

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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DRAFT 10-18-2004 # 4

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE

**PART ONE (I)
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

EFFECTIVE _XXXXXXXXXXXX

Authority : These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-35, 42-17 and Title 4,
Chapters 1-22 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

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RULE 1.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to:

Provide written regulations and guidelines for the feeding, housing, care and management of animals *and livestock* in, or under the control of, licensed animal care facilities and related animal rescue and animal care operations in Rhode Island.

RULE 2.00 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Title 4 entitled Animals and Animal Husbandry, Chapters 4-1 to 4-22, in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

Comfortable housing and appropriate husbandry is an essential element in good animal care. It is impossible to develop a single definition of comfortable housing and adequate husbandry that is applicable to all facilities. Comfort depends on a variety of subjective and objective factors. Experienced animal care workers know that the well being of animals is not entirely dependent on a modern physical plant and the newest of housing equipment. Well trained and motivated personnel frequently can overcome physical deficiencies to assure a high quality of animal care. Therefore, satisfactory housing and husbandry is necessary to insure that all systems of management, care, and housing permits animals to grow, mature, and behave normally, and be maintained in good health, while protecting the health of humans.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT PENDING Economic impact statement will be provided based on average estimated costs for a representative number of facilities to achieve compliance within the allowed grandfather periods.

RULE 4.00 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purpose of all applicable state laws, regulations, goals and policies.

These regulations will apply to any facility, person or organization that imports, procures, impounds, captures, accepts, releases, transfers, transports, adopts, fosters, feeds, shelters, buys, sells, trades, performs euthanasia, provides care for or facilitates the management of animals for the purpose of rescue, adoption, retail sale, wholesale sale, private exotic animal possession, exhibition, fair and show within the State of Rhode Island.

RULE 5.00 DEFINITIONS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS PENDING FINAL DRAFTING
Definitions provided for in Rhode Island General Law Title 4, Chapters 1 through 22 as amended, will apply to these regulations, as well as definitions listed below:

RULE 6.00 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6.01 Physical Structure

All facilities housing animals shall be designed and constructed to be structurally sound and with the animals' comfort as the primary consideration.

Structures shall be in excellent repair and protect animals from injury, contain them securely and restrict other animals from outside entry.

The physical condition and design of animal facilities determine the efficiency and economy of their operation and greatly influence standards for animal care. A well-designed and properly maintained facility is an essential element of good animal care.

Many new animal facilities will be built in the future and many existing facilities will need to be remodeled. Therefore, the question of what constitutes proper facilities for animals is very important. This section of the animal care guide deals with the design and construction features that must be considered in the planning and operation of animal facilities.

6.02 Functional Areas

The design, scope, and size of an animal facility depend on the nature of the activities being conducted within, the number of animals to be housed, and the requirements for flexibility in the housing of different species. The following functional areas are essential in a modern animal facility:

- A. A separate building, a separate wing, or one or more floors or separate rooms where animals can be housed apart from areas humans occupy. A proper number of animal rooms or areas are required to assure separation of species when necessary, or isolation of individuals for the receipt, quarantine and isolation of animals; and to provide for their routine and specialized housing.
- B. Receiving and storage areas for food, bedding, supplies and equipment.
- C. An office for the administration, supervision and direction of the facility.
- D. Showers, sinks, toilets and lockers for personnel.
- E. An area provided for washing and sterilizing equipment and supplies.
- F. An incinerator capable of burning all animal waste and refuse, or facilities for the safe and sanitary storage of such waste and refuse prior to its removal.
- G. A separate area for personnel away from animals for proper human food preparation and consumption.

6.03 Service Areas in Relation to the Total Size of the Animal Facilities

A. An area or areas equal in square feet to at least twenty five percent (25%) of the animal housing space shall be set aside for the service functions of the animal facility. These service functions shall include such activities as cage washing, storage, office activities, receiving and quarantining animals and waste disposal.

B. Where an animal facility is one thousand square feet (1000 sq.ft.) or less it may be possible to carry out the service functions in an area that serves other activities. However, a separate area shall be provided for washing and sanitizing cages and equipment.

C. For facilities up to ten thousand square feet (10,000sq.ft.) Separate rooms or areas shall be provided for each of the following service activities:

1. Receipt and quarantine of new animals
2. Receipt and storage of animal food and supplies, which include refrigeration.
3. Cleaning, sanitizing and storage of cages and equipment.
4. An incinerator or protected area for storage of waste.
5. Lavatory facilities for personnel.
6. An office for supervisory and administrative personnel.

6.04 Construction Guidelines

Maintenance costs as well as initial construction costs shall be considered when selecting building materials. These materials shall facilitate efficient and hygienic operation of the animal quarters. Durable, waterproof, fire resistant, seamless materials are most desirable for interior surfaces. Paints and glazes shall be resistant to high pressure sprays and impact in addition to being highly resistant to chemical solvents, cleaning agents and scrubbing.

- A. All surfaces of the housing facility shall be clean and able to be sanitized.
- B. Surfaces are to be free of rust, sharp points and jagged edges. Those surfaces worn and soiled that cannot be cleaned shall be replaced.
- C. The housing facility shall be supplied with electric power and clean potable water.
- D. Stored food and bedding must be protected from spoilage, contamination and vermin.
- E. Careful attention shall be made to collect, remove and dispose of wastes, garbage, water and other debris to minimize contamination and risk of disease.
- F. Animals shall be kept warm and dry.
- G. Drains shall be properly constructed, installed and maintained to prevent sewage backup or gas production.
- H. Trash containers shall be constructed of leak-proof material and kept securely covered.
- I. Food storage and preparation areas shall be separated from animal waste.
- J. Washing facilities and lavatories shall be available to all personnel and the public to provide for their comfort.
- K. Sinks with hot and cold running water shall be provided for general cleaning, food preparation and personal hygiene.

6.05 Interior Surfaces

Interior surfaces of any facility housing animals shall be constructed to be easily maintained, waterproof, and easy to sanitize.

- A. Floors shall be smooth, waterproof, nonabsorbent, non-slip, wear-resistant and impervious to acids and solvents and capable of such that they do not crack and pit due to wear and tear.
- B. Floors shall be of a monolithic nature with a minimum of joints. Brushed concrete that is sealed to prevent bacteria and parasite egg penetration is an ideal flooring material. Other products similar to concrete are terrazzo and tile. However, tiles must be sealed to prevent water loosening them over time.
- C. The use of gravel, grass, bedding or dirt (soil) as flooring is not acceptable.
- D. Walls, similar to floors, shall be monolithic, non-porous, waterproof, painted or glazed, smooth, and capable of withstanding scrubbing with disinfectants,

soaps and detergents. They shall be free of cracks and pitting and be able to withstand the impact of water under pressure. Concrete brick treated with epoxy paint or sealer make an excellent wall surface.

E. Junctions between floor, ceilings and doors shall be aligned and sealed.

F. The use of plaster or wood is not acceptable due to their tendency to retain odors and moisture which promote their deterioration.

G. All ceilings shall be of a smooth and waterproof material. Painted and sealed concrete ceilings are satisfactory for animal facilities. Raised open ceilings give air a better circulation pattern. Special care shall be taken to provide ventilation in runs and pens.

H. Ceiling design must take into account insect and vermin control.

I. Exposed pipes, fixtures and wires in ceilings are not acceptable.

Plasterboard or similar ceiling material must be sealed and painted with a washable finish.

6.06 Personnel Office

The animal facility shall have a separate office for administration, supervision and direction of personnel. Animal care personnel shall have a separate facility for lockers, storage, toilets and showers for personal use. If personnel eat at the facility a separate area for food storage, preparation and consumption away from any animals must be designated for all workers.

6.06 Electricity

An adequate reliable source of electricity shall be provided. Attention shall be given to placement of all electric outlets. Outlets in housing areas shall be positioned high above the floor away from any water source. Wall outlets shall be waterproof, covered and meet all electrical codes. Extreme caution should be taken when using electrical sources in animal areas to avoid the chewing of wires and cords that might come in contact with water, urine ,etc.. An emergency source of power where possible shall be considered at all animal facilities.

6.07 Lighting

A source of lighting is an essential element in building design, . Lighting shall be uniform and diffuse.

A combination of natural and artificial light is best. Fluorescent lights provide the softest and most diffuse light pattern. Natural light provides a more relaxed pleasant atmosphere and reduces eye strain and fatigue in personnel.

A. All fixtures shall be sealed to keep out insects, birds and vermin. Windows, glass blocks, and skylights can provide natural light and ventilation in housing areas.

B. A minimum of 50 ft./candles for work areas and 75 ft./candles for animal housing areas.

C. Attention shall be given to natural light / dark cycles for each species of animal housed via on-off controlled timer devices.

D. Emergency lighting shall be located in all rooms, corridors and exits according to local and state codes.

6.08. Noise Control

All noise shall be kept to a minimum to avoid animal and human stress. Dogs present the greatest source of noise in an animal facility. Noise can also be a source of complaint from neighbors and nearby businesses. Care shall be taken to isolate worker areas away from animal housing. Sound reducing materials in animal rooms are very helpful in noise reduction. High density (concrete) walls reduce noise more effectively than metal or plaster walls. Specific materials for noise control are available such as acoustical ceiling panels and wall board (gypsum).

A. All suspended ceilings shall be sealed to prevent entry by vermin and insects.

B. Elimination of windows in specific areas may reduce noise. Outdoor noise from barking dogs can be reduced by baffling or installing sound proofing tile on walls and ceilings. To reduce noise, keep dogs in kennels in the back of the facility, grooming, bathing and training in the middle; and veterinary and quarantine areas in front. Where possible, try to avoid housing dogs in cages, pens and runs directly across from each other as this tends to increase dog eye contact and concentrates noise levels. Avoid mechanical sounds close to dogs such as computers or other electronic equipment as dogs will hear and respond to their sounds. It has been demonstrated that classical music reduces stress levels in kennels and therefore may help decrease noise levels. Consult local suppliers for current recommended noise reduction materials for each specific area of the facility. Larger animal facilities should have the professional services of an architect and/or engineer prior to any planned construction or additions.

6.09 Ventilation

A. Efficient ventilation in an animal facility is essential for comfort of animals and personnel, odor reduction, draft and moisture reduction and prevention of the transmission of disease. Some type of mechanical ventilation is required to maintain proper temperature and humidity for animal comfort and disease control. Exhaust fans in kennels and animal rooms effectively reduce animal odors. Air conditioning is also an effective means of providing ventilation and temperature and humidity control. Natural ventilation via gable vents, roof or chimney vents (flues) can provide cross ventilation. Auxiliary exhaust fans enhance existing ventilation systems.

