

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

David Waller, Director

**Georgia Department of Natural
Resources**

Wildlife Resources Division

Special Permit Unit

2109 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30025
(770) 761-3044

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Exhibition Permit Applicants
FROM: Special Permit Unit
SUBJECT: Instructions for Completing Application

This memo is in reference to meeting requirements for a Wildlife Exhibition Permit as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 27-2-13. Attached is a copy of the law's provisions and requirements and an application form which you must complete and return to the Game Management Section, Special Permit Unit in Social Circle. The following information must be provided fully for each item on the form:

1. Give complete name, mailing address and home telephone number.
2. Provide name of facility or business (if any) under which you will operate and telephone number if different from above.
3. Provide the specific location of facilities (including county) and address if different from item one.
4. Give proposed date on which you wish to begin holding and exhibiting wildlife.
5. Briefly describe proposed operation of exhibition facility. Give details on educational objectives and how these objectives will be achieved.
6. List species, number, sex, and age of animals to be exhibited. Exhibitors holding mammals for exhibit must obtain a US Department of Agriculture License. The USDA office in Raleigh, NC can be contacted at (919) 716-5532.
7. Provide sizes of cages, lay out, etc., where animals are to be held and exhibited. Describe construction including building materials used.
8. List all sources and/or suppliers of animals.
9. Give means of transporting animals (motor vehicle, air freight, etc.), by whom, and final destination of animals.
10. Provide detailed history and educational background in handling and exhibiting wildlife.

Wildlife Exhibition facilities are subject to inspection by Department of Natural Resources personnel prior to approval of a license for any activity involving wildlife and at any reasonable time thereafter.

Attachment

Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Special Permit Unit
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WILDLIFE EXHIBITION PERMIT

(Use attachments if more space
is needed for any line below)

1. Applicant name, address and home phone. (Nonresidents must meet one of the conditions listed at bottom for service of legal process):

Home Phone (____) _____

2. Business, corporation, public agency or institution to be covered by license (Include name, type and business phone):

Business Phone (____) _____

3. Address or location (including **county**) where proposed activity is to be conducted:

County _____

4. Desired effective date: _____

5. **You must attach an educational plan detailing the objectives, background and methods to be used in exhibition.**

6. Species, Number, Sex, and Age (if known) of animals to be permitted: _____

7. Describe in detail facilities for holding/transporting animals: _____

8. Source or Supplier of animal(s): _____

9. Method of shipment and where to be received: _____

10. Give a detailed history of all experience and training in handling and exhibiting wildlife: _____

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I have complied with all applicable Federal and State Laws and Regulations concerning the license/permit requested and that the information submitted in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date

Signature (in ink)

Nonresidents must provide one of the following: (1) An address in Georgia where applicant can be personally served with legal process; (2) Appointment of an agent in Georgia (with Georgia address) for acceptance of service of legal process; (3) designate the Secretary of State of Georgia for acceptance of service of legal process.

APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT \$59.00 PERMIT FEE

O.C.G.A. 27-2-13 Wildlife exhibition permits.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife in captivity for the purpose of display to the public without first procuring a valid wildlife exhibition permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. No such permit shall be issued by the department except where the exhibition or display is solely for educational purposes. The department may impose conditions on such permit requiring adequate sanitation facilities, housing, and feed for the animals and insuring the safety of the public in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. Exhibitions of wildlife by educational institutions; state, city, county, or municipal zoos; or transient circuses shall not be required to procure a wildlife exhibition permit, provided that such exhibitors must comply with all regulations of the board relating to sanitation, housing, feed, and public safety. Nothing in this Code Section shall be construed to require a permit to exhibit or display fish.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person holding any wildlife in captivity pursuant to a wildlife exhibition permit to release the wildlife from captivity or to house or maintain the wildlife in such a manner as to pose a reasonable possibility that the wildlife may be released accidentally or escape from captivity. (Ga. L. 1968, p. 497, ' 20; Code 1933, ' 45-314, enacted by Ga. L. 1977, p. 396, ' 1; Ga. L. 1978, p. 816, ' 32.)

391-4-9-.04 Wildlife Exhibition Permits.

(1) Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to protect wildlife and the citizens of Georgia by establishing minimum requirements for obtaining a wildlife exhibition permit and establishing standards for holding and exhibiting wildlife.

