



Take from the Wild Standard

Description:

The Take from the Wild Standard sets the parameters for the implementation of the stated outcomes of the Take from the Wild Policy and Procedure.

Document Control:

Creator.CorporateName	Science and Conservation Biodiversity Conservation Program
Creator.PersonalName	Fiona Fuhlbohm
Date.Created	10/02/2004
Date.Released	
Date.Reviewed	30 June 2006
Version	Final
Description	The Take from the Wild Standard sets the parameters for the implementation of the stated outcomes of the Take from the Wild Policy and Procedure.
Keywords	Taking protected animals from the wild, Sustainable use, regulated use of wildlife, assessment of applications to take protected animals, taking protected animals from the wild.
Availability	S:\OpSupport\BioConserv\PROJECTS\Take from the Wild\Policy Procedure and Standard\Standard\Final Standard
Identifier.URL	http://hub2/ppg/
Identifier.URI	DEH 21/1891
Coverage	Departmental
Quality Control	

Authorisation:**DIRECTOR, SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION**

Name _____

Date _____

TAKE FROM THE WILD

Policy, Procedure and Standard

(Under Section 53(1)d of *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*)

This Policy, Procedure and Standard framework facilitates the taking of native animals from the wild for the purpose of establishing and maintaining captive colonies. Applicants may include private keepers and breeders, wildlife demonstrators, wildlife exhibitors such as zoos and wildlife parks, wildlife management agencies, and businesses involved in the production of biological products.

Many thousands of Australians derive a great deal of enjoyment, understanding and appreciation for native wildlife from their interactions with captive wildlife. Consequently, a viable trade in live fauna exists in South Australia and other states and territories, with trade generally confined to captive-bred stock. The size of the market, ease of keeping and breeding, value of the animal and availability of species to be taken from the wild, all serve to regulate the availability of protected animals within the trade.

This Policy adopts the ethic that limited take from the wild is acceptable, and provides valuable opportunities for the broader public to interact with and develop an affinity for a diverse range of native wildlife. While the Policy directs that the removal of any wildlife is undertaken in an ecologically acceptable manner, it also recognises the broader conservation and public knowledge benefits that are acquired through having wildlife in captivity. In addition, potential economic, social or educational benefits are derived from keeping and breeding wildlife in captivity.

The Department for Environment and Heritage promotes fair and reasonable access to wildlife, and in assessing any application, will consider the impacts on wild populations, reason for taking an animal from the wild, conservation status of species in the wild, status of the species in captivity and the knowledge and experience of the applicant. Naturally, those species of higher conservation concern are subject to additional considerations.

Within the Department for Environment and Heritage, the Science and Conservation Directorate (Biodiversity Conservation Program), Regional Conservation Directorate (Investigations and Compliance Unit), and Natural and Cultural Heritage Directorate (Animal Welfare Unit) contribute expertise to the assessment and decision making process for all permit applications. The Regional Conservation Directorate (Fauna Permit Unit) co-ordinates the application processes and performs associated administrative duties.

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1. BACKGROUND

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* protects all native mammals, birds and reptiles (excluding unprotected species listed in Schedule 10 of that Act) throughout South Australia and provides for a permit system to take native animals (mammals, birds and reptiles) from the wild.

Private fauna breeders, wildlife demonstrators, zoos and wildlife parks, wildlife management agencies, and businesses involved in producing biological products, seek to take protected animals from the wild into captivity to:

- supplement or introduce new species to the captive fauna trade
- promote species and environmental awareness through presentation and interpretation of wildlife,
- captive breed and translocate species as part of a threatened species recovery program,
- obtain biological products,
- use for education and training purposes.

Permits issued pursuant to Section 53(1)(d) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* are designed to facilitate activities including taking animals from the wild where this is not inconsistent with the objectives of Act. Take from the Wild permits cover a range of activities, including:

- captive breeding of new species for the captive trade by experienced breeders,
- public education and exhibition of wildlife by recognised wildlife demonstrators or wildlife parks, or
- captive breeding or translocation, in accordance with a Threatened Species Recovery Program.

2. SCOPE

This standard applies to:

- staff within the Science and Conservation Directorate (Biodiversity Conservation Program), Regional Conservation Directorate (Investigations and Compliance Unit and Fauna Permit Unit), and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Directorate (Animal Welfare Unit), and
- other delegated officers.

