

Subsection (a)(9) of Section 671.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is amended to read:

§671.1. Permits for Restricted Species.

(a) General. It is unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, maintain, dispose of, or use for any purpose any animal restricted by Section 671 except as authorized in a permit issued by the department.

(1) Limited Scope. A permit issued pursuant to this Section 671.1 does not supersede any Federal, State, or local law regulating or prohibiting the animals or the activities authorized in the permit.

(2) Inspections. The department may approve an application prior to facilities being inspected and approved. A permit shall not be issued unless the applicant's facilities have been inspected and approved by the department or persons designated by the department.

The department may enter any facility at a reasonable hour, where restricted species are kept or may be kept to inspect animals, facilities, animal equipment, or to inspect, audit, or copy any permit, book or record required to be kept by these regulations or federal regulations relating to such species.

(3) Change of Address or Name. The permittee must notify the Department's License and Revenue Division, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, California 95816, in writing of any change of address or name related to the permit within fourteen (14) days of the change.

(4) Records. Any record, log, invoice, or other document required by this Section 671.1 shall be maintained by the permittee for at least three years from the date issued, and be made available to the department immediately upon demand.

(5) Transportation Records Required of Broker/Dealer. The permittee shall prepare and sign an invoice in duplicate prior to any animals leaving their facility. The invoice shall contain the name and address of the Broker/Dealer, a phone number where the Broker/Dealer and the consignee can be reached 24 hours, the name and address of the consignee, the date of the shipment, and the number and scientific name of each animal. The invoice shall accompany the animals being shipped. The consignee shall sign and date the invoice receipt of the shipment and retain a copy.

(6) Permits for Business. A person (as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 67) other than a natural person can qualify for and be issued a permit, only by employing at least one full time employee who possesses the requirements for obtaining a permit. The permittee must continue to employ such qualified persons as long as the animals are possessed in California.

(7) Financial Responsibility. The department may require an applicant for a nonresident permit to provide proof he/she will immediately cover all expenses incurred by the department for personnel, equipment, and facilities used to locate, capture, house, care for, and transport animals that escape or that are released or abandoned. The written proof must be in the form of an insurance bond or other financial guarantee payable to the department, local government agency, or entity contracting for the animals.

(8) Health Certificates. The department may require as a condition on any permit that restricted animals be approved for interstate shipment pursuant to applicable federal or state agency standards for diseases such as but not limited to tuberculosis, brucellosis, and pseudo rabies. Permit conditions may be more restrictive than federal standards.

(9) Transgenic Aquatic Animals. The department may issue permits for importation, possession, transportation or rearing of, or research on, transgenic aquatic animals pursuant to the following terms and conditions:

(A) All transgenic aquatic animals shall be held, raised, and transported in a closed-water system or in a system which treats effluent discharge from the facility with a disinfection

system adequate to ensure against the inadvertent release of live animals. A closed-water system means that there is no discharge to waters of the state. Municipal treated sewage systems are not considered waters of the state. The Commission may grant an exception to subsection (a)(9)(A) of this regulation if it is determined that doing so shall not pose a significant risk to the waters or wildlife of the state.

(B) Access to facilities containing transgenic aquatic animals must be restricted through means determined to be adequate by the Department to assure against unauthorized removal of animals.

(C) Movement of live transgenic aquatic animals from facilities is prohibited unless specifically permitted by the Department.

(D) Release of transgenic aquatic animals or their progeny into waters of the state is prohibited.

(E) If transgenic aquatic animals are held with non-transgenic animals of the same species, all such animals that commingle with transgenic animals shall be treated as transgenic for the purposes of regulation and may not be introduced into waters of the state. Nontransgenic individuals that can be individually identified as nontransgenic may be exempt from this provision with prior department approval.

(F) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any unauthorized release of transgenic aquatic animals or their progeny into the waters of the state may be subject to the penalties provided for under Fish and Game Code Sections 2125, 12007, and/or 12023

(G) A university, college, governmental research agency or other bona fide scientific institution, as determined by the department, may apply for an expedited permit review under 671(b)6 of this section by demonstrating that they meet or exceed the requirements stipulated in subsections (A) through (F) as part of a federal program or permit, for example, National Institute of Health guidelines administered by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Such institutions shall have 120 calendar days from May 14, 2003 to submit supporting documentation for an initial permit.

(H) The Department shall provide written notice of the filing of all permit applications to any interested party who submits a written request for such notice. The Department shall consider all written comments regarding a permit application that are received from any interested party prior to approval of that application. All approved applications shall be reviewed by the Fish and Game Commission during a regularly scheduled public meeting; and the Commission, following public comment, may deny the issuance of a permit if it finds that an applicant is or will be unable to meet all regulatory requirements for importation, transportation, possession, and confinement of transgenic aquatic animals.

(I) The regulations under subsection 671.1(a)(9) shall be reviewed by the Department and other interested parties no later than one year after their effective date of May 14, 2003. A summary of the review shall be reported to the Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting within 90 days of May 14, 2004.

NOTE

Authority: Sections 1002, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2150, and 2150.2, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 2116-2118, 2190, and 2271, Fish and Game Code.