B. Adequate ventilation must be provided by either natural fresh air, exhaust fans, air conditioning, room fans or installed ventilation systems in order to insure the health and comfort of animals and personnel, per the Animal Care Regulations, and where applicable, in compliance with the following:

1. Installed and manufactured ventilation systems

A. Ventilation systems shall be separate for animal rooms, animal isolation and personnel rooms.

B. Air exchanges shall be 10-15/hour. In extreme environmental temperatures air shall be filtered and contain at least 50% fresh air. A zone system of air control is the most effective ventilation method.

C. Ventilation systems shall be at 74 degrees, plus or minus 4 degrees (F) and 50 % relative humidity plus or minus 20%.

2. Windows and doors used for Ventilation

- A. Windows used for ventilation or fresh air shall be maintained to prevent escape, intrusion by other animals and insects. New construction and renovations of licensed animal care facilities shall provide for windows at least five (5) feet above floor level to prevent access by outside animals. All of these windows shall be provided with screens effective enough to preclude entry by insects, birds and vermin.*
- B. Doors used for ventilation or fresh air shall be maintained to prevent escape, intrusion by other animals, insects, birds and vermin.*

6.09. Temperature

- A. Temperature control shall be maintained between 65degrees to 85 degrees (F)plus or minus 2 degrees (F).
- B. Relative humidity shall be maintained at 30-70% year round.
Air conditioning is the most effective cooling system for temperature regulation and ventilation. Efficient heating systems utilizing oil, gas, electricity, solar or other efficient methods in conjunction with insulation ensure adequate temperature in animal facilities.
Radiant heating systems for kennel floors are ideal for dogs to sleep on and to keep the floors dry inside, and keep outside runs free of ice and snow. Warm air heating provided via ducts and blower fans is another excellent source of heating animal areas.
- C. All ducts and blower fans shall be located at ceiling level or *located to prevent access to or injury to animals*. Wall hung radiators, baseboard heating units and floor level ducts are to be avoided because they cannot be maintained in a sanitary way.
- D. Thermometers (F/C) for measuring temperatures shall be located in each animal room and kennel, and *must reflect adequate temperature (65degrees to 85 degrees)at the floor level*.
- E. Doors to outside runs shall be kept sealed to keep out insects and vermin and to keep the ambient temperature within the proper level of 65 degrees to 85 degrees (F) plus or minus 2 degrees(F).

6.10 Waste Control and Sanitation

Sanitation and waste control are of primary importance in animal care to provide a clean environment and prevent disease transmission . A regular schedule for cleaning as often as needed should be in place for maintenance of animal rooms, corridors and storage facilities.

- A. All areas shall be washed, scrubbed, vacuumed, mopped, and swept using *accepted* soaps detergents and disinfectants.
- B. All cages and pens shall be cleaned as often as needed to keep them dry and free of waste.
- C. All animals shall be removed from cages and pens prior to cleaning and sanitizing.
- D. All litter and bedding shall be changed as often as needed to keep animals dry and clean. Cats and dogs shall be changed at least daily.
- E. All cages, racks, and miscellaneous equipment associated with animal housing shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to any new animals being placed in them.
- F. Extra clean cages or *temporary enclosures* shall be available to rotate cleaning and washing.

- G. Water for washing cages and equipment shall be at least 180 degrees F or greater. *Accepted* disinfectants and detergents may also be used for most cages and pens.
- H. All solid waste shall be collected and disposed of in a sanitary manner.
- G. All collected waste shall be stored away from animal housing; and in an area that has vermin proof containers that are vermin proof and kept tightly covered .
- I. Solid waste disposal methods will be dependent upon local health codes and zoning laws. Generally they are handled by a collective or private method.

6.11. Security

Safety of all animals and personnel is of highest priority in any animal facility.

- A. All outside runs and pens shall have a secondary fence (metal or concrete block) around the entire perimeter at least (6) six feet high to prevent entry from outside the building.
- B. All doors providing access to outside runs and pens must be provided with a secure locking system.
- C. All windows and doors in the facility shall have locks to provide security.
- D. Adequate security lighting with backup power source (i.e. battery, solar, etc.) shall be placed around all structures and parking areas.
- E. *All new construction and renovations providing for* entry into all buildings should have video monitoring. A lock system with delayed entry to the animal area is advised. Heavy fireproof self-locking double-doors for all corridors leading to animal rooms provide effective security.
- F. All new facilities shall have a modern security system installed to protect animals when workers are absent from the building. A silent alarm system linking the local police and fire departments shall be part of the security system.
- G. A separate room designated as a secure room shall be provided for personnel. A portable communication device (cell phone, walkie-talkie, etc.) in this room with labeled emergency numbers and frequency codes is an ideal security aid.
- H. A written security protocol list shall be prepared and drills run as often as needed. A separate security protocol list for all animals is also suggested to provide for their safety.
- I. All personnel shall participate in the security of this facility.
- J. Larger animal facilities shall seek professional advice prior to initiating any security program.
- K. Security protocols shall be posted and stored in a secure location.

6.12 Fire Safety

Fire safety procedures are mandatory to prevent loss of animal and human life.

- A. An approved written plan for the safe evacuation of animals and workers in the event of a fire shall be part of fire safety at all animal care facilities.
- B. Fire evacuation procedures (“fire drills”) shall be carried out as often as needed to ensure safety of all animals and workers.
- C. A coordinator shall be chosen to monitor fire safety preparedness.
- D. The traffic flow shall exit in the quickest, safest and most efficient direction. Methods of fire safety will vary with each animal care facility.
- E. A fire extinguisher of proper type shall be located in each area of the building based on local and state fire codes shall be the minimum effort for fire safety. All considerations of fire safety for

animals and people should be beyond the minimum of codes and ordinances.

F. All new buildings and proposed additions to existing buildings should have sprinkler systems that are linked to the local fire department and police department. It is strongly advised to seek professional advice concerning building fire codes.

G. The local or state fire marshal's office shall approve all fire safety methods and evacuation plans for each animal care facility.

6.13.Storage Areas

Storage areas for food, bedding, refuse and equipment can be kept to a minimum by using reliable delivery sources and maintaining constant turnover.

A. Food must not be stored with refuse.

B. Storage areas shall be at ambient temperature.

C. Refrigeration shall be available for all perishable food items.

D. Food for human consumption shall be stored separately from animal food.

E. Adequate space shall be available for the storage of food, bulk items, cleaning products, emergency bulk water in containers and miscellaneous equipment.

F. All storage areas shall be neat, clean, orderly, and safe to allow ready access to all food items and equipment.

G. All food shall be stored off the floor on pallets or sturdy shelves in vermin proof areas.

H. Food containers shall be constructed of galvanized steel or heavy plastic and covered securely to keep out vermin.

I. All containers shall be properly identified as to content.

J. Records of product expiration and date of opening for use shall be posted on the container and initialed as to who recorded the data.

K. Refuse storage areas shall be vermin-proof and be kept at forty- five (45) degrees (F) or below to minimize putrefaction.

L. Equipment storage shall be clean and orderly and located near the animal area. A separate facility for cleaning and washing equipment to minimize odors, noise and prevent the transmission of infectious diseases is ideal.

1) Washing and cleaning is best done outside all animal rooms and centrally located for efficiency of traffic flow and disposal of waste.

2) The area shall be adequately sound proof to reduce noise pollution.

3) Hot and cold running water, electric power and floor drains are mandatory in every licensed facility.

4) Soiled and clean equipment shall be stored in separate areas.

5) All walls and ceilings shall be adequately insulated.

6) Ventilation shall be provided to vent steam and exhaust air.

7) Doors for access shall be of sufficient width and height to ensure free movement of personnel and equipment.

6.14. Pest Control

Pest control programs at animal facilities are mandatory. Provisions shall be made to monitor, control and eliminate rodents, insects and other pests which might pose a health threat to workers at the facility.

- A. All cracks, crevices, and openings shall be noted and sealed.
- B. All doors, windows, and vents shall be properly screened to prevent entry of pests.
- C. All pest control programs shall be reviewed by a professional exterminator to avoid any health hazards to animals and workers at the facility.

6.15. Drainage

All waste fixtures shall be connected to soil and waste pipes through traps.

- A. If floor drains are used, drainpipes shall be greater than four (4) inches in diameter.
- B. In heavy use areas (dog kennels) drains should be at least six(6) inches in diameter. A flushing drain, similar to an ordinary toilet bowl, set in to floor, is an effective aid in the disposal of solid waste. A porous trap bucket to screen solid waste provides an excellent way to remove solid waste from the drain.
- C. All drain pipes shall have a short run to the main or they shall be pitched steeply from the opening.
- D. Drains not in use shall be capped and sealed to prevent the back flow of sewer gases. Locking drain covers are useful in preventing the use of the drains for disposal of materials which should be swept up and removed by other means.
- E. Floor drains are not essential in rooms for small laboratory animals (mice, rats hamsters, guinea pigs, etc.). Floors in such rooms can be maintained by regular vacuuming, or by sweeping and mopping with appropriate sanitizing chemicals.
- F. The recommended minimum pitch of floors using floor drains is one-quarter inch per linear foot. Proper pitching of the floor is an essential element in establishing good drainage in animal rooms . When planning an animal facility, proper drainage shall be an essential element incorporated in its design.

6.16 Disaster Plan

All facilities shall have a written disaster plan prepared and all employees shall be trained in its implementation. The disaster plan shall be used in conjunction with the State of Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan as detailed in Appendix I - Disaster Animal Issues.

Rule 8.00 VIOLATIONS

The Department of Environmental Management may make regulations governing the care of animals within the State of Rhode island; and any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of these regulations shall be subject, upon conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the first offense and not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the second offense and loss of specimen(s) and revocation of license and or certificate after public hearing, per R.I.G.L. 4-19-11.3.

Rule 9.00 Severability

If any provisions of these rules and regulations is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or provisions of the regulations shall not be affected thereby. These

regulations supercede any prior regulations.

RULE 10.00 Consistency

No provisions of these regulations shall be construed to prevent enforcement of any state, federal, or local laws and regulations duly adopted for the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare.

Rule 11.00 EFFECTIVE DATES

These regulations will take effect on the date specified in the attached certification of promulgation by the Director of Environmental Management.

The foregoing rules and regulations, after due notice an opportunity for hearing, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this-----day of----- to become effective twenty (20) days after filing, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4-19 Section 4-19-13 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode island of 1956, as amended.