3. DETAILS OF STANDARD

3.1 Assessment parameters

3.1.1 Primary Considerations

The Department for Environment and Heritage may grant a Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild given the following circumstances:

- The species is not generally available in captive trade, and
- The conservation status of the species in the wild is secure and it can be demonstrated that there is no ecological risk or impact to the species or to natural ecological communities from a limited take from the wild, and
- The applicant intends to breed for captive trade and is an experienced breeder with a proven ability to successfully breed similar species, and
- The applicant possesses the relevant endorsement on their Keep and Sell Permit (appropriate husbandry requirements (for animals) and standards (person and facilities)).

3.1.2 Secondary considerations

The Department for Environment and Heritage may also consider granting a Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild for any of the following purposes:

- public display and education,
- obtaining biological products,
- retention and use in education or training courses,
- filming (where there is a requirement to take the animal(s) from the wild),
- reptiles removed from a conflict with humans situation where it can be demonstrated the animal cannot be released back to the wild (as per Reptile in Conflict policy), the numbers of animals kept in captivity is low, and the applicant intends to breed for captive trade,
- supplementing bloodlines in established breeding programs,
- removal of non endemic population,
- potential conservation benefit (eg, re-introductions, research, diet, reproductive studies),
- human, veterinary or species management benefits,
- if the species is in conflict with humans or domestic animals, and
- genetic mutation and the animal is unlikely to survive in the wild,

It is unlikely that a permit will be granted if the applicant intends to export the animals to another Australian jurisdiction unless the applicant is a member of the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA).

3.1.3 Automatic refusal

The Department for Environment and Heritage will refuse Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild if the applicant:

- is not a fit and proper person,
- has limited or no experience with the species or similar animals,
- fails to provide sufficient information to accurately assess the application,
- intends to undertake scientific research using the animal (applicant requires a scientific permit),
- intends to avoid paying higher prices for captive-bred animals,
- intends to use the animal as a food source for other captive animals, or
- interstate applicants (excluding ARAZPA (Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria) institutions).

3.2 Fate of animals

3.2.1 Fate of animals taken from the wild

Animals taken under a Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild must not be sold (refer to definition of "sale" in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*) without written permission from the Director, National Parks and Wildlife permitting the disposal of the animals.

Animals taken under a Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild that are no longer required may be surrendered to the Department for Environment and Heritage, accompanied by a written letter of justification detailing the reasons for the surrender of animals

The Investigations and Compliance Unit are responsible for managing animals that have been seized or surrendered, and manage the disposal of animals (refer to Disposal of Fauna/Flora from Monarto Fauna Holding Complex Standard Operating Procedure).

3.2.2 Fate of surplus animals

The permit holder should take action to avoid the production of unwanted animals. Surplus animals from approved captive breeding programs must not be destroyed. Surplus animals may be surrendered to the Department for Environment and Heritage, accompanied by a written letter of justification detailing the reasons for the surrender of animals.

The Investigations and Compliance Unit are responsible for managing the disposal of animals (refer to Disposal of Fauna/Flora from Monarto Fauna Holding Complex Standard Operating Procedure).

3.3 Animal Welfare

The permit holder must comply with animal welfare standards outlined in the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985*, the regulations sub-ordinate to that Act and the "Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes" and any other relevant Codes of Practice.

3.4 Referees

An applicant must have 2 or more referees. The referees should be able to testify that the applicant is a fit and proper person. At least one of the referees should be a person experienced in the husbandry of the species concerned (or similar species) and preferably have local knowledge of the species and collection area.

3.5 Interstate applicants

The Department for Environment and Heritage promotes fair and reasonable access to wildlife to South Australian residents who can meet the requirements of the take from the wild assessment criteria.

Permits may only be granted to non-South Australian residents in situations where the applicant represents a recognised wildlife park or ARAZPA institution and can meet the requirements of the take from the wild assessment criteria.

3.6 Release to the wild

Applicants seeking to take protected animals from the wild for translocation purposes must satisfy all requirements of the current DEH Translocation Principles and obtain approval (refer to Section 55, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* Delegations document for delegated officers) prior to a Take from the Wild permit being granted.

3.7 Micro-chipping and DNA sampling

Micro chipping and DNA sampling may be required as a condition of permit, particularly if the species is

- threatened (listed in schedule 7 (endangered) or schedule 8 (vulnerable) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*), and/or
- considered a significant species based on conservation or trade status and warrants individual identification to promote accountability for its possession (ie; has a high monetary value, is subject to illegal trade or is a nationally listed species), and/or
- likely be exported to another jurisdiction.

All costs associated with micro-chipping and/or DNA sampling will be incurred by the permit holder.

3.8 Genetic Diversity

The Department for Environment and Heritage may grant a Permit to Take Protected Animals from the Wild to increase captive bred genetic diversity if the applicant has proven ability to successfully breed the nominated species or a similar species. Evidence of a lack of genetic robustness in the captive population may be required.

