

Memorandum Order

No. 3

March 18, 1991

SUBJECT: Procedures on the Health Care and Maintenance of Confiscated and Donated Wild Fauna

Pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 142, Series of 1989 and in order to ensure the survival of confiscated or donated wildlife to be reintroduced or released back to their natural habitat, the following procedures on their health care and maintenance are hereby issued:

- 1) **First Day** - From the first day the confiscated or donated wildlife species are received, the following steps should be undertaken:
 - 1.1 Recording of the history of the animals;
 - 1.2 General physical examination by the veterinarian immediately upon arrival of the animals at the wildlife rescue center or mini-zoo. Mortalities (i.e. dead individual) and morbidities (i.e. wildlife in sick condition) should be recorded upon completion of the physical examination; and
 - 1.3 If quarantine cages are ready, the animals should be placed on quarantine. Wounded or obviously diseased animals should be treated and kept separately.
- 2) **Second Day to the Fifth Day** - Immediately after the procedures for the first day have been completed, the following shall be undertaken:
 - 2.1 Further observation on the animals for possible mortalities, morbidities and signs of stress. Dead animals should be necropsied and then incinerated or buried.
 - 2.2 Upon detection of certain diseased conditions which necessitates collection of specimens and the conduct of laboratory testings, the custodian shall seek the assistance of agencies such as the National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (NADDL), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), or any appropriate agencies.

Laboratory examination which can be immediately done at the mini zoo or wildlife rescue center laboratory by the medical technologists and veterinarians must be made while the assistance of the agencies is being sought. Examples of these laboratory tests are complete blood counts (CBC), fecalysis, external parasite, fungal examinations and others.

Persons/organizations who shall be responsible for the release of the animals must be contacted to inform them of the preparations that needs to be made.

3) **Sixth Day to Nineteenth Day** - During this period the procedures to be observed are:

3.1 Preservation of the animals and updating of the records on morbidities and mortalities

3.2 Await laboratory results from NADDL and BAI.

4) After laboratory results shall have been submitted, any one of the following recommendations may be adopted:

4.1 Release of the Animals. The animals should immediately be scheduled for transport and returned to their place of origin as soon as possible.

4.2 Maintenance in Captivity. The animals may be kept in a mini-zoo, DENR Regional Rescue Centers, or in any government institution which may have the need for them and willing to take custody over the animals.

4.3 Euthanasia and Incineration. The animals should immediately be euthanized and disposed of through burning, burying (at least 6 feet under the ground), or any other available means that would protect public health.

For compliance.

VICTOR O. RAMOS
Undersecretary for Field Operations