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If a whole or part of a paragraph has been amended, the date of the amending regulation appears in square brackets at the end of the paragraph. If a whole paragraph or sub-paragraph has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted paragraph or sub-paragraph.

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 1033

Adopted 9 November 2010

Requirements for Keeping Animals of Wild Species in a Zoo and the Requirements for the Establishment and Registration of a Zoo

*Issued pursuant to
Section 10, Clause 21 of
the Animal Protection Law*

1. This Regulation prescribes the requirements for keeping animals of wild species in a zoo and the requirements for the establishment and registration of a zoo.

2. An owner of a zoo shall:

2.1. ensure research on species of animals kept in the zoo and exchange of information in relation to the preservation of species, breeding in captivity, re-population or reintroduction of species;

2.2. ensure such conditions for animals, which satisfy the physiological and zoopsychological needs of animals of the respective species, as well as ensure veterinary medical care;

2.3. ensure participation in programmes for preservation of especially endangered animal species, as well as in programmes related to breeding of the abovementioned animal species in captivity or reintroduction;

2.4. document information regarding each animal;

2.5. prevent any possibility for animals to escape (to get out into the wild), as well as to protect the animals kept in captivity from threats to their health and life;

2.6. promote environmental education and formation of ecological awareness of the public, as well as provide information to the visitors on the displayed animal species and their natural habitat;

2.7. ensure training of employees regarding preservation of the animals kept in the zoo and welfare requirements;

2.8. inform the Nature Conservation Agency (hereinafter – the Agency) without delay regarding escape (getting out into the wild) of animals and take measures for capturing the animals.

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3. Conformity with the requirements of the Regulation according to the competence shall be supervised and controlled by the Agency.

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3.¹ In order to establish a zoo, a permit of the Agency for establishment of a zoo (hereinafter – the permit) shall be required.

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3.² The Agency shall register the zoo in the respective register within three working days after issuance of the permit. Information regarding the location of the zoo, the recipient of the permit, the number and date of issuance of the permit shall be inserted in the register. The Agency shall publish information regarding registered zoos on its website.

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4. In order to establish and register a zoo, the establisher of the zoo shall submit an application to the Agency. The following information shall be indicated in the application:

4.1. information regarding the owner of the zoo, as well as the owner of the respective land, building, ancillary structures, installations and equipment;

4.2. the number of animal species and specimens of each species, as well as information regarding origin (lawful acquisition), identification and record-keeping of each animal;

4.3. measures planned in the zoo:

4.3.1. research on species of animals kept in the zoo and exchange of information in relation to the preservation of species, breeding in captivity, repopulation or reintroduction of species;

4.3.2. measures in order to ensure veterinary medical care to animals, as well as such conditions which satisfy the physiological and zoopsychological needs of animals of the respective species;

4.3.3. participation in preservation and reintroduction programmes of wild animals (especially endangered animal species) and breeding in captivity;

4.3.4. the procedures by which information regarding each animal will be documented;

4.3.5. methods and measures in order to prevent any possibility for animals to escape (to get into the wild);

4.3.6. measures, which promote environmental education and formation of ecological awareness of the public, as well as provide information to the visitors on the displayed animal species and their natural habitat;

4.4. environmental protection measures in relation to the zoo:

4.4.1. reduction of emissions of air polluting substances;

4.4.2. treatment of wastewater;

4.4.3. waste management.

5. If the information provided in the application is incomplete, the Agency shall inform the applicant thereof in writing within 14 days after receipt of the application, indicating the time period for submitting the necessary information.

6. Prior to issuing a permit, the Agency shall perform inspection of the zoo.

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6.¹ If the zoo conforms to the establishment conditions thereof, the Agency shall issue a permit. The following shall be included in the permit in addition to the components of the administrative act referred to in the Administrative Procedure Law:

6.¹ 1. the conditions for the fulfilment of the requirements referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Regulation;

6.¹ 2. additional requirements according to the specific features of the animals kept.
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6.² The Agency shall refuse to issue a permit in the following cases:

6.² 1. the zoo does not conform to the criteria for establishment of the zoo laid down in laws and regulations;

6.² 2. the measures of the zoo planned in accordance with Paragraph 4 of this Regulation do not conform to the requirements of the laws and regulations of environmental protection.

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6.³ The Agency shall carry out an inspection of the zoo at least once a year or upon receipt of information regarding essential changes in the operation of the zoo. Upon detecting essential changes in the composition of the species kept or in the keeping conditions, the Agency shall issue a new permit.

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7. If a zoo is operating without a permit or the requirements of the laws and regulations of nature protection, environmental protection and animal protection are violated, the Agency shall take a decision to close the zoo or its part for public viewing until the respective violation is eliminated. If the violation is not eliminated within a year after detecting it, the zoo or its part shall be closed.

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8. If a zoo or its part is closed, the Agency shall supervise that further keeping or movement and accommodation of animals is ensured in appropriate living conditions, as well as, if necessary, shall give respective binding instructions to the owner of the zoo. The owner of the zoo shall cover expenses related to closing of the zoo or its part, to maintaining and accommodation of animals.

9. The owner of the zoo shall send information to the Agency by 31 March of each year regarding changes in the number and composition of species (also number of the animals born, deceased, sold or purchased shall be indicated). The owner of the zoo shall send copies of documents certifying lawful origin of the newly acquired animals to the Agency.

10. If a zoo is established prior to coming into force of this Regulation, the permit for keeping of wild animals in captivity and creation of a wild animal collection, which has been issued by the Agency in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 185 of 8 May 2001, Regulations Regarding Requirements for Keeping Wild Animals in Captivity and Creation of Wild Animal Collections, shall be valid until 31 December 2011.

11. This Law shall come into force on 1 January 2011.

Informative Reference to the European Union Directive

This Regulation contains legal norms arising from Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos.

Prime Minister, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government V. Dombrovskis

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