



# Exhibiting animals in a mobile exhibit

## *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.

### Mobile exhibit

A person that resides in Queensland may apply for an exhibition licence to exhibit animal species in a mobile exhibit. This allows the holder of the licence to keep authorised animals at a licenced premises and take those animals to different venues for exhibit purposes. This mode of exhibit is different to a zoo where animals are primarily exhibited at the premises where the licence is issued (*a regular enclosure site*).

### What the licence is used for

There are many animal species that may be obtained for mobile exhibit activities. Licence holders approved for mobile exhibits must only exhibit species in a mobile display that is approved on the licence. These displays are to educate members of the public about the species they are exhibiting. Examples may include the following.

- Informing the public about the ecological role of the animal.
- Education about the conservation of the animal.
- Promoting an understanding of the ecology of the animal.
- Providing entertainment for the public such as rabbits in a magic show.

Examples of business conducted under the licence may include educational talks at schools, children's parties and environment days organised by Local Government.

Exhibiting an animal 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 animal.


Exhibiting an animal 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.

### How to apply for a species

An applicant may apply to exhibit an animal by submitting a completed exhibition licence application in the approved form, together with a completed management plan for each proposed species to be exhibited.





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. Additionally, an applicant must demonstrate how they will meet the Act's general exhibition and dealing obligation (GEDO) for each proposed animal.

The Act specifies the information that must be addressed in a management plan 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.

## 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 C2 species are high risk non-indigenous animal species that are not authorised solely for the purpose of mobile exhibit and include species such as tigers, elephants, and meerkats.

Licence holders solely using animals for mobile display may only be authorised for category A and B species that are suitable for mobile exhibit and C1 species.

## Category A animals

Category A animals are any animals that may be obtained under a native animal keeping licence under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA). A management plan for each species needs to identify a type of regular enclosure that will be used rather than specific details of each enclosure proposed.

For example, an applicant may wish to apply for several different python species that are managed in exactly the same way. Rather than provide detailed descriptions for each regular enclosure for each python, an applicant may choose to provide enclosure details for all pythons, subject to their life stage and overall length, provided they are managed in the same way.

There is no minimum timeframe for the exhibition of category A animals; however, a person must demonstrate that they are acquiring each species for the purpose of conducting exhibits under the Act.

Applications proposing to breed category A animals must be accompanied by sound justification for the request. Applicants who are proposing to acquire category A species solely for the purpose of breeding and selling may apply to obtain a native animal keeping licence under the NCA.

## 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 classified as category B species.

The Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016 (Regulation) prescribes that a category B species authorised for mobile display must be identified by a microchip, tattoo, ear tag or leg band.

There are minimum timeframes for exhibiting category B species. An animal of each category B species must be exhibited, at minimum, once a month in each calendar month of the year, or a combined total of at least 12 separate occasions in the preceding year.





## Category C1 animals

Category C1 animals are species listed in the Regulation that may be authorised for mobile exhibit. These species may be authorised to a licensed address that is not open to the public for the purpose of viewing exhibited animals.

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 on biosecurity, social amenity, the economy and the environment in the event of escape.

Licence holders permitted to exhibit category C1 species must meet their minimum exhibition requirements by exhibiting each species for at least 50 hours a month within each calendar month or a total of 600 hours in the preceding year. In addition, each category C1 animal must be identified in the prescribed way by a microchip, tattoo, ear tag or leg band.

## Exempt species

There are several native wildlife species and exotic birds that are identified as exempt under the NCA. Species that are identified as exempt have no associated exhibit timeframe requirements; however, the Act's GEDO must be met for each exempt animal held.

A licence holder must detail all information for exempt animals in relevant management plans if proposing to hold an exempt animal in an enclosure with a category A, B or C1 species. This means that all exempt animals held with a categorised species under the Act must be listed on the licence.

## General considerations

If proposing to obtain a Category A, B or C1 animal for mobile exhibit, applicants need to consider the following prior to applying:

- Species management - do you have proven skills, knowledge and experience for daily management of the species?
- Animal welfare - is the species appropriate for mobile exhibition and how will you optimise the welfare experience for the animal?
- Relevant approvals – have you considered additional approvals such as Local Government approvals for keeping animals at your premises and can you demonstrate that these relevant approvals have been obtained or are not required?
- GEDO - Are you able to meet all general exhibition and dealing obligations for each animal both on and of the regular enclosure site?

Regardless of a species category, all animals obtained under the Act must be held for at least one month prior to transfer off the licence.

There are various obligations including record keeping requirements and licence conditions that an authority holder must comply with when granted an exhibition licence. An applicant must be able to meet these requirements on an ongoing basis and maintain a sound understanding of what is required if granted an exhibition licence under the Act.

On being granted an exhibition licence, a licence holder will be provided with 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 always be on display while exhibiting animals.

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 exhibition licence will record numerous





conditions that a licence holder must comply with. Failure to comply with 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 responsibility to ensure they read through, have a thorough understanding of, and comply with all conditions of the licence.

## Record keeping requirements

The Regulation 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, an applicant should provide information that demonstrates that 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.

## 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](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)

