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Carnivores Imported for Exhibition

Animals subject to these provisions may be brought into California under a wild animal importation permit issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Veterinary Public Health Section (VPHS), and upon payment of a \$10.00 permit fee per animal. Carnivores may not be imported until the consignee receives a permit issued by CDPH-VPHS. Persons wishing to import carnivores shall complete an importation permit application and provide CDPH-VPHS with the supplementary documentation listed below no less than five business days prior to importation:

1. A certificate of veterinary inspection (aka. health certificate) signed/dated not more than 30 days prior to importation, certifying that the animal has been examined by a veterinarian accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture and is free of signs of infectious diseases, and
2. Veterinary records of the animal--or the parents if less than six months of age--reflective of the 180 days prior to importation, and
3. A signed statement from the consignor describing the date and location of acquisition if the animal has been in the consignor's possession less than 180 days.

Carnivores shall be quarantined to prevent contact with the public and other animals for at least 90 days after entry into California. A physical examination must be performed by the veterinarian at the entrance to quarantine and no less than 90 days later. After the carnivore is found to be free of infectious diseases, the veterinarian is required to complete and submit the Veterinary Certificate of Quarantine to CDPH-VPHS. Upon satisfactory review of the Veterinary Certificate of Quarantine, CDPH-VPHS will issue by electronic mail a Release from Quarantine. The veterinarian may release the carnivore from quarantine only upon receipt of the Release from Quarantine.

Carnivores permitted entry under these provisions shall not be sold, traded, or given away without notification and prior approval by CDPH-VPHS and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Local Restrictions: An importation permit shall not be issued where local ordinances (city or county) prohibit the possession of the species. Importers must provide CDPH-VPHS with any applicable permit or licenses required by a local ordinance prior to the issuance of a wild animal importation permit.

Internet Address & Forms: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vphs/Pages/Carnivores.aspx>

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