



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Permit Office 2004/11

APPROVED POLICY
Minimum standards for the keeping of large carnivores in captivity

The conditions below shall apply to any keeping in captivity of cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), leopards (*Panthera pardus*), lions (*Panthera leo*), spotted hyaenas (*Crocuta crocuta*), brown hyaena (*Hyaena brunnea*) and wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) and are set according to the Nature Conservation Ordinance (No 4 of 1975: Section 40 (1)(a)(iii)). Non-compliance with any of these conditions may result in the withdrawal of permits and/or registrations issued in accordance with Ordinance 4 of 1975, as well as prosecution in accordance with Sections 83(5)(a) (i) of this Ordinance.

Note: This document forms part of any permit to keep a large carnivore in captivity.

General principles

These permit conditions replace all other such permit conditions to keep large carnivores, but are not an exclusive set of conditions.

The following conditions apply:

- Large carnivores may not be captured from the wild population and kept in captivity, unless it forms part of a conservation practice by a Rehabilitation Center, subject to specific approval by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- Large carnivores may not be allowed to breed in captivity, unless the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has registered the holding facility, as a Captive Breeding Center. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the animals do not breed.
- Large carnivores held in captivity may not be released into the wild or transferred from the facility without prior permission from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- Permits apply only to a specific identifiable large carnivore(s).
- All large carnivores specified should be individually marked.
- A register must be kept at the facility and should record for each animal the sex, age, identification, date acquired, source/origin.
- All felids must be tested for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and the results communicated to Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- All large carnivores must be vaccinated for rabies.
- Large carnivores tested positive for any disease may not leave the facility.
- The cost of veterinary inspection and certification will remain entirely the responsibility of the owner.

- Captive large carnivores may not be exposed to or come into contact with people for any purpose whatsoever, without prior approval from Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- All large carnivores are kept at the sole risk of the owner and Ministry of Environment and Tourism does not accept any liability for any cost, loss or damage resulting from keeping large carnivores as specified.
- The permit will be valid for a maximum of one year only and will only be re-issued after inspection by Ministry of Environment and Tourism and upon recommendation from a veterinarian.
- Any person who is also registered as a game dealer and intends to keep large carnivores in captivity for any purpose other than to conduct trade in such specimens, or for a period longer than three months, is required to comply in full with all requirements stated in these conditions.
- Large carnivores may not be intentionally imprinted on humans or kept as pets without prior approval from Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- Unless required for veterinary reasons, claws may not be removed permanently, canine teeth may not be removed, and alterations intended to de-voice an animal may not be done.
- All requirements concerning facilities or husbandry below must be adhered to at all times.

1. Minimum requirements concerning size and lay-out of holding facilities

Three categories of holding facilities are identified:

- 1.1 Capture cages used for the capture of large carnivores only: The length of cages should be at least 2.3 meters for lions and 1.8 meters for leopards and cheetah. Capture cages must be secure to prevent animals from escaping and constructed from material that will not injure the animal. There are no further prescribed sizes or construction requirements, but large predators may not be kept in such facilities for longer than one week.
- 1.2 Temporary holding facilities: Temporary holding facilities for the keeping of large carnivores for a period of up to 3 months must provide 10 m² per individual. Large carnivores may not be kept in a temporary holding facility for longer than three months. Approval for an extension of up to three months will only be granted subject to an inspection of the facility.
- 1.3 Permanent holding facilities: Such facilities must be of a minimum size of one hectare (e.g. 100m x 100m or 10000 m²) per adult animal, with an additional 1ha for every additional animal. Permits to keep large carnivores in such facilities will be valid for a maximum of one year. Only permanent holding facilities may be used in any tourism related enterprise, provided that such facilities are also fenced with a buffer fence as described below.

2. Construction and fencing

Holding facilities (temporary and permanent) may be constructed from wire mesh (razor wire and barbed wire fences may not be used). Fences should not be lower than 2.4 meters and should be cemented into the ground, unless the fence is electrified.

Overhangs of 1 meter at a 45-degree angle should be added for non-electrified fences. Electric fencing is the most efficient way of detaining large carnivores, deterring fence climbing and preventing entry to enclosures from outside.

The following heights of electric strands are recommended:

Cheetah: Electric strands inside the enclosure are not required. Electric strands on the outside are necessary in order to keep other wild animals like baboons out of the enclosure. All strands should be 300mm away from the existing fence except for the top strands which should be placed 150mm away from the existing fence inside and outside the enclosure and at a height of 2.4 meters from the ground. The bottom wire must be 250 mm above the ground outside the enclosure, followed by a strand at 600mm above the ground outside the enclosure.

Leopard: All strands have to be 300mm away from the existing fence except the top strand. The bottom strand must be 250mm from the ground inside and outside the enclosure, followed by a strand at 600mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure, and a strand at 2.4m which is 150mm and 300mm away from the existing fence respectively on both sides of the fence.

Lion: All strands need to be 300mm away from the existing fence except the top strands. The bottom strand should be placed at 250mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure. The second strand should be at a height of 800 mm above the ground inside and outside. The top strands should be as for leopard.

Spotted hyaena and brown hyaena: All strands need to be 300mm away from the existing fence except the top strands. The bottom strand should be placed at a height of 250mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure. The second strand at a height of 600mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure and the third strand should be placed at a height of 900mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure. Top strands as per cheetah.

Wild dog: All strands need to be 300mm away from the existing fence except the very top strands. The bottom strand should be placed at a height of 250mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure. The second strand at a height of 600mm above the ground inside and outside the enclosure. Top wires as per cheetah.

General: Large carnivore camps accessible to the public must have a buffer fence measuring 1.2 meters high and 1.5 meters away from the large carnivore enclosure. A standard stock proof fence to keep the public from the enclosure fence will be sufficient.

3. Record keeping and identification of captive large carnivores

All carnivores should be individually recognizable and/or marked with an implantable transponder or other appropriate method so that the owner/manager can at all times reliably identify each particular individual specimen to the satisfaction of Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Transponder numbers or other identifying marks or characteristics must accompany any subsequent permit application concerning that individual. Ministry of Environment and Tourism must be informed within 10 days of any change in status concerning an animal held in captivity (including deaths, births, escape, recapture) or prior to any intended change of ownership, locality or facility.

4. Annual veterinary checks

Annual veterinary inspections of each facility will be undertaken, and inspection reports (health certificates) should be provided to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and should describe the status of the animals (e.g. disease, nutrition) and the condition of the holding facility (e.g. hygiene, size, and cover), before the registration will be renewed.

When holding facilities do not meet required standards, or when animals are in poor condition, owners will be given a grace period of one month to correct the problem. If the problem persists after the stipulated time, the animal/s will be confiscated and/or destroyed at the discretion of Ministry of Environment and Tourism, without any compensation.

5. Captive breeding

Breeding should be prevented by a) physical separation, b) vasectomising males, c) surgically sterilizing females, or d) through hormonal contraceptives, and should be the responsibility of the owner. In the event of indiscriminate or illegal captive breeding the additional animals will be confiscated and/or destroyed at the discretion of Ministry of Environment and Tourism, without any compensation, or the authorization to keep large carnivores in captivity will be withdrawn and all animals will be confiscated and/or destroyed at the discretion of Ministry of Environment and Tourism, without any compensation.

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