(2) General Regulations. A wildlife exhibition permit shall not be issued unless the following conditions are met:

- (a) The applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) Facilities for holding and exhibiting wildlife must comply with O.C.G.A. § 27-5-6 and must meet minimum requirements as specified by the Department.
- (c) Applicants proposing to exhibit mammals must first obtain an exhibitor's license from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), or provide documentation that the applicant is exempt from USDA/APHIS requirements; and
- (d) Applicants proposing to exhibit migratory birds regulated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must obtain an appropriate permit from USFWS before obtaining or exhibiting migratory birds. A copy of USFWS permits shall be sent to the Department, Special Permit Unit.

(3) Fixed facilities. Wildlife exhibition permit for fixed facilities shall not be issued unless the following criteria are met:

- (a) A fixed facility for exhibiting wildlife shall be open to the public for a time no less than 30 hours per week for at least six (6) months each year during reasonable hours of the day. A sign specifying the days and hours the facility is open to the public shall be placed in a prominent location visible to the public and in close proximity to the facility.
- (b) Each cage or pen shall be signed identifying the animal(s) by common and scientific name. Additional information about each species shall be provided through interpretative signs and/or audio-visual material.

(4) Mobile Education Programs. For the purpose of the rule, mobile education program shall mean any educational program using live wildlife and which program is conducted outside of the enclosure where the wildlife is permanently housed. Conditions for conducting mobile educational programs are as follows:

- (a) Residents holding wildlife for use in educational programs shall conduct a minimum of twelve (12) program hours per year. Program hours must be documented and provided at the time of renewal;
- (b) Animals must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the public and animals with sufficient distance allowed between the animals and the viewing public to assure safety to both the public and the animals as determined by the Department. Animals shall not be handled by the public, except that nonvenomous reptiles and amphibians may be handled by members of the public under close supervision of the permittee.

(5) Exhibition of rabies prone species.

- (a) Bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall not be exhibited in mobile educational programs.
- (b) In fixed facilities, the exhibition of bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks will be made in a facility constructed in a manner satisfactory to the Department to ensure that the public cannot gain access to animals which may have exposure to free-living rabies vector species.
- (c) Bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall be kept in isolation from contact with other exhibit animals and free-living wildlife for a minimum of 180 days before exhibition in fixed facilities.
- (d) Persons with specific responsibilities related to handling, feeding, or caring for animals at facilities which exhibit bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall receive rabies pre-exposure vaccination and must demonstrate rabies antibody levels that are recommended for adequate protection before a permit is issued and at least every five years thereafter.

(6) Exemptions.

- (a) Educational institutions; federal, state, city, county, or municipal governments or their agencies; or transient circuses, shall receive a wildlife exhibition permit at no cost, provided that such exhibition shall comply with all laws and regulations relating to handling, care, confinement, and transporting of wildlife and rules contained herein.
- (b) Falconers licensed in Georgia shall not be required to purchase a wildlife exhibition permit to conduct mobile educational programs with raptors held under their Georgia State/Federal falconry license.
- (c) Residents exhibiting wildlife at both a fixed facility and at mobile educational programs shall meet the requirements of 391-4-9-.04 (3)(a) or (4)(a), but shall not be required to comply with both paragraphs (3)(a) and (4)(a).
- (d) Persons issued wildlife exhibition permits or licenses prior to passage of this rule shall have until November 1, 1998 to comply with these regulations.
- (e) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit or prohibit a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician from providing emergency care, vaccination or other veterinary care that otherwise falls within the scope of professional and ethical judgement.

(7) Penalties.

- (a) Wildlife exhibitors in violation of this rule shall have their license or permit revoked or suspended by the Department for a period of not less than two (2) years.

Authority O.C.G.A. Title 27, O.C.G.A. § 27-1-4, §27-2-13

FORMAT
For Educational Plan
Submitted with Wildlife Exhibition Permit Applications

A. Objectives: (What will your audience see or receive from the lesson?)

Try and address this by completing the following sentence. My audience will, at a minimum, _____. This may be a simple statement or may have several parts.

B. Background: (What do you hope to teach?)

State the theories, concepts or principles you hope to address in the presentation. Is the intention to teach about one animal, a group of animals or some relationship between animal groups?

C. Procedure/Discussion: (What will you say and do?)

Outline what will be said to the audience. Notations for where and how you will use animals should be included.

D. Evaluation: (Did the audience learn?)

Describe what manner you will judge if the audience met the Objectives and understands the Background of the lecture. Will you ask them questions?, will they ask you questions?, will you have them apply the Background to a similar (but different) situation?