Signature, Director, RIDEM

Notice Given on
Public Hearing held on
Filing Date
Effective date

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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DRAFT 10-18-2004 #4

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE

**PART TWO (II)
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

EFFECTIVE _XXXXXXXXXXXX

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Rule 6.00 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

6.01 General Housing

The housing system is the single most important element in the physical environment of animals. Since the quality of life of animals is strongly influenced by the housing system, it shall be designed with careful attention to each animal's comfort and mental well being. Factors to be considered in the animal's comfort specifically relating to the housing system include :

- A. Keeping the animal clean and dry
- B. Providing housing maintained at a relative thermal neutrality
- C. Providing sufficient space for freedom of movement and allowing for normal postural adjustment.
- D. Avoiding excess physical restraint
- E. Providing convenient access to fresh food and water as needed per species, gender, age and physiological need.
- F. Preventing overcrowding
- G. Providing exercise of at least minimum standard requirements as per Code of Federal Regulations 9 Sub chapter A Part 3
- H. Allowing maintenance of animals in good health as measured by normal weight, normal growth and mental well being and being conducive to disease prevention.
- I. Allowing the construction of the housing system to be of materials that will allow maintenance in good sanitary repair as to prevent injury to animals and personnel, to promote physical comfort and facilitate sanitary maintenance.
- J. All cages and runs shall be easy to clean, free of cracks, crevices, sharp corners, edges or broken wires. Floors shall be seamless and waterproof and feeders and watering devices shall be easily accessed for filling and sanitation.

6.02 Primary Enclosures, DOGS

Primary enclosures are those animal housing systems in which the animal normally rests and sleeps(includes temporary housing) such as a building, room, pen, run or cage. Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair, to protect both animals and personnel from injury, to contain the animals, and exclude all other animals from entry. They shall be constructed for the animals' comfort by keeping them clean and provide convenient access to fresh clean water and food. Primary enclosures will be available for each animal or group of animals housed within a system on any basis other than temporary.

A. Cage, Kennel, Run, and Pen Floors

1. The floor of the enclosure shall be constructed to prevent injury to the animal.
2. Particular attention shall be paid to injury of the legs, feet and tail. Wire flooring is

acceptable provided the wire is of adequate gauge to provide strength to prevent sagging under the animal's weight and have a mesh size small enough to prevent feet from slipping through its openings.

B. Cleaning and Maintenance

1. All surfaces of the primary enclosure shall be constructed of a waterproof material and be easy to clean and sanitize.

C. Space Requirements

1. Sufficient space shall be provided to allow animals to turn around freely, exercise normal movements, stand, sit, and lie in a comfortable natural position.

2. The following are minimum space requirements:

It is advisable to consult the Code of Federal Regulations 9 Sub chapter A Part 3 for specific details: Animal Welfare Act- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/9CFR99.html>

a. Dogs - (length of dog* in inches) 2 add 6 inches X 2 = Required Floor Space (Sq. Ft.)

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*Length of dog is measured from the tip of the nose to the tail base

b. The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be equal to the 1 1/2 times height of the dog at the shoulders plus six (6) inches or a minimum of 18 inches and a maximum of 48 inches (After Colorado Title 35 Article 42.5-101)

Size of Dog	Min. Space (Sq. Ft.)	Height (Inches)
Ex. Small (< 10 inches high)	4.5	18
Small (<16 inches high)	6.0	18-24
Medium (<22 inches high)	9.0	24-33
Large (<26 inches high)	12.0	33-39
Extra Large (<30 inches High)	16.0	39-45
Giant (any dog > 30 inches high)	20.0	45-49

Cages:

Weight	Size*
>50 lbs	24 sq. ft.
36-50 lbs	20 sq. ft.
10-35 lbs.	12 sq. ft.

Kennels *:

4 ft by 6 ft.

Runs *:

4 ft by 8 ft. * Minimum size (after HSUS)

- c. If more than one dog occupies a primary enclosure, space will be calculated for the first dog, with each additional dog needing one-half of the minimum space required..
- d. Dogs occupying the same enclosure shall be compatible in age, size, gender and behavior.
- e. Females in estrus shall be housed apart from males.
- f. Pregnant dogs in whelp or by estimate close to whelping shall be housed in a separate enclosure.
- g. Puppies less than four months of age shall be housed apart from adult dogs other than their mother.
- h. Enclosures for puppies from weaning to age four months shall be large enough to accommodate all occupants, allowing them to stand up, turn around, lie down, exercise normal postural movements, and to encourage socialization and exercise.
- i. Whelping areas shall allow the mother to lie stretched out on her side, permitting all puppies to nurse. A whelping box shall be provided for all pregnant bitches and bitches with puppies. The primary enclosure shall provide an area large enough for the bitch to leave the whelping nest for exercise.
- j. The number of puppies and the temperament of the mother will determine the size of the whelping area.
- k. No other dog(s) are to be housed in the same enclosure with a mother and her puppies.
- l. Under no circumstances is more than one dog in a primary enclosure from different known owners to be housed together without expressed verbal and or written permission of the owners or their designated legal representative.
- m. No more than five (5) dogs over the age of six (6) months of age are to be housed in any one common area at one time.
- n. Temporary holding areas for dogs under four months of age shall be subject to the following minimum restrictions:
 - 1. All dogs shall have completed a physical examination by the facility veterinarian and be free of external and internal parasites.
 - 2. All dogs shall be of compatible behavior.
 - 3. No sick or injured dog shall be in the enclosure.
 - 4. Proper environmental temperatures shall be maintained measured at floor level.
 - 5. Proper fresh food and clean potable water for each dog shall be provided,
 - 6. The enclosure shall not be used for exercise,
 - 7. All dogs must have an individual primary enclosure.
 - 8. No dog may be kept in this enclosure longer than eight (8) hours.
 - 9. Exercise shall be provided as directed
 - 10. All dogs shall be observed as often as needed to maintain a normal thermal environment (suggested temperature shall be 75 degrees F read at floor level).
 - 11. All dogs shall be provided with human socialization,
 - 12. Environmental enrichment shall be available to all dogs.

D. Crates and Crating

1. If crates are used to house dogs, including weaned puppies, the minimum space requirements are:
 - a. Dogs regardless of weight, shall have a crate that is at least the length of the dog from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail, plus (3)three inches, shall allow a minimum clearance in height at the shoulder of (3) three inches while the dog is standing and shall permit the dog to turn around and lay down.
 - b. Crates of this size are not to be used as exercise areas.
 - c. Crates of these minimum dimensions shall be used to house one dog only.
 - d. An exercise area or run is required for animals housed in a crate.
 - e. Dogs housed in crates shall be provided an opportunity to exercise for a period not less than (20) twenty minutes two to three times daily. For dogs housed in crates, it is strongly suggested that an opportunity for exercise be provided for a period greater than (20) twenty minutes three times a day.

DOGS:	WEIGHT	HOUSING	SIZE W-D-HT	NO. ANIMALS
	< 30#	Pen or Run	46" 72" 36"	1
	30 -60#	Pen or Run	48" 72" 48"	1
	60#	Pen or Run	84" 72" 48"	1
	< 30#	Cage	36" 32" 32"	1
	30-60#	Cage	48" 36" 36"	1
	> 60#	Cage	72" 36" 48"	1

E. Interior Runs/Pens

The dimensions of interior pens shall be large enough to hold large dog breeds. Pens generally shall be (4) four feet in width and (6) six feet in length or large enough to hold one (1) adult dog of any breed.

1. Pen size minimums
 - a. Large Dog (>50#) 4 feet by 6 feet (24 sq. ft.)
 - b. Medium Dog (36-50#) 4 feet by 5 feet (20 sq. ft.)

- c. Small Dog (<35#) 3 feet by 4 feet (12 sq. ft.)
2. Dogs in cages shall be exercised in runs 4 feet by 10 feet 20 minutes two to three times per day or walked at least 20 minutes on a leash at least two to three times per day.
3. Walls of interior runs are usually made of chain link fencing.
4. Walls shall be high enough to allow dogs comfort and to prevent dogs from climbing and jumping out. Fencing of six (6) feet in height is usually adequate for run walls. Walls that are topped with chain link fencing or wire mesh usually will prevent escapes. It is recommended to provide solid partitions between each adjoining run/pen or a combination of solid partition and fencing to prevent fighting and the transmission of disease between dogs.
5. Partitions shall be made of masonry, panels of aluminum or sheets of galvanized steel of a minimum of four (4) feet in height.
6. All surfaces of the runs shall be waterproof and be easy to sanitize. Sealed concrete is the most common recommended floor surface due to its easy maintenance and durability.
7. Floors shall be sloped toward a gutter drain or individual drain to allow proper runoff of water and wastes and to provide for a clean and dry environment.
8. Dogs shall have access to an exterior run/pen via some type of exit or “dog door”. Many styles of dog doors are available commercially and are usually designed as a self-operating two-way swinging door or a “guillotine” type up and down door.
9. Provisions shall be taken in the construction of these doors to keep the dog(s) securely restricted in the interior or exterior pen and keep out vermin and secure the enclosure from weather extremes.

6.03 Temporary Primary Enclosures (TPE), DOGS

All dogs housed in temporary enclosures must have runs or designated secure exercise areas and:

- A. Be permitted a minimum of (60) sixty minutes exercise within a twenty- four (24) hour period.
- B. Dogs kept in crates shall be exercised at least 20 minutes three (3) times a day.
- C. All temporary primary enclosures shall have a minimum length equal to the length of the dog from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail and a minimum clearance in height at the shoulders of three (3) inches while the dog is standing normally and permit the dog to turn around and to lie down its full length.
- D. The TPE with these dimensions are to be used only when the:
 1. Dog is sleeping or eating,
 2. When the run or exercise areas are being cleaned.
 3. During behavior modification.
 4. When the caretaker is absent from the animal facility for a period of less than ten (10) hours.
- E. These primary enclosures are not to be used as exercise or socialization areas.
- F. Primary enclosures with these dimensions shall be used to house (1) one dog at any

- given time.
- G. Confinement in an enclosure of this size shall not exceed (8) eight hours.
 - H. Exemptions to the above standards may be allowed in emergencies and disasters after discussion and inspection of the facility by the State Public Health Veterinarian or his/her duly authorized representative on a case by case basis.
 - I. In the event of dogs exceeding the holding capacity of the shelter, arrangements shall be made to move those extra dogs to another licensed facility.
 - J. Under no circumstances shall temporary primary facilities be used for the long- term confinement of dogs.

6.04 Exterior Runs/Pens, DOGS

In general, the length of the external run will depend on the size and number of dogs in each run and land availability.

