

Guidance note: Applications for Pest Animal Approved Collections (Animal Exhibition) Permits

PURPOSE

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP) prohibits the keeping, selling, releasing and importation into Victoria of declared pest animals without permission.

A person wanting to use declared pest animals in mobile or travelling collections (for example, circus) in Victoria must apply for, and be granted a pest animal approved collection (animal exhibition) permit.

This guidance note will provide an overview for persons considering applying for a permit. Additional and more comprehensive guidance as to the information required from an applicant is contained within the [application form](#).

GENERAL

Permission to privately bring into Victoria or keep declared pest animals for their exhibition in mobile/travelling collections will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and in line with nationally agreed principles of risk management.

The translation of these principles in the permitting of pest animals in mobile/travelling collections results in consideration of:

1. Collection and benefit;
2. Risk assessment and management; and
3. Animal welfare

This permit type does not cover approval to keep pest animals at the home base of the collection. Applications for pest animal approved collection (animal exhibition) permits will only be considered where there is existing authority to keep the pest animals at the home base of the collection.

An application form must be completed to apply to keep or bring a pest animal into Victoria for exhibition in mobile/travelling collections. The [application form](#) is available on the [Agriculture Victoria](#) website or by contacting the pest animal permit administrator on:

- telephone: 136 186
- email pestanimal.permit@ecodev.vic.gov.au

- or in writing

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
 Pest Animal Permit Administrator
 475 Mickleham Road
 Attwood Victoria 3049

The applicant must be a natural person.

The [application form](#) requires an applicant to submit a comprehensive package of information to allow the department to assess the proposed activity and arrangements for animal care and containment.

A separate permit application is required for each pest animal species.

Pest animal permits will not be issued for species to be brought into Victoria or kept for their exhibition in mobile/travelling collections where the department considers the associated risks to be greater than any demonstrable benefit.

A risk mitigation approach is used to assess applications to bring into Victoria or keep declared pest animals in mobile/travelling collections.

1. COLLECTION AND BENEFIT

The bringing into Victoria or keeping of pest animals within a mobile/travelling collection must be for animal exhibition (display) purposes and provide demonstrable public benefit. Demonstrable public benefit is considered to be animal display to the general public (not by appointment only) and must include provision of educational components.

1.1 Permission to import into Victoria

Separate permission is required to bring a pest animal into Victoria. The application form to keep a pest animal has a separate section for use by a person intending to bring pest animals into Victoria.

1.2 Permission to sell

A person permitted to keep a pest animal must apply for permission to sell that animal. This permit type does not cover approval to sell pest animals. If required, this must be

applied for under the authority to keep the pest animal at the home base of the collection.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Assessment of applications will consider the risks posed by the bringing into Victoria and keeping of pest animals and the strategies implemented to mitigate that risk.

Public interaction with pest animals kept under this permit is prohibited. The applicant must demonstrate how public interaction with pest animals kept under this permit type will be prevented.

There are certain keeping arrangements where the risks to Victoria outweigh any potential public benefit. The department will not consider applications for:

- pest animals declared as prohibited under the CaLP Act
- pest animals declared as established under the CaLP Act
- species categorised as extreme threat by the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) that are also new to Victoria
- reptile and amphibian species categorised as extreme threat by the EIC.

2.1 Risk assessment

The risk associated with the bringing into Victoria or keeping of pest animals will be considered when assessing an application.

To assess potential environmental, economic or social risks of species applied for and to determine if those risks outweigh the public benefits, the application assessment will include consideration of:

- the species' CaLP Act declaration
- the species' threat category according to the Australian list of threat categories of non-indigenous vertebrates as endorsed by the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC)
- any relevant nationally endorsed species risk assessment
- the itinerary and locations of the collection
- the security of the collection
- relevant attributes of individual animals (e.g. source (wild or captive bred), quarantine status, age, sex)
- breeding potential including local existing populations of the species or species with which hybridisation is known to occur.

Applicants should note; under the precautionary approach, detailed in the EIC [Guidelines for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Non-indigenous Vertebrates in Australia](#), any species that has not been assessed previously is considered

to be in the extreme threat category and should be treated accordingly, until a risk assessment is developed and endorsed.

2.2 Risk management

2.2.1 Prohibition on breeding

Breeding is prohibited for all declared pest animal species kept under pest animal (animal exhibition) permits.

Applications for mixed sex collections will only be considered where all animals of at least one sex have undergone permanent contraception.

Applications for collections where there is potential for pest animals to interbreed or hybridise with local existing populations will only be considered where individual animals applied for are permanently contracepted (desexed).

2.2.2 Reptiles and amphibians

Applications for EIC extreme threat category reptiles and amphibians to be used in mobile/travelling collections will not be considered.

Applications for EIC serious threat category reptiles and amphibians will not be considered for:

- female animals
- collections where there is potential for pest animals to interbreed or hybridise with local existing populations.

2.2.3 Identification of animals

All pest animals applied for under this permit type must be permanently identified.

2.2.4 Capability of the applicant and key personnel

The applicant must demonstrate appropriate resources are available to ensure the ongoing security, care and health of pest animals.

The applicant and key personnel must provide details of their competency and experience relevant to the species listed on the application.

2.2.5 Containment of animals

The applicant must demonstrate that containment infrastructure used to transport the pest animals and contain them at display locations will:

- securely contain pest animals at all times
- be relevant to the species kept
- prevent unauthorised movement of animals and people
- prevent public interaction.

The applicant must have suitable procedures in place to securely move the pest animals between various containment areas (for example between transport and containment enclosures and from containment enclosure to display area).

2.2.6 Transport

The applicant must provide details of any transportation of pest animals and the intended itinerary.

2.2.7 Contingency planning

The applicant must have appropriate contingency plans in place for:

- Biosecurity
- Disruption to normal supply
- Natural threats
- Escaped animals

The applicant must provide an undertaking that adequate insurance, that is appropriate to the collection, will be maintained at all times.

3. ANIMAL WELFARE

While the purpose of pest animal permits is to reduce the risks associated with the keeping of declared pest animals, the welfare of those animals must be taken into account. Before granting a permit, the decision maker must be satisfied that the welfare of pest animals has been appropriately considered.

The applicant must demonstrate how the proposed care and display of the animals complies with relevant codes of practice, guidelines, standards and species husbandry manuals.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone pest animal permit administrator on 136 186.
