</b>	<b>Macaws</b>	
	Minimum cage size	35 cu. ft of side 4ft (1.13 m <sup>3</sup> of side 1.04m)
	Maximum Capacity-	Five birds
	Perches	Placed at a minimum of 1.5 ft. above cage floor
<b>f.</b>	<b>Parrots and medium-sized macaws</b>	
	Minimum cage size	27 cu. ft. of side 3 ft. (0.75m <sup>3</sup> of side 0.91m)
	Maximum Capacity-	5 birds
	Perches	Placed at a minimum of 10 ins above cage floor

(3) Cages for the keeping of caimans and turtles shall –

- (a) contain a body of water which shall comprise a minimum of one third of the floor space;
- (b) be constructed in such a way as to facilitate easy cleaning and drainage;
- (c) provide adequate floor space for each animal, equal to the square of the length of such animal.

(4) Cages for the keeping of snakes shall:

- (a) be constructed in a manner providing for adequate watering, feeding, rest and exercise;
- (b) contain only one species of snake;

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(3) In carrying out an inspection referred to in paragraph (2), an inspector may require that a person who is employed in or retained by or for the purposes of the holding premises and who is specified to the inspector be present during the inspection.

(4) On completing an inspection of a holding premises the inspector shall make a written report to the Commission on the inspection and the report may include any advice or recommendations for improving the operations of the holding premises.

Periodic  
inspections.

19.(1) The Commission shall carry out or cause to be carried out periodical inspections in accordance with this section of any holding premises for which a licence granted by the Commission is in force.

(2) Before any such inspection the Agency shall, after consultation with the operator of the holding premises, give him or her at least seven days notice of the date upon which it is proposed to carry out the inspection.

(3) Inspections under this section shall be made once in each three month period.

(4) The following provisions apply to any inspection to be carried out under this section -

(a) the inspection shall extend to all features of the holding premises directly or indirectly relevant to the health, welfare and safety of the public and the animals, including measures for the prevention of the escape of animals;



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(b) the inspectors shall require the production of all records kept by the operator in pursuance of conditions of the licence under regulation 8 and the operator shall produce the records.

(5) Within one month after receiving the report of the inspection the Commission shall send a copy to the operator of the holding premises and give him an opportunity to comment on it.

Special  
inspections.

20. The Commission may at any time, after giving the licence holder at least twenty-four hours notice, carry out a special inspection of a holding premises for which a licence granted by the Commission is in force if they consider it appropriate to do so having regard to –

(a) any periodical report on the holding premises made to them pursuant to regulation 19; or

(b) any representations made to them on behalf of a properly constituted body concerned with any aspect of the management of holding premises or the welfare of animals; or

(c) any other circumstances which in the opinion of the Commission calls for investigation.

Authorisation to  
inspect.

21. The Commission may authorise in writing any duly qualified person to carry out inspections under this Part.

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Wildlife Conservation and Management Act  
Wildlife Holding Premises Regulations

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PART VIII  
MISCELLANEOUS

Suspension of  
licences.

22.(1) The Commission may suspend a licence during its currency for any of the following reasons -

- (a) the holder of a licence is contravening any material condition of the licence;
- (b) the maintenance of the health, welfare and wellbeing of the animals being housed in the holding premises;
- (c) in the public interest for the benefit of wildlife conservation and maintenance of biodiversity;
- (d) any other change, situation or activity relating to the use of a licence that, in the judgment of the Commission, is not consistent with the Act or these Regulations.

(2) The Commission shall, while suspending a licence, notify the holder thereof in writing -

- (a) stating the breach or situation which gave rise to the suspension;
- (b) requiring the holder of the licence to remedy the breach or situation;
- (c) stating the time within which the breach or situation is to be remedied; and
- (d) stating whether the licence is to be returned within a specified time to the Commission.

(3) The holder of the licence suspended under paragraph (4), upon remedying the breach or situation, shall so inform the Commission and the Commission shall, if it is satisfied that the breach is remedied, forthwith return the licence to the holder thereof.

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(4) A suspension under this section may be for a specified period or until the fulfilment of specific conditions or until further order of the Commission.

(5) Before the Commission acts under paragraph (2), the Commission shall

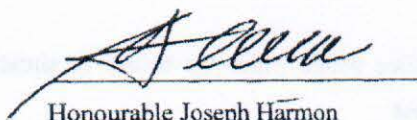
(a) notify the holder of a licence in writing of its proposed action specifying the reason for the proposed action; and

(b) allow the holder at least seven days within which to make written submissions to the Commission in relation to the Commission's proposed action.

Notification of  
diseases

23. If any animal is affected or suspected of being affected or dies of a disease suspected to be a notifiable disease, the owner or manager of the holding premises shall, within twenty four hours, report the matter to the attending veterinarian or the Guyana Livestock Development Authority.

Made this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019



Honourable Joseph Harmon  
Minister of State