- A. Exterior runs shall be a minimum of four feet wide and eight feet long to allow adequate room for exercise and movement. Construction of wider and longer runs is suggested, since they are easier to keep clean and allow dogs to avoid their own waste.
- B. Chain link fencing and /or masonry, or other approved materials must be used to enclose the perimeter of runs. As with the interior pens/runs, consideration shall be given to the height of the fencing and to the installation of solid platforms between adjoining runs.
- C. Secure locked gates shall be installed at the end of each run/pen to permit access to the runs for cleaning, routine maintenance, and removal of animals.
- D. Wind blocks shall be installed on at least three (3) sides of permanent fencing.
- E. The surface of exterior runs shall be constructed of waterproof materials that allow effective sanitary maintenance and provide comfort for the dogs.
- F. If sealed concrete is used as the exterior surface material, it shall be lightly brushed for traction and coated with an approved waterproof sealant to protect the concrete surface from being a source of pathogens.
- G. The surface of the exterior pens shall be sloped one half inch per linear foot toward a drain located outside the gates at the end of the pen.
- H. Asphalt, gravel, wood and soil (dirt) must be approved by the State Public Health Veterinarian or his designee prior to use, with specific provisions for cleaning and sanitizing required.
- I. Provisions shall be made to protect dogs in exterior runs from inclement weather and direct sunlight. Shade must be provided to allow dogs get out of direct sunlight. This is particularly important in the summer months to prevent heat related stress.
- J. A fence shall be erected around the perimeter of the shelter. This will prevent access to animal facility grounds by unauthorized people, stray or feral animals and wildlife and will prevent escapes.
- K. All doors in the perimeter fence shall be locked with a secure lock system.

6.05 Cages and Caging, DOGS

Cages shall be provided for use in housing young dogs, puppies, small breeds and sick or injured animals.

A. Cage dimensions shall follow space requirements as previously mentioned with reference to interior runs.

B. All cages shall be escape proof and constructed and arranged to allow easy removal of the animal without injury to the animal or to personnel.

C. All animals in cages shall be able to stand, lie down, turn around, and sit normally.

D. All cages shall be constructed of materials that are resistant to wear, impact, chemicals and detergents such as, stainless steel, fiberglass, galvanized steel and aluminum.

E. Cages can be as single units or prefabricated wall units of various sizes and numbers.

F. Cages can also be constructed of masonry block and tile. These materials shall be sealed with an approved waterproof sealant.

G. Wood is not an acceptable cage material. Wooden cages shall not be used for housing due to animal destruction by chewing and scratching the wood, odor from urine and fecal absorption and difficulty in cleaning and sanitizing the wood surfaces.

6.06 Outdoor Facilities, DOGS

A system of outdoor shelters can be used as primary enclosures to house dogs.

A. Plans for these structures and their maintenance shall be subject to review and approval by the State Veterinarian .

B. The use of these structures will be limited from Memorial Day to Labor Day unless given approval by the State Veterinarian for other specific dates by prior arrangement.

C. Spacial requirements for outdoor animal shelters (“dog houses”) shall follow previous described guidelines.

D. Outdoor shelters shall be large enough to allow dogs to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably.

E. Shelters shall be water resistant

F. Shelters shall be raised at least six (6) inches above the ground surface.

G. Shelters shall be constructed to retain body heat for normal thermal maintenance.

H. Only dogs that have been acclimated to temperature extremes shall be permitted in outdoor shelters.

I. Shelters shall be situated on well –drained soil.

J. All dogs shall be provided with a source of fresh food and clean, fresh potable water as described in previous sections. Dogs may require as much as 40% more calories over their normal needs in winter months to maintain body weight.

K. Outdoor shelters shall be constructed with floors above the ground to prevent moisture entering into the structure.

L. The door to the shelter shall be offset or baffled to provide protection from inclement weather and drafts.

- M. Outdoor shelters shall be designed to be easily accessible for cleaning through the roof (top).
- N. Wood used in the construction of outdoor shelters for dogs shall be waterproof either by using an approved waterproof sealant or if painted, by using an approved waterproof paint.
- O. The paint color shall be of a cool range (shades of green) to keep the shelters cool in summer and warm in winter.
- P. Shade shall be provided for all outside shelters to protect dogs from direct sunlight and inclement weather. Shade shall be proportional to the size of the animal and positioned in a way to provide maximum protection .
- Q. All outside facilities shall be situated within a fenced perimeter to protect dogs from stray dogs, feral animals, predators and unauthorized human entry.
- R. All perimeter fencing shall have wind blocks as previously described for exterior primary runs and pens.
- S. In cold weather (Below 45 degrees F) some type of bedding such as hay, paper, wood shavings, straw, or other approved material should be provided for added retention of body heat.
- T. In extreme hot - weather, when outside temperatures exceed 85 Degrees F, all animals shall be moved to a cooler more ventilated primary facility.
- U. Aged, sick, young, or injured animals shall not be allowed to be housed in these facilities without prior approval by the State Public Health Veterinarian.
- V. Dogs that are to be tethered (chained) to the outdoor facility,
 - 1.The tether shall be placed or attached and be of sufficient length to prevent the dog from being entangled with other dog’s tethers, other objects
 - 2.The tether must allow the dog access to the outdoor facility.
 - 3.The tether (chain) shall be able to swivel and be strong enough to prevent breakage as determined by the individual dog to which it is attached.
 - 4.Tethers shall be at least four (4) times the length of the dog (measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail) and be attached to the individual dog by a well fitting collar or harness.
 - 5.The use of tethers is subject to approval after a review of the facility by the State Veterinarian and not before such a review takes place.
- W. Pens, paddocks, extra large penned exercise areas, or enclosed fields will be accepted for supervised training or exercise, provided that dogs will not be left without supervision. No shelter, dog- house, shade or other structures are needed in these areas.

6.07 Primary Enclosures, CATS

All interior facilities will include adequate primary enclosures and cages for the number and type of cats housed, in conjunction with common areas, colonies, exercise areas, isolation, quarantine and multi-cat enclosures, such as “Cat Condominiums”. *Each individual facilities requirements for adequate primary enclosures for cats and kittens will reflect the overall housing and space provided for intake, holding and isolation of animals.*

- A. Cages where cats are permanently housed or used as primary enclosures shall have:
 - 1. A minimum space of four (4) square feet of floor space per cat for cats over 8.8lbs
 - 2. A minimum of three (3) square feet for cats up to 8.8 lbs (as per regulations of the Animal Welfare Act CFR 9)
 - 3. Unless the cage is used for short term breeding purposes, the space requirement shall increase by one-half the minimum space for each additional cat.
- B. Queens and litters shall require a minimum of ten (10) square feet until the kittens are ten (10) weeks of age.
- C. ~~“Whenever it is appropriate, social animals should be housed in pairs or groups, rather than individually, provided that such housing is not contraindicated and does not pose an undue risk to the animals” (NRC Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 1996 p26)~~
- D. Cats with primary enclosures of less than ten (10) square feet of floor space shall be provided with a minimum of ten (10) square feet of floor space as an exercise area for the cats to run, jump and play.
- E. Cats in long-term confinement (greater than 14 days) shall have access to an exercise area for a minimum of twenty (20) minutes daily. Exercise three (3) times daily for twenty minutes is suggested for all cats.
- F. The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be twenty- four (24) inches.
- G. Unless cats are under veterinary care, horizontal resting perches that are seamless water-proof and easily sanitized shall be provided. One bench width can be included in the floor space requirement.
- H. All cat enclosures shall be fully enclosed on all sides.
- I. Floors of primary enclosures shall be smooth, seamless and water proof.
- J. Primary enclosures with mesh floors are not acceptable unless a solid resting surface is provided
- K. Primary enclosures shall have solid walls to minimize interactions and cross contamination between unrelated cats.
- L. Litter boxes shall be provided in all primary cat enclosures and cages to:
 - a. Contain feces and urine,
 - b. Be in sufficient number.
 - c. Be of adequate size.
 - d. Located to allow access by each cat in the primary enclosure.
 - e. Be cleaned at least daily or more often as is needed depending on the facility.
 - f. Ideally one (1) litter box per cat is recommended for all adult cats.
- M. All primary enclosures shall be sanitized daily or more often.
- N. A pregnant queen or a queen with a litter of kittens shall not be housed with other cats.
- O. Kittens under four (4) months of age shall not be housed with adult cats except with the mother or foster mother.
- P. The minimum height of a primary enclosure will be twenty- four (24) inches.
- Q. Environmental enrichment will be provided as required for age and animal
- R. Opportunity for exercise and socialization daily must be provided for caged animals.

6.08 Interior Common Facilities and Colonies, CATS

All interior facilities used for communal living and common exercise shall be approved by the State Public Health Veterinarian, or his designee, for the number and type of cats housed in order to assure the safety, health, capacity and management of the animals. Common *exercise areas and communal living* areas must provide for:

- A. A minimum space of ten (10) square feet of floor space per cat over four (4) months of age. Height of the enclosure shall be a minimum of 24 inches per individual cat.
- B. A solid resting surface or surfaces, made of approved, sanitizable materials
- C. The resting surface must be high enough so the cat can fit underneath and provide a minimum of 1.5 sq. feet of additional space per cat.
- D. Kittens, *when housed in colonies or communally*, over six (6) weeks of age and under four (4) months of age shall be provided 7.5 square feet of floor space with an additional square foot of resting surface space that is high enough for the kitten to get underneath.
- E. Kittens under the age of 6 months shall not be put in colony housing with adult cats.
- F. Environmental enrichment shall be provided for all animals. *This includes, but is not limited to, multi-level perches, sanitized scratching posts and hiding places.*
- G. Human socialization shall be provided as needed for each situation.
- H. Cats housed together in the same primary enclosure shall be maintained in compatible groups.
- I. All cats shall have ~~their own~~ primary enclosures (*as defined in R.I.G.L. Title 4, Chapter 19, Section 2 (4-19-2)*) available within the colony or primary facility, ~~exclusive of the colony enclosure~~. *The number and location of adequate primary enclosures will reflect the facilities overall housing and space provided for intake, holding and isolation of animals.*
- J. The size of the colony enclosure shall be 1.5 -2.0M² /animal floor space by at least 2.0M (meter=39.37") in height.
- K. Litter boxes shall be provided for all animals at least one (1) 12"x18" pan per 3 adult cats or 5 kittens (One litter box per adult cat is recommended.)
- L. Appropriate, proper high quality food and fresh clean potable water shall be available continuously for all animals based on age, gender, size and medical needs.
- M. Several sources of food and water shall be distributed in the enclosure to prevent dominant cats from stopping other cats from gaining access to food and water. Cats shall be fed independently when needed to assure adequate food intake and monitoring.
- N. *Any cat that becomes ill or demonstrates symptoms of illness must be removed and isolated in a separate primary enclosure for the purpose of observation, quarantine, isolation and/or diagnosis and treatment.*
- O. The entire room housing the cat colony shall be sanitized daily or more often.
- P. Females in estrus (in season) shall not be kept in the same primary enclosure, run, pen, or exercise areas with un-sterilized males, except for breeding purposes.
- Q. Any cat exhibiting abnormal behavior particularly aggressive behavior shall be housed individually in a primary enclosure, run, pen or exercise area.
- R. Any pregnant queen will be housed individually a minimum of one week prior to the estimated time of delivery of the kittens.
- S. Cats under quarantine or isolated for treatment of a suspected communicable disease shall be physically separated from other susceptible animals, allowing no direct contact

with other animals, to minimize the spread of disease.

