



Exhibiting a European rabbit in Queensland

Exhibited Animals Act 2015

Overview

The purpose of the *Exhibited Animals Act 2015* (Act) is to ensure the relevant risks and adverse effects associated with exhibiting and dealing with exhibited animals are prevented or minimised. The Act, which came into effect on 1 July 2016, provides a risk management framework covering environment, public safety and welfare matters associated with the exhibition of native wildlife and non-indigenous species.

Exhibiting a rabbit

Within Queensland there are no provisions to allow the keeping of a rabbit as a pet.

The Act provides for the granting of an exhibition licence that permits the use of a European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) for the purpose of exhibiting to the public. A rabbit may be exhibited for purposes such as educational exhibits or for entertainment such as magic acts.

A person may apply to exhibit and deal with a rabbit either at the premises where the licence is issued, such as at an invasive pest educational centre, or in a mobile display, such as a magical performance at a children's party.

Only business activities conducted by persons who have a registered business with an Australian Business Account can be issued with an exhibition licence for a rabbit.

When a licence will not be granted

A licence cannot be granted in the following circumstances.

- When an applicant cannot provide sound evidence that a rabbit is required for exhibiting for a business purpose.
- When the proposed use of the rabbit and business intention is not directly related to exhibiting a rabbit.
- When the proposed use is for:
 - keeping a rabbit as a pet
 - using a rabbit for therapy treatment or similar
 - keeping a rabbit at a kindergarten, school facility, TAFE or similar
- keeping a rabbit at a commercial premises such as a doctor's surgery, veterinary surgery, pet store, dentist practice, caravan park or similar
- the use of a rabbit for training other animals.

Applying for a licence to exhibit a rabbit

A person may apply to exhibit and deal with a rabbit under an exhibition licence by submitting an exhibition licence application and a completed management plan. The management plan must detail information about how an applicant proposes to exhibit and deal with the rabbit on a daily basis.





Identifying the animal management issues relevant to animal welfare, human health, safety and wellbeing, social amenity, the economy and the environment are all key matters that must be addressed in a management plan. These key matters refer to the relevant risk and relevant adverse effects posed while exhibiting or dealing with an authorised rabbit and are generally referred to as a person's general exhibition and dealing obligation.

For example, information that must be addressed in the management plan would include travel enclosure details, details of the rabbit's regular enclosure at the regular enclosure site (where the rabbit will be kept), how an applicant would manage the welfare risks associated with keeping and transporting the rabbit as well as ensuring the risks of escape are minimised.

The Act specifies information that must be addressed when applying for a rabbit. A management plan template has been developed to assist an applicant to understand the information required and an example of a completed rabbit management plan has been developed to guide an applicant in completing their own management plan.

If an applicant intends to exhibit other species, a completed rabbit management plan and a separate management plan for each species proposed to be exhibit must be submitted.

How are species categorised

The Act classifies animal species into three main categories - category A, B and C with further division of category C into C1 and C2.

Category A animals are any species that may be obtained under a native animal keeping licence under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA).

Category C1 animals are species prescribed in the Regulation. Category C2 species are high

risk non-indigenous animal species that are not authorised for the purpose of mobile exhibit. These include species such as tigers, elephants and meerkats.

A European rabbit is categorised as a category B species under the Act. Category B species are species that pose a higher level of relevant risks and adverse effects than category A animals. Category B species may only be granted under a licence if an applicant can prove that they are able to meet certain criteria.

Exhibit timeframe requirements

An applicant must be able to meet the Act's exhibit timeframe requirements which requires the exhibition of a rabbit once in each calendar month, or a total of 12 separate occasions in the preceding year for the term of the licence. If an exhibition licence holder exhibits a rabbit at more than one event throughout the day to which the audience is predominantly the same, these events are not considered two separate occasions.

Exhibiting a rabbit at a private event, taking photographs or filming the event, posting footage on the internet of the event or any other similar activities are considered exhibiting the rabbit.

Exhibiting a rabbit in this way does not count towards the minimum exhibit timeframe requirements unless the activity has been endorsed for film and television production in the form of a story, narrative or documentary and is approved on the exhibition licence.

An exhibition licence cannot be granted solely for the purpose of exhibiting by way of film and television, including displaying images or video on social media or similar platforms.





Exhibition licence details

On granting an exhibition licence, the licence holder will be provided an exhibit notice and a full copy of the exhibition licence. The exhibit notice provides details of the front page of the licence without the private address details. The exhibit notice must be on display at all times while exhibiting a rabbit under the licence.

The full copy of the licence specifies all the activities approved under the licence and must be readily available for viewing by an inspector appointed under the Act on request. In addition, the licence will record numerous conditions that a licence holder must comply with. Failure to comply with the conditions of the licence may result in a show cause notice as to why the licence should not be amended, suspended or cancelled.

It is the licence holder's obligation to ensure they read through, have a thorough understanding of, and comply with all conditions of the exhibition licence.

Desexing and microchip requirements

There are no provisions to breed a rabbit in Queensland. A rabbit must be microchipped and desexed within six months of being obtained if it is a juvenile, or on obtaining the rabbit as an adult, unless written advice has been obtained by a veterinarian that desexing would be detrimental to its welfare. Written veterinarian advice must be retained and produced if requested by an inspector appointed under the Act.

Record keeping requirements

The Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016 specifies numerous record keeping requirements that a licence holder must keep and produce on request by an inspector appointed under the Act. when applying for a

licence to keep a rabbit, an applicant should provide information that proves that they understand and will comply with all record keeping requirements. This can include an example log of the information that will be recorded once the rabbit is attained.

For further information regarding record keeping requirements, refer to the Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016 and Other Act Requirements factsheet.

Additional laws

There are additional laws that an applicant will be required to comply with that are outside the scope of the *Exhibited Animal Act 2015 requirements*. An applicant may be asked to demonstrate that they are compliant with other relevant laws during the application process. An example of these additional laws includes Local Government laws such as the provision of proof that development approval under the *Planning Act 2016* and associated conditions have been met.

For more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au