3.9 Use of protected species abundant in captive trade and in the wild

Permits may only be granted to Government agencies, ARAZPA institutions and recognised wildlife parks to take species common in the wild and common in captive trade where the species is to be used as an analog species for a threatened species recovery program.

3.10 Public Safety

Animals can present a public safety risk, particularly if there is a deliberate interaction between people and the animals (for example, venomous snake handling). When transporting animals obtained from the wild, the permit holder must ensure that animals are placed in appropriate containers to ensure the welfare of the animal and to prevent its escape.

In order to avoid stress injury to the animal(s), members of the public should not be permitted to come into direct contact with the containers holding the animal(s) obtained from the wild.

Transportation of venomous reptiles must comply with 7.5.2 of the Reptile in Conflict Standard Operating Procedure adopted on 28 January 2004.

3.11 Animal Welfare

Animals taken from the wild must be provided with adequate food, water, shelter, carry cages and conditions which minimise stress to the animals.

3.12 Snake catchers

Captive trade in venomous reptiles from snake catching activities can be facilitated but the primary objective must be the removal of the snake from a conflict situation, not trade in the species.

The Reptile in Conflict Standard Operating Procedure adopted on 28 January 2004 provides for the limited use of some captured snakes and conversion to the captive fauna trade. The only species approved for taking into trade is the Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*). Royalty fees are waived for Eastern Brown Snakes taken in this manner.

3.13 Native Title

Native title recognises the communal, group or individual rights of indigenous people over land and/or water in accordance with their traditional law and custom.

People who hold native title can have particular rights allowing them to continue to practice their law and custom over traditional lands and waters. Claim groups who have not yet proven they have native title rights over a particular area may have certain procedural rights as set out in the *Native Title Act* (1993) (*Cth.*). These include the right to comment on decisions and activities that affect the enjoyment of their native title rights and interests in the area they have claimed.

To ensure compliance with the *Native Title Act* (1993) (*Cth.*), all Take from the Wild permits granted should contain one of the following conditions:

"this permit will cease to have an effect upon a determination that native title exists in any of the land or waters covered by this permit to the extent that such a determination affects those land or waters"

or

"If native title is found to exist over the land or water covered by this permit, this permit will cease to have effect".

3.14 Permit duration and extensions

Pursuant to Section 53(2) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* permits to take animals from the wild will be granted for a period up to 12 months.

Permit extensions will not be granted. Applicants may re-apply for a Take from the Wild permit if they fail to obtain the total number of animals specified on the permit within the original permit period. Permit and royalty fees will apply for subsequent permits.

3.15 Refund of permit and royalty fees

Permit and royalty fees are non-refundable.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Science and Conservation Directorate (Biodiversity Conservation Program)

- The development, maintenance and implementation of the Take from the Wild Policy and Standard.
- Ensure that conservation principles are upheld when assessing each application.
- Ensure that the purpose for which the animal is to be taken is in accordance with the assessment parameters detailed in this document (refer Section 3.1).

Regional Conservation Directorate (Investigations and Compliance Unit)

- The maintenance and implementation of the Take from the Wild Standard.
- Assessment of the suitability of the applicant (fit and proper person and has the appropriate experience to hold the animal).
- Assessment of the suitability of the captive holding facilities.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Directorate (Animal Welfare Unit)

- The maintenance and implementation of the Take from the Wild Standard.
- Advice on *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985*, regulations and Code.
- Provision of comment on any animal welfare matter relevant to a take from the wild application.

Regional Conservation Directorate (Fauna Permit Unit)

- Issue of permits and conditions.
- Verification of appropriate Keep and Sell Permit endorsements.
- Coordinate the management of applications, internal advice and correspondence with the applicant.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Directorate (Aboriginal Partnerships)

- Provide advice on matters relating to Aboriginal interest in take from the wild applications.

5. LINKS TO AGENCY ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

These procedures must be used in conjunction with:

DEH Take from the Wild Policy adopted on 26 July 2005

DEH Take from the Wild Procedure adopted on 26 July 2005

DEH Standard Operating Procedure "Native Species – Rescue and Release" adopted on 28 January 2004

DEH Standard Operating Procedure "Keeping Venomous Snakes" adopted on 28 January 2004

DEH Standard Operating Procedure "Reptile in Conflict" adopted on 28 January 2004

DEH Translocation of Fauna Policy (in draft)

DEH Standard Operating Procedure "Disposal of Fauna/Flora from Monarto Fauna Holding Complex"