- T. Daily human contact and handling shall be provided for all cats.
- U. The maximum number of cats in any one colony shall be 10 adults or 15 kittens (under six months of age) in a room that is 12 feet by 15 feet.
- V. Long term care of cats (animals that remain in a facility longer than 2-4 weeks) in a colony may need additional requirements after inspection and approval by the Rhode Island State Public Health Veterinarian
- X. Each animal shall be observed by an animal technician, caretaker in charge, or by someone under the caretaker's direct supervision, on a daily basis.
- W. All cats will be secured in primary enclosures during emergencies.
- Z. All cats will be secured in primary enclosures when staff is unavailable, or no caretaker is able to observe the animals, ~~for more than 6 hours.~~ *For more than 10 hours.*

6.09 Health and Behavioral requirements for communal or colony cats

It is required that all cats eligible for placement into communal or colony settings meet the following:

- 1. Complete a health exam, behavior evaluation, vaccinate all cats as per age and R.I. State Law.*
- 2. Isolate all new cats for 7-10 days to observe for any disease or sickness.*
- 3. Perform stool evaluations for ova and parasites, screen all cats for feline leukemia virus (felv) and feline immunodeficiency virus(FIV)and treat for external and internal parasites.*
- 4. Perform a skin evaluation of all cats for the presence of ringworm.*
- 5. Monitor the behavior of all cats for aggression.*
- 6. Quarantine any cat that appears sick until a veterinarian performs an examination.*
- 7. Do not add any new animals until their compatibility is evaluated*
- 8. Intact (un-sterilized) male cats shall be isolated from female cats.*
- 9. Young kittens shall be separated from adult cats except their mother.*
- 10.Nursing mothers and kittens shall be separated from other cats.*
- 11. Evaluate all cats individually for socialization, timidity, gender specific fear of people, stress from initial caging, geriatric cats, cats with long term treatable sickness, cats not socialized as kittens and lack of previous socialization.*
- 12. Kittens under 12 weeks (3 months) of age should not be in group housing unless with their mother and siblings.*
- 13. Un-sterilized male and female cats shall not be housed together.*
- 14. Geriatric (10 years or older) cats shall not be placed with young cats or kittens.*
- 17. Periodically perform laboratory tests as needed. (Blood profiles on old cats, Felv and FIV Tests, fecal examinations and evaluation of skin for ringworm)*
- 18. Weigh all cats on a weekly basis.*
- 19. Microchip all cats where possible.*
- 20. Twice a year veterinary health examinations for all cats in the colony.*
- 21. Maintain individual records and logs of appetite, water consumption, defecation, urination and any other medical information when possible.*

6.11 Temporary Holding Facilities, KITTENS

Kittens in temporary holding facilities shall be provided:

- A. Fresh food specific to age and fresh clean potable water as per total numbers of kittens in the facility.
- B. Proper temperatures shall be maintained and read at floor level.
- C. Litter boxes shall be provided for all animals and cleaned daily or more often as is needed.
- D. Kittens may not be kept in a temporary enclosure longer than 10 hours.
- E. All animals shall be observed continuously during their time in the enclosure.
- F. Un-weaned kittens shall not be placed in the enclosure.
- G. The floor and sides of the facility shall be smooth, seamless and water proof. Collapsible kennels, crates are acceptable.
- H. All kittens shall be compatible.
- I. Hiding spaces and horizontal rest spaces shall be provided for all animals. Proper bedding shall be available for all kittens.
- J. All kittens shall have an individual, appropriate primary enclosure.
- K. No sick or injured kittens shall be allowed in the enclosure.
- L. Environmental enrichment and human socialization shall be provided.
- M. At the end of the temporary holding all kittens shall be returned to an approved primary enclosure.
- N. Sick, diseased or injured kittens shall be provided with veterinary care or disposed of in a humane manner pursuant to state regulations and guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association (Most recent Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia)
- O. Kitting areas and nurseries shall be kept clean and sanitized to minimize the spread of infectious and contagious disease.

6.12 Temporary Primary Enclosures (TPE), CATS

Cats being held in a temporary primary enclosure (TPE) such as a crate or carrier shall be housed in the same manner as permanent primary housing, provided that:

- A. The office of the State Public Health Veterinarian shall be contacted if housing of this type may be longer than 48 -72 hours.
- B. Under no circumstances is this form of housing to be considered for long -term confinement.
- C. If the population of cats exceeds the holding capacity of the facility proper arrangements for the transfer of those excess cats shall be provided in a timely manner.
- D. Exemptions to the above standards in an emergency or disaster situation may be allowed after discussion and inspection of the facility by the State Public Health Veterinarian or his/her duly authorized representative.

6.13 Outdoor Facilities, CATS

If a facility desires to utilize outdoor cat enclosures:

- A. A perimeter fence shall be constructed to surround the entire area where cats are being kept to protect the cats from predators, stray animals, feral animals, and unauthorized

human intervention.

- B. All doors in the perimeter fence shall be secured with an appropriate lock system.
- C. All such facilities shall be subject to prior inspection by the Rhode Island State Public Health Veterinarian or his/her duly authorized representative.
- D. Outdoor enclosures shall include one or more shelter structures that are accessible to each cat in each enclosure.
- E. Structures that are large enough to allow each animal housed within to sit , turn freely, stand and lay in a normal manner.
- E. Perches (benches) shall be provided for cats in each enclosure.
- F. All outdoor enclosures for cats shall have a roof, four (4) sides and a solid floor.
- G. All outdoor enclosures shall provide protection form cold, heat, and direct sunlight.
- H. Outdoor enclosures shall provide protection from wind, rain or snow.
- I. Be able to be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- J. A shaded area shall be provided for all cats housed in an outdoor facility for their protection from exposure to direct sunlight. The shaded area shall be directly proportional to the size of each cat being protected and positioned to provide maximum shade protection. The shaded area must be large enough to provide for all animals in the enclosure at one time.
- K. The outdoor shelter shall provide all cats protection from rain wind and snow and keep them clean and dry.
- L. The outdoor facility shall be provided to protect cats from the cold, be water resistant and of suitable size to accommodate each animal.
- M. It shall allow retention of body heat, and be made of a durable material with a sold raised floor.
- N. All outdoor facilities shall be designed, constructed and demonstrate drainage to eliminate natural or excess water regardless of surfacing material.
- O. The surface of all outdoor facilities housing cats shall be solid, water resistant and capable of being cleaned and sanitized.
- P. All cats in the outdoor facility shall be acclimated to the temperature extremes of the environment.
- Q. All outdoor facilities for cats are subject to site inspection and prior approval by the State Veterinarian.

6.14 Indoor Facilities, RABBITS

- A. Primary enclosures for rabbits are those enclosures in which the rabbit rests, eats or sleeps.
- B. The minimum height for a rabbit primary enclosure shall be fourteen (14) inches. Generally, a larger than recommended enclosure for a rabbit is more humane and less stressful.
- D. Rabbits shall be housed in compatible groups.
- E. Aggressive males shall be housed separate from other rabbits.

F. General Housing of Individual Rabbits twelve weeks (12) of age or older:

Size	Weight (lbs.)	Area per animal (sq. ft.)
Small	< 3	3
Medium	3 to 5	4
Intermediate	5 to 12	6
Large	> 12	8

G. General Housing of Does with litters:

Size of Doe	Weight (lbs.)	Area per Doe and litter (sq. ft.)
Small	<3	4
Medium	3 to 5	5
Intermediate	5 to 12	6
Large	> 12	8

H. The floor of the rabbit's primary enclosure shall be 1/2 inch by 1 inch galvanized, welded steel grid.

I. A partial solid resting area shall be provided on the floor.

J. A pregnant doe or a doe with a litter shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure with other rabbits .

K. A nesting box that is a minimum of 18" X 18"x18" shall be provided for all pregnant and nursing does. Nesting boxes which are disposable are recommended over wooden boxes since wood is very difficult to clean and sanitize and rabbits tend to gnaw the wood. Metal boxes are acceptable if they are seamless and resistant to damage by feces and urine.

L. No aquariums shall be used to house, store, transfer, board, or keep rabbits.

M. Cedar shavings, pine shavings, rugs, carpets, corn- cob litter or clumping cat litter shall not be used in or around rabbit enclosures. Cat litter that is made from natural paper products, litter, free of odor control additives and litter that produces very small amounts of dust are recommended if a litter box is used rather than a drop pan for waste control. Straw or hay is an ideal bedding material.

N. A hiding box where possible shall be provided for all rabbits. The box shall be at least 2' wide X 2' high X 2.5' long and covered. PVC pipe at least 1.5' long can be used as an alternative enclosure.

O. Primary enclosures housing rabbits in colonies shall provide

- a. a minimum of ten(10) square feet of floor space per rabbit over four (4) months of age.
- b. Rabbits over six (6) weeks of age but under four (4) months of age shall be provided 7.5 sq. ft. of floor space per rabbit.

