

# Guidance Note: Applications for Pest Animal Private Collections 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 animals declared as regulated under the CaLP act for the purpose of primary production in Victoria must apply for and be granted a Pest Animal Private Collections Permit.

This guidance note will provide assistance to applicants for such permits.

## GENERAL

When assessing an application consideration is given to:

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

An application form must be completed to apply to keep or sell a pest animal for primary production purposes. The application form is available on the [Agriculture Victoria](https://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) website or by contacting the pest animal permit administrator on:

- telephone: 136 186
- email [pestanimal.permit@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:pestanimal.permit@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- or in writing

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  
Pest Animal Permit Administrator  
475 Mickleham Road  
Attwood Victoria 3049

The applicant must be a natural person.

The authorised premises is the premises listed on a permit to keep a pest animal. The applicant must provide detail of the location at which the animals will be kept, including the property identification code (PIC).

A separate permit application is required for each pest animal species at an authorised premises or request for a change to permitted arrangements.

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Private collection permits are applicable to declared regulated species: American bison and blackbuck.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) may contact third parties to confirm information provided in an application.

If granted, permits may be issued for up to two years.

DEECA will consider applications and provide a response within 60 days from receipt of all required information.

## 1. COLLECTION AND BENEFIT

A Private Collections Permit will only be considered for declared regulated species under the CaLP Act for the purposes of primary production, including but not limited to the production of meat, skin and milk. This does not include the use of pest animals to train other animals or for hunting.

Access to appropriate markets, such as processing facilities and abattoirs as well as opportunities to access point of sale, must be demonstrated. A market demand for the product derived must be demonstrated.

The pest animal permit, if issued, will specify the maximum number of pest animals that may be kept.

The maximum number permitted will be determined by accessing information from the applicant in terms of the number of animals required to undertake the enterprise and access to legitimate markets for the produce derived. The capacity of the proposed facilities to contain the number of animals applied for will be considered.

### 1.1 Permission to import into Victoria

A declared regulated pest animal must not be brought into Victoria without permission. Separate permission is not required to bring a declared regulated pest animal into Victoria if there is a permit in place to keep that pest animal.

## 1.2 Permission to sell

A declared regulated pest animal must not be sold without permission. It is understood that sale of pest animals kept under this permit is often an integral component of the use of these animals for primary production. Information as to the intent of the applicant to sell pest animals is required within the application.

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Management of pest animals kept under permit must reduce the risk of negative impacts.

The maximum number of pest animals that may be kept must be consistent with the purpose of keeping, i.e. use of the pest animals for primary production.

Where breeding is applied for, applicants must provide justification as to why breeding is necessary in the context of the use of the pest animals for primary production.

Disposal arrangements for all pest animals will be considered and must be consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice.

All pest animals must be permanently identified, this must be consistent with any requirements according to the *National Livestock Identification System* (NLIS).

### 2.1 Capability and animal care

Permits will only be considered for persons appropriately qualified or experienced in the keeping of the species of pest animal.

Appropriate resources must be available to ensure the ongoing security, care and health of pest animals.

The applicant must provide a commitment to record keeping and provide details of access to veterinary care.

The applicant must demonstrate that pest animal care, facilities and husbandry meet expected standards.

### 2.2 Containment

Security measures must prevent unauthorised movement of pest animals and people.

Fencing, holding yards and other facilities must be designed to ensure the pest animals are securely contained at all times and are appropriate for the species.

It is expected there will be a schedule for maintenance in place.

### 2.3 Transport

All transport arrangements must comply with the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines- Land transport of livestock](#).

## 2.4 Contingency Planning

Contingency plans that meet appropriate codes of practice, guidelines, standards and husbandry manuals must be developed. The applicant will be required to ensure these plans are in place and make them available to the department on request.

### 2.4.1 Biosecurity

A biosecurity plan developed in accordance with the [National Biosecurity Reference Manual – Grazing Livestock Production 2018](#) and recognising the responsibilities under AUSVETPLAN must be in place.

The plan must address animal health and disease prevention for the pest animals being kept.

### 2.4.2 Insurance

Applicants must have appropriate farm insurance. This insurance must contain at least \$10 million of legal liability insurance.

### 2.4.3 Disruption to normal amenity supply

An emergency plan that takes into account how disruption of normal amenity supply will be managed to ensure ongoing pest animal welfare and containment security must be in place.

### 2.4.4 Natural threats

An evacuation/natural disaster contingency plan containing detail on how the risk of all possible natural disasters such as storm, flood or fire will be managed must be in place.

### 2.4.5 Escaped animals

An escape contingency plan outlining the response that will be taken in event of escape of pest animals must be in place. The plan must include decision-making criteria for humane destruction of an escaped pest animal and include details of suitably qualified persons and, as appropriate, licensing arrangements.

## 3. ANIMAL WELFARE

Applicants must demonstrate compliance with the relevant codes of practice, guidelines, standards and animal husbandry manuals.

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### ACCESSIBILITY

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

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