



Interstate exhibitors permit

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.

Residing interstate and exhibiting temporarily in Queensland

A person living outside of Queensland intending to exhibit and deal with native wildlife or non-indigenous animals on a temporary basis within Queensland must apply for an *interstate exhibitors permit* (permit).

A permit cannot be issued unless the applicant already has authority (the primary authority) to keep, deal with and exhibit the species in their home state. A permit authorises activities approved on the primary authority to be conducted in Queensland on a temporary basis.

A permit is approved for a maximum period of one year and cannot be extended beyond the term of the primary authority. Business operators may obtain a permit if intending to exhibit native wildlife and non-indigenous species in a circus performance or for mobile

exhibition to educate members of the public about the species.

Permit approval is solely for the purpose of allowing the holder to enter the state and exhibit animals throughout various locations within Queensland on a temporary basis. The permit does not authorise the keeping of species in Queensland when the primary authority is based interstate.

Additionally, permit holders are not permitted to hold their animals at authorised Queensland licence holder's premises in Queensland. Permit holders must enter Queensland for the purpose of preorganised events, and:

- must return authorised animals to the residing state on completion of their prebooked exhibit events, and
- are not permitted to keep animals within Queensland for extended timeframes between events.

How to apply for an interstate exhibitors permit

A person may apply for a permit by submitting a completed application form and a completed management plan for each species proposed to be exhibited and dealt with while in Queensland.

The Act specifies the information that must be addressed when applying for a species. A management plan template has been developed and example completed management plans for a number of species are available to guide applicants in completing their own management plans.

Each management plan must address how an applicant will prevent or minimise relevant risks



and adverse effects while exhibiting and dealing with a species.

Relevant risks and adverse effects include risks to animal welfare, biosecurity, human health, public safety and wellbeing, social amenity, the economy and the environment. An applicant must also demonstrate how they will meet the Act's general exhibition and dealing obligation (GEDO) for each proposed animal.

Mandatory requirements

There are several mandatory requirements and conditions the permit holder must comply with. A permit will record the conditions by which the authority holder must abide, including record keeping requirements and prescribed identification requirements for animals, specified under the Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016 (Regulation).

It is a condition of a permit that the holder must notify the department of their arrival and departure dates at least 14 days prior to entry into Queensland. If arrival or departure dates change, written notification must be provided to the department as soon as practicable.

Further, the department must be notified within 7 days if the primary authority is amended in a way that does not permit the authority holder to exhibit or deal with an animal in the residing state or if the authority is suspended, cancelled or surrendered.

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 or C2. Category C1 and C2 species are high risk non-indigenous animal species.

Category A animals

Category A animals are any species that may be obtained under a native animal keeping licence

under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA). A management plan for each species must identify all relevant risks and adverse effects and ways these risks will be prevented or minimised while travelling through Queensland.

Category B animals

All other native wildlife that is not a category A animal is a category B animal. The dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*) and European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are also category B species.

If applying for a category B animal to be listed on the permit, the animal must be identified in the prescribed way. The Regulation specifies that a prescribed way for identifying authorised animals is by microchip, tattoo, ear tag or leg band.

Category C1 & C2 animals

Category C1 animals are species prescribed in the Regulation. Category C1 species have been identified, via a risk assessment process, as having a low risk of establishment and no more than a moderate adverse effect.

All other non-indigenous species that are not prescribed category C1 species are category C2 species. Examples may include tigers, lions, elephants and macaques.

Category C2 species are considered species that pose significant risks to biosecurity, social amenity, the economy and the environment in the event of escape.

All relevant risks and adverse effects associated with exhibiting and dealing with these species must be identified in an application management plan with supporting information that details how the significant risks will be prevented or minimised.



Exempt species

Within Queensland, there are a number of native wildlife species and exotic birds that are identified as exempt under the NCA. Details for exempt animals must be identified in management plans if proposing to keep exempt animals with category A, B or C species while exhibiting and dealing with these animals in Queensland.

Interstate Exhibitors Permit details

On being granted an interstate exhibitors permit, the out of state licensed address where the person normally resides will be recorded on the interstate exhibitors permit.

The permit holder will be provided an exhibit notice and a full copy of the permit. The exhibit notice provides details of the front page of the permit without the private address details. The exhibit notice must always be on display while exhibiting animals in Queensland.

The full copy of the permit specifies all the activities approved under the permit and must be readily available to an inspector appointed under the Act on request.

In addition, the permit will record the conditions that a permit holder must comply with. Failure to comply with conditions of the permit may result in a show cause notice as to why the permit should not be amended, suspended or cancelled.

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

General considerations

If proposing to apply for a permit to authorise a category A, B or C animal for temporary exhibit

in Queensland, applicants need to consider the following prior to applying:

- Species management - do you have approval for the animal and proposed activities in your residing state?
- Animal welfare - is the species appropriate for mobile exhibition and how will you optimise the welfare experience for the animal?
- Responsibility - including your proven skills, knowledge and experience for daily management of the species?
- Relevant approvals – have you considered additional approvals such as Local Government approvals for moving and exhibiting animals within local government areas? You will be required to demonstrate that approvals have been given or are not required.
- GEDO - Are you able to meet all general exhibition and dealing obligations while exhibiting and dealing with animals in Queensland?

Further, the following matters must be considered, and information submitted when applying for a permit:

- A copy of the primary authority noting the species and the activities approved to be carried out in the residing state
- activities that are not authorised for Queensland based exhibition licence holders will not be authorised for interstate exhibitor permit holders.
- a permit will not be granted for the purpose of entering into Queensland to trade and sell authorised animals.

Record keeping requirements

The Regulation specifies numerous record keeping requirements that a permit holder must



keep and produce on request by an inspector appointed under the Act. When applying for a permit, an applicant should provide information that demonstrates they understand and will comply with all record keeping requirements.

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

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