3. No more than twenty - five (25) rabbits may be housed in the same primary enclosure.
- P. All food shall be approved for the age, gender, type and reproductive status of the individual rabbit.
 - Q. Food bowl and water containers shall be cleaned and sanitized daily or more frequently.
 - R. Water bottles (at least 32 oz.), pellet hoppers and hayracks attached to the side of the cage are used with rabbits.
 - S. Bowls for food and water generally will tend to be overturned, water and food will be spilled and wasted as well as some rabbits will urinate or defecate in the bowls. If bowls are used they shall be constructed of heavy porcelain to prevent them being turned over and the contents lost or wasted.
 - T. Proper ventilation shall be provided for all rabbits in the facility, with 10 to 20 changes of air per hour being routine.
 - U. Humidity shall be maintained around 55%plus or minus 10%.
 - V. Rabbits shall generally be housed away from other pet animals to decrease stress.
 - W. Noise shall be kept a minimum to ensure comfort and psychological well-being.
 - X. Natural or artificial light shall be provided for each facility for the individual animal and to visualize the animals in the housing facility
 - Y. Proper husbandry such as nail trimming and dental care shall be done on a regular basis. Handling of rabbits shall be carried out in an approved and humane way with a minimum of stress and to avoid physical injury to the rabbit or handler.
 - Z. Approved non-toxic wooden chew sticks and play devices are recommended for environmental enrichment.

6.15 Outdoor Facilities, RABBITS

- A. Enclosures for housing of rabbits outdoors shall be constructed to be predator proof, allow access to natural light and/or artificial light, provide protection from the sun, wind, and inclement weather (extremes of heat or cold).
- B. The thermal neutral range of rabbits is 47-64 degrees (F). Rabbits shall not be exposed to temperatures above 85 degrees (F) due to risk for heat stroke or below 45 degrees F to prevent hypothermia and frostbite. Air conditioning or heating shall be provided when temperatures are out of the rabbit's thermal neutral range.
- C. Outside structures for housing rabbits shall be composed of acceptable materials that are seamless easy to clean and sanitize and shall be within the guidelines for housing rabbits as individuals or in groups. The size of the individual outdoor housing facility may vary as with the type, weight, gender, age and number of rabbits.
- D. Variations from normal standards shall be reviewed by the Division of Agriculture prior o using such a structure for rabbit housing.
- E. Rabbits shall be able to hop 3 hops in any direction, be able to stand on their hind limbs without touching their ears on the top of the shelter, lie down and turn around and stretch out without touching another rabbit in the enclosure.

- F. Rabbits 8-13 pounds: 6.5 FeetX6.5FeetX4.0FeetHigh
- G. 1-4 rabbits: 6.5FeetX3.2Feet floor areaX4.0 Feet High (For each additional adult rabbit he floor area shall be increased by 2.2feetX2.2feet)
- H. 2-4 adult rabbits/pregnant rabbits: 10.0 Feet X 10.0Feet X 4.0 Feet High
- I. Groups of more than 5 shall have areas to retreat and groups of 10 or more shall have separate areas of retreat.
- J. To allow observation for predators in an enclosed covered housing facility the minimum height of the floor above the ground shall be 2.5 Feet.
- K. The minimum size for a temporary enclosure shall be 2.5 Feet HighX3.0FeetX3.0Feet and allow any individual rabbit to comfortably lie down, stretch out and turn around.
- L. Rabbits may not be kept in a temporary enclosure longer than ten (10) hours.
- M. Food and water shall be provided for all rabbits.
- N. Rabbits shall not be kept in a temporary enclosure longer than ten (10) hours without prior review by the state veterinarian or his/her authorized representative.
- O. Indoor-Outdoor facilities for 6-8 rabbits: Indoor Size- 5.0FeetX 5.5 Feet
Outdoor Size- 5.0FeetX11.5Feet

6.15 FERRETS

Primary enclosures for ferrets are those enclosures in which the ferret rests, sleeps or eats.

A. Housing Requirements:

Cage Type	Cage Dimensions (in.)			(sq. in.) Area	(sq. ft.) Area	# of Animals	Comments
	Length	Width	Height				
Small	24	12	14	288	2	3	

Medium	24	24	14	576	4	6	Single sleeping platform
2-story	24	24	14	864	6	9	Single sleeping platform
3-story	24	24	34	1152	8	12	Two sleeping platforms

55 48 13 20 624 4.3 10 Screen top

- B. The minimum height of the enclosure shall be sixteen (16) inches. The minimum space and housing requirement for ferrets over the age of four (4) months of age shall be determined by the state veterinarian on an individual basis.
- C. A solid floor cover shall be provided on floors of cages with a wire type floor.
- D. Ferrets used for breeding shall be provided with a minimum floor space of five hundred (500) square inches.
- E. A single sleeping platform is equal to two hundred eighty eight (288) square inches of floor space.
- F. A hammock may be used as a sleeping platform.
- G. No aquariums shall be used to store, keep, transfer, breed or board ferrets.
- H. Cedar shavings shall not be used a litter material in or around ferret enclosures.
- I. Primary enclosures for ferret cages when constructed using a steel mesh shall be of a small enough mesh to prevent the ferret from being able to get its nose through the mesh. Other cage designs and construction are subject to approval by the state veterinarian.
- J. The size of the enclosures specified above is acceptable for housing one (1) jill and her litter.

6.14 GUINEA PIGS-

Primary enclosures are those enclosures in which the individual guinea pig rests, sleeps or eats.

A. Guinea Pig Housing Requirements:

Size	Weight (grams)	Area (sq. in.)	Number of Animals		
			Small	Medium	Large
Small	< 350	288	4	3	2
Medium	351 - 700				
Large	>700	360	6	4	3

432	7	5	4
624	10	7	6

- B. The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be twelve (12) inches.
- C. The minimum height of the primary enclosure for laboratory housed animals shall be seven (7) inches.
- D. All guinea pigs shall be housed in primary enclosures with solid floors.
- E. Cedar shavings shall not be used in or around guinea pig enclosures.
- F. All guinea pigs shall have Vitamin C as a supplement in their diet.
- G. A pregnant sow or a sow with her litter is approved to be housed according the above listed sizes of primary enclosures for guinea pigs provided they are housed separately from other guinea pigs.

6.15 HAMSTERS and GERBILS

Primary enclosures are those enclosures in which hamsters and gerbils rest, sleep and eat.

A. Hamster and Gerbil size requirements

Size	Weight (Grams)
Small	<60
Medium	61-100
Large	>100

B. Hamsters and Gerbils. Population limits

Area (sq. in.)	Number of Animals		
	Small	Medium	Large
288	29	18	15
360	36	22	19
432	43	27	23
624	62	39	32

- C. The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 5 1/2 inches for dwarf species. For all other animals, the minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be twelve (12) inches for hamsters and six (6) inches for gerbils.
- D. Hamsters and gerbils shall only be housed in enclosures with solid floors.
- E. Cedar shavings will not be used in or around enclosures as litter.
- F. The above stated sizes of primary enclosures are acceptable for one (1) pregnant hamster or gerbil or female hamster or gerbil with her litter until

weaning.

6.16 CHINCHILLAS

Primary enclosures for chinchillas are those enclosures in which they rest, sleep or eat.

A. Chinchilla housing requirements

Cage Type	Cage Dimensions (in.)			(sq.in.)	(sq.ft.)	# of Animals	Comments
	Length	Width	Height	Area	Area		
Small	24	12	14	288	2	2	
Medium	24	24	14	576	4	3	
2-story	24	24	16	864	6	4	Single perching platform
3-story	24	24	34	1152	8	6	Two perching platforms

B. The minimum height of the primary enclosure for chinchillas shall be twelve (12) inches.

C. Adult chinchillas shall be housed in a minimum of floor space of 432 sq. in. per animal.

D. There must be sufficient space in the primary enclosure for a minimum of one (1) sleeping house and a dust bath bowl.

Cedar shavings shall not be used as litter material in or around chinchilla enclosures.

E. A single perching platform is equal to 288 sq. in. of floor space.

The above stated sizes of primary enclosures are acceptable for one (1) pregnant chinchilla or one female chinchilla and her litter until they are weaned.

6.17 RODENTS

Primary enclosures for rodents are those in which they rest, sleep or eat.

A. Mice- Housing Requirements

Size	Weight (Grams)	Area per Animal (sq. in.)
Small	< 15	5
Medium	16-25	7
Large	>25	15

1. The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 5 1/2 inches.

2. All mice shall be housed in enclosures with a solid floor.

3. Cedar shavings shall not be used as litter material in or around primary enclosures for mice.

4. The above described housing requirements are acceptable for pregnant mice or a female mouse and her litter until weaned.

5. Mice population limits

Area (sq in.)*	Small	Medium	Large
200	50	40	53
288	72	58	48
360	90	72	60
432	108	86	72
624	156	125	104

*Minimum space requirements (Area in square inches) Figures are for Guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats. They are equal to standard aquarium sizes as follows: 10, 20-high, 20-long, 30 and 55 gallons.

B. Rat housing requirements

Primary enclosures are those enclosures in which rats rest, sleep and eat

1. Rat size requirements

Size (Sq. in.)	Weight (Grams)
Small	<100
Medium	101-300
Large	>301

2. Rat population limits

Area (Sq. in.)	Number of Animals		
	Small	Medium	Large
200	16	12	8

288	24	18	12
360	30	22	15
432	36	27	18
624	52	39	26

3. For adult rats the minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be seven (7) inches, however, they must be able to reach food and water .

4. Rats shall only be housed in a primary enclosure with a solid floor.

5. Cedar shavings shall not be used as litter in or around primary enclosures for rats.

6. Minimum space requirements for rats over 500 grams shall be determined by the State Veterinarian by prior evaluation on an individual basis.

7. The above sizes stated as housing requirements for primary enclosures for rats are acceptable for a pregnant rat or a female rat and her litter until weaned.

C. Minimum space requirements for housing for other small rodents (i.e. Prairie Dogs) and newer exotic animals shall be determined by prior approval with the State Veterinarian on an individual basis.

D. Rodent Specialty Enclosures:

1. Display cases may be utilized as the primary enclosure during a work day; however, animals may not be kept in display cases overnight unless that display case meets all the requirements of and functions as a primary enclosure.

2. Display cases shall be constructed of a material that is water resistant and can be readily cleaned and sanitized.

3. Display cases shall be well constructed and in good repair.

4. The area around the display case shall be well ventilated to prevent odors.

5. A sign shall be posted near the display case stating "NOT FOR SALE".

6. All display cases shall be approved by prior arrangement with the state veterinarian on an individual basis.

6.18 BIRDS (Avians)

Primary enclosures for birds are those enclosures in which birds rest, sleep and eat.

A. Bird Housing Requirements

Primary enclosures for birds are those enclosures in which they rest, sleep and eat.

Primary enclosures for birds (cages shall be in good repair and constructed of metal or some other water resistant approved material which can be easily cleaned and sanitized.

B. Minimum Space Requirements:

These are minimum requirements only!

1. The cage shall be large enough to provide full body extension without contact with the confines.
2. The cage must be wide enough in at least one direction to accommodate completely stretched wings.
3. A single well placed perch may be adequate for Psitticines i.e. the bird can stand completely upright on the perch without having its head contact the ceiling of the cage and at the same time not having its tail contact the floor or grate.
4. For those species such as finches, canaries, etc. that prefer flying or jumping to climbing, two (2) perches, one at each end of the cage, must be provided.
5. Perches shall be properly placed to prevent droppings from contaminating other birds and the birds food and water and to also prevent the bird's tail from coming in contact with the food and water.

C. Minimum space requirements for multiple birds housed temporarily * depends on the calculated Housing Density Factor (HDF) and the overall length of the bird as measured from the tip of the tail to the of the head. The following calculation shall be used to determine the number of birds that can be temporarily housed in a given cage:

$$\frac{\text{Length X Width X Height}}{\text{Density Factor (DF)}} = \text{Total length of birds permitted}$$

$$\frac{\text{Total length of birds permitted}}{\text{length of bird}} = \text{Number of birds allowed in cage}$$

D. Housing Density Factor Table, bird population limits

Species	Bird's Overall Length (inches)	Density Factor (DF)
Finch	3	60
Parakeet	>3	50
Cockatiel	9-12	60
Cockatiel-Type	9-12 (Heavier body)	75
Amazon	13-24	325
Cockatoo	25-35	800
Macaw	34-45	1400

1. Cage measurements are based on the actual living space and do not include perches or T-stands attached to the outside of the cage or the space below the cage grate.
2. For birds housed over sixty (60) days, the Density Factor (DF) shall be doubled

for birds twelve (12) inches in overall length or less.

3. For birds housed over ninety (90) days, the Density Factor (DF) shall be doubled for birds twelve (12) inches in overall length or less.

4. All cage accessories (ladders, toys ,perches, etc.) made of unsealed wood shall be cleaned daily and replaced as often as needed to maintain sanitary conditions.

5. Flight cages in aviaries shall be cleaned weekly or more often to prevent excess buildup of bird wastes and uneaten food.

6. Bird wastes shall be removed from cages weekly or more frequently if needed to odors, contamination of birds, and disease hazards.

7. Birds shall be removed from the cage when water or chemical solution is used for cleaning.

8. Cage, food containers and water containers shall be cleaned and sanitized before new birds are introduced and more frequently as necessary to maintain sanitary conditions.

9. Cages, nests or nest boxes of birds incubating eggs or brooding chicks shall be cleaned and sanitized between breeding seasons or after all offspring have been permanently removed from the breeding cage.

10. A quarantine cage in a separate room shall be provided when needed for the control of infectious disease or the introduction of new birds into the facility.

11. Each bird shall be observed by the caretaker in charge, or by someone under the direct supervision of the caretaker, on a daily or more frequent basis.

Specific statues regarding birds are discussed in detail in Rhode Island General Laws specifically Chapter 11 4-11-1 to 4-11-13.

E. Temporary Enclosures for Birds

The following shall be considered temporary enclosures and shall be of a size, shape and design appropriate for the species of bird being housed in that enclosure:

1- Show Cages are those cages made specifically or being used for the specific purpose of showing birds.

2. Breeding cages are those cages used specifically for the purpose of breeding birds.

F. Nests, nest boxes or un-weaned babies must be evident.

G. Hospital cages are those cages which contain sick or injured birds which need a more confined space to prevent further injury or to facilitate medical treatment

H. Carriers are those enclosures (cages) used to safely move birds from location to location.

I. Minimum space requirements for single birds. Except for the specific needs of breeding pairs or of a specific bird because of its individual characteristics, the following are minimum space requirements for caging a single bird.

1. Cage requirements are of the actual living space, and do not include stands, attachments or space below the grate.

2. Bird measurements to be utilized are made from the tip of the tail to the top of the head

Size of the Bird (inches) *

Minimum cage size

The size, shape and design of the enclosures shall be appropriate for the species being housed and shall allow space without overcrowding for the normal exercise requirements of each bird.

- A. Flight cages shall be constructed to prevent injury to birds and commingling with non captive birds.
- B. A covered portion of the aviary shall be provided where the birds can avoid direct sunlight or adverse weather conditions.
- C. All outdoor/indoor aviaries and flight cages shall be cleaned weekly or more frequently as needed to prevent the buildup of bird wastes and uneaten food.
- D. All enclosures shall not be overcrowded and only compatible species shall be housed together.
- E. Plans for the design and construction of all Outdoor/Indoor Cages and Aviaries must be submitted for approval by The Division of Agriculture Animal Health Section prior to the housing of any birds on an individual basis.

6.20 FISH

A. Freshwater Fish

The primary enclosure for freshwater fish is an aquarium, fish tank or pond. The enclosure size is determined by the size, number and behavioral characteristics of the individual fish species. The number of fish kept in an aquarium can be increased by frequent water changes and / or auxiliary filtration.

- 1- Aquariums and ponds shall be constructed of glass, plastic acrylic, sealed wood , metal or other approved materials. Ponds shall be constructed of rubber, fiberglass, rock, sealed concrete, or similar approved materials. Attention must be given to the potential for toxic reactions of the fish to materials used in the construction of aquariums and ponds.
- 2- Aquariums and ponds shall be in good repair and waterproof.
- 3- Aquarium covers (lids) constructed of glass or plastic shall be used to keep out dust and prevent fish from escaping. Aquarium covers should not be made to be airtight.
- 4-Substrate such as quartz gravel, epoxy coated chips or pebbles shall be used as the filter bed to cover the bottom of a freshwater aquarium if an under gravel filter is used. Filter bed material shall be of a minimum of one (1) inch thick over the entire bottom of the aquarium.
- 5- Filtration systems shall be used to remove waste products produced by the fish and to enhance the water quality. Filter systems shall include individual or combination biological , mechanical and chemical types.
 - a) Common filtration systems used include under gravel filters, outside power filters, canister filters, wet/dry filters and sponge filters.
 - b) Labyrinth fish, such as Bettas, do not require the use of filtration systems but, shall have the water in the primary enclosure changed weekly or more frequently as needed.
- 6- Water quality and water chemistry (as measured using commercially available test kits) are essential to maintaining a healthy aquarium environment for fish.
 - a) Water chemistry shall be tested to make sure the following criteria are within prescribed limits for individual fish species:
- 7-Free Ammonia Concentration- The presence of free ammonia indicates that the biological filter is not working properly or the aquarium is overcrowded or overfed.
 - a.The maximum acceptable level of Free Ammonium in a healthy aquarium is One (1

ppm (parts per million)

8. pH-pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the freshwater. The pH reading can vary from 5.5 to 9.0 depending on the particular fish species in the aquarium.
9. Any time more than thirty (30) percent water change with chlorinated water occurs, the aquarium shall be treated with a water conditioner that will remove specifically chlorine and/ or chloramines.
10. Dead fish shall be removed from the enclosure a minimum of once a day or more often as needed.
11. Water Temperature Control- The water in a freshwater aquarium shall normally be maintained at a temperature of 68-82 degrees Fahrenheit (F) for tropical fish or as appropriate to the individual species. If necessary a thermostatically controlled heater shall be used to maintain the required water temperature. The heater shall be capable of delivering two (2) to five (5) watts per gallon of water. Accurate water temperature shall be delivered by a suitable aquarium thermometer.

B. Saltwater Fish (including Marine Invertebrates)-

The primary enclosure for saltwater (marine) fish (animals) is the aquarium or fish tank.

The size of the enclosure is determined by the size, number and species of marine animal.

The surface area of the tank (length X width) is more critical than its depth. The larger the surface area and the more frequent the changes, the greater the fish population that can be maintained in an enclosure.

- 1) Aquariums shall be constructed of glass, plastic acrylic, specially sealed wood or other approved materials.
- 2) All aquariums shall be maintained in good repair and be waterproof.
- 3) Aquarium lids (covers) constructed of glass or plastic shall be used to keep out dust, minimize tank water evaporation and prevent fish from escaping. Aquarium lids shall not provide a watertight seal.
- 4) Substrate- Only substances composed of calcareous composition such as coral sand, limestone, oyster shell, dolomite or similar material shall be used as a substrate in saltwater aquariums. When used together with an under gravel filter the depth of the substrate shall be 1 1/2 to 3 inches to satisfy biological requirements.
- 5) Filtration Systems- Filtration systems shall be employed to remove waste produced by fish and to enhance the quality of the water. Filtration systems can include individual or in combination biological (removes ammonia and ammonia waste products); mechanical (removes particulate matter); and chemical (removes dissolved organic compounds) types.
- 6) Water Quality- Good water quality and water chemistry, measured by using commercially available kits, are essential to maintain a healthy aquarium environment for saltwater fish and invertebrates.

a- Water chemistry shall be tested to make sure the following specific criteria are within the prescribed limits for established aquariums:

Combined Ammonia (NH₃ + NH₄) = 0.25 ppm (parts per million) maximum.

Ph = 7.8 to 8.5

b. Specific Gravity (Salinity) = 1.018 to 1.024 at 75 - 80 degrees Fahrenheit

as measured using a hydrometer.

c. Nitrite- Intermediate step in the nitrogen cycle = 0.5 ppm (parts per million)

d. Nitrate- A chemical product of Nitrite conversion = maximum for fish 60 ppm, maximum for invertebrates is 40 ppm (parts per million) the recommended level of nitrate for fish = 30ppm, the recommended level of nitrate for invertebrates = 20 ppm

7. Dead fish shall be removed from the primary enclosure daily or more often as necessary.

8. Water Temperature Control- The water in a tropical saltwater aquarium shall normally be maintained at a temperature of 72 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (F). If it is necessary to use a thermostatically controlled heater to maintain the required water temperature, the heater shall be capable of delivering 2 (two) to 5 (five) watts per gallon of seawater. Accurate temperature shall be measured using an approved aquarium thermometer.

9. Lighting- For proper keeping of live corals and other invertebrates the photo period (the time that the light is actually on) shall be not less than 10 (ten) hours. The spectrum of light shall be as close to the normal range for the appropriate individual species of fish.

10. Miscellaneous Notes-

a. The sale of native species of invertebrates may be subject to special laws and regulations which may require licenses and permits.

b. The use of native grasses in saltwater aquaria may also be subject to specific laws and regulations.

c. Specific Rhode Island laws relating to the above may be found by consulting the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

6.21 REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

A. Primary enclosures for reptiles and amphibians shall be constructed of materials such as glass, plastic acrylic, wire, sealed waterproof wood or other approved materials and be of suitable size to prevent overcrowding. The enclosure shall be constructed to keep the animals safely inside

1. Ground Medium- The bottom of the primary enclosure shall be covered with substrate material that is suitable for that species, for example, sterile sand for desert lizards, moistened potting soil (without perlite) or fine to medium grade orchid bark for forest lizards, box turtles and some frogs, brown wrapping paper and newspaper for White's Tree Frogs , pine shavings and alfalfa

pellets for snakes, etc..

2. Landscaping- The primary enclosure shall be provided with a variety of structures, materials and plants to meet the needs and satisfy behavioral characteristics of different species. Suitable landscaping materials include rocks, dried branches, vertical sections of wood, corkbark slabs for climbing; natural or commercially produced shelters, both vertical and horizontal to protect the animal and reduce stress and various live, and or artificial plants to help create a natural environment

3. Basking Areas- When appropriate to the individual species, a basking area affording both heat and light shall be provided so that the animal can self regulate its body temperature to improve digestion of food; to improve appetite and to reduce respiratory infections. The objective is to establish an area within the primary enclosure where a temperature gradient is created where both air and surface temperature decrease as the distance from the heat source increases. Basking areas can be created by locating an incandescent light or spotlight bulb in a reflector-type fixture above the basking surface to radiate heat on to a flat rock or along the length of a wood branch or piece of bark diagonally placed in the primary enclosure.

Secondary heat sources must be provided include rock type heaters, under tank heating pads, and ceramic element bulbs with the correct wattage for each primary enclosure.

B. Temperature Control- Maintenance of the correct environmental temperature, air or water is essential for the proper health and well being of the animal.. The specific temperature required depends on the individual species; the climate of the animal's natural environment

i.e. desert , semi-arid, mountain or shoreline; and the location of the temperature measurement i.e. nearest the heat and light source (basking area); furthest away from the light source (Shelter) or night time temperature.

1- An accurate thermometer shall be used to determine the temperature inside of the primary enclosure as close to the animal's resting area as possible.

2- Typical temperature ranges for amphibians and reptiles (Degrees Fahrenheit) are:

AIR (68 -90)

BASKING (80 -95)

NIGHT TIME (65 - 85)

3- Be certain that the environmental temperature never exceeds 100 degrees F., most species will tolerate a range of 75-85 degrees F. Water temperature for most species of aquatic chelonians and crocodilians should be between 75 and 82 degrees F as maintained by the use of a submersible aquarium heater.

C. Lighting- Depending on the needs of the particular species, an incandescent light with a reflector type fixture will be provided to develop the necessary temperature gradient inside the primary enclosure . The photo- period shall be twelve (12) hours on and twelve (12) hours off. Lights will be of the appropriate UV for the species.

D. Primary Enclosure Maintenance -

The primary enclosure shall be cleaned at least weekly or more often as needed to remove fecal waste, soiled ground medium and substrate .

1. Water turtle enclosures shall be changed weekly or more often as needed to minimize health hazards and odors.
2. Drinking containers and soaking /bathing containers shall be sanitized weekly or more often as needed.

E. Specialized Primary Enclosure Requirements -

1- Lizards: Dimensions of the primary enclosure for a single animal, excluding the tail , shall be :

Length- 1 1/2 times the length of the animal; width - 1/2 the length of the animal ;
 Height - six (6) inches minimum or the minimum length of the primary enclosure should be equal to or greater than the length of the longest animal.

Width should be at least 1/2 the animal's length.

F. Minimal space requirements for multiple animals within a given primary enclosure shall be based on the following calculation:

$$L \times W \times H / \text{Density Factor (DF)} = \text{Total length of animals permitted}$$

$$\text{Total length of animals permitted} / \text{length of animal} = \text{Number of animals allowed in that enclosure}$$

The calculated density factor (DF) varies with the length of the animal being housed.

Aquarium Size (gal)	Volume cu. in.	Total Lizard Length Allowed (inches)			
		2-6" DF 15	7-12" DF 30	13-24" DF 60	24-48" DF 120
10	2400	160	80	—	—
15	3456	230	115	—	—
20 long	4320	288	144	72	—
20 high	3456	230	115	—	—
29	5760	384	192	96	—
30	6912	460	230	115	—
55	12480	832	416	208	104

F. Humidity levels can be increased in the primary enclosure by using a ground medium that contains water in the enclosure and / or partially sealing the top of the enclosure to prevent evaporation.

G. Turtles:

1. Water Turtles - Minimum space requirements for multiple animals within a given primary enclosure shall be based on the following formula:

$$L \times W \times H / \text{Density Factor} = \text{Total length of animals permitted}$$

$$\text{Total length of animals permitted} / \text{length of animal} = \text{Number of animals}$$

allowed in that enclosure

3. Height = depth of water in enclosure i.e. For a water turtle with a carapace of six (6) inches, as measured diagonally across the carapace, the density factor (DF) is 30.

4. The depth of water in the primary enclosure shall be at least equal to the carapace length of the turtle with a gradual access leading to a basking area. The deeper the water, the wider the range of normal behavior that can be exhibited by the animal.

5. Box Turtles - Clean fresh potable water must be available in a shallow pan that the individual turtle can easily get into and out of with a water depth of no more than 1/3 the height of the turtle.

- a. number of box turtles that can be housed in an individual primary enclosure as listed below are best estimates combined from pet animal retail and wholesale experience and knowledge at this time. From time to time adjustments in size of these space requirements may be needed for each individual box turtle based on newer information. Therefore, the space recommended for Box Turtles as listed below should be considered to be temporary and subject to change.

RI State Law mandates all turtles sold in the state to be free from salmonellosis (RI State Law 4-4-27 Title 4 Animals and Animal Husbandry). United States federal law mandates that turtles shall be at least 4 inches across the carapace when offered for sale.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE OF CHELONIANS

(The New York Turtle and Tortoise Society)

(Minimum Standards for Herptile Husbandry RI 1994)

1. The combined shell size of all turtles present should not exceed a quarter of the floor surface area available. Minimum floor space for terrestrial species should be 10 times the area covered by the plastron. Where more than one are housed together, at least 2/3 of the floor space should be open area.
2. Frequent full water changes. Food and waste contamination of the water requires a change of water as needed. Water in most enclosures requires being changed at least every 12 hours. Some turtles require brackish water (e.g. Diamond-Back Turtle)
3. All waste should be removed from enclosures at least daily or more often as needed.
4. Tethering a turtle by the leg or by drilling a hole in the shell is not acceptable and is considered inhumane.
5. All outdoor housing is subject to prior approval by the State Veterinarian.
6. Large turtles should not be handled by the tail or appendages-only by the side of the carapace.
7. Aquatic specimens with the exception of sea turtles should have adequate basking/haul out space for all inhabitants to leave the water at once.

8. Remember that larger turtles can inflict scratches, severe bites and crush fingers=

Box Turtles:

Enclosure Size (gal)	Number of 6 in. Turtles	Area (sq. in.)
10	4	200
15	6	288
20 long	8	360
20 high	6	288
29	8	360
30	10	432
55	15	624

For larger turtles, the number is based on providing 40 sq. in. per each turtle.

F. Amphibians (Frogs) - Minimum space requirements for multiple animals within a given primary enclosure is based on the following calculation:

$$L \times W \times H / \text{Density Factor (DF)} = \text{Total length of animals permitted}$$

$$\text{Total length of animals permitted} / \text{length of animal} = \text{Number of animals allowed in that size enclosure}$$

Frog Body Length (inches)	Density Factor (DF)
< 2	7
2-6	15
> 6	30

1. Clean fresh potable water shall be available at all times in a bowl or built in pool. Sanitation and water quality are crucial for these animals and should be closely monitored.

2. Water quality should be tested and maintained via filtration or water changes.

Recommended water chemistry parameters:

NH3 (ammonia) 0.0 -0.25 mg/l

NO2 (nitrite) 0.1 - 0.25 mg/l

3. Exceptions to the above enclosure sizes may be granted based on the individual animal's behavior and natural habitat requirements. Any such exemptions shall be made by prior arrangement with the state veterinarian.

G. Snakes

The calculated density factor (DF) for snakes depends on the type or family of snake and is based of enclosure area (sq. in) rather than enclosure volume (cu.

in.).

A. The Density Factor (DF) for the Family Boidae (Boas, Pythons, etc.) is 2.0

B. The Density Factor for the Family Colubridae (Corn Snakes, Milk Snakes, King Snakes, etc.) is 0.75.

C. Population limits for snakes

Aquarium Size (Gal)	Area (sq. in)	Number of Snakes in Enclosure	
		Boidae (3')	Colubridae (4')
20 long	360	5	10
55	624	8	17

D. Minimum Rule for Snakes: The perimeter of the enclosure should be at least equal to or greater than the length of the longest snake in the enclosure.(Minimum Standards for Herptile Husbandry)

E. Poisonous Animals - An enclosure containing poisonous animals, including but not limited to poisonous snakes, frogs, and insects shall be clearly labeled as “ POISONOUS “.

1. The enclosure shall have solid walls. The top of the enclosure shall constructed of screen mesh or similar approved material to prevent injury to the public by the animal.

F. All wild animals imported into the State of Rhode Island are subject to Rules and Regulations Governing Wild Animal Importation and possession as promulgated by the Department of Environmental Management.

H. Animals under quarantine or veterinary care shall be physically separated from all susceptible animals to minimize the spread of disease.

I. Animals used for breeding purposes shall not be displayed for sale and must be kept in a primary enclosure separate from other animals.

J. Feeder animals used as food by other pet animals such as crickets, fish, mice, etc., shall be housed in enclosures specific to meet the needs of those animals for space and comfort for each individual species.

K. Primary enclosures for other families or types of snakes shall be designated after prior discussion with the state veterinarian on an individual basis.

L. Public Health Aspects of Reptile - Associated Salmonellosis: “Because young children are at increased risk of reptile-associated salmonellosis reducing exposure of infants or children less than five (5) years to reptiles is particularly important.”- Centers for Disease Control 1995 /MMWR Weekly 44(17);347-350

~~RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF SALMONELLA FROM REPTILES TO HUMANS~~

- ~~1. Persons at increased risk for infection or serious complications of salmonellosis (e.g., pregnant Women, children aged less than 5 years, and immune compromised persons such as persons with AIDS) shall avoid contact with reptiles.~~
- ~~2. Reptiles shall not be kept in child care centers and may not be appropriate pets in households in which persons at increased risk for infection reside.~~
- ~~3. Veterinarians and pet store owners shall provide information to potential purchasers and owners of reptiles about increased risk of acquiring salmonellosis from reptiles.~~
- ~~4. Veterinarians and operators of pet stores shall advise reptile owners always to wash their hands after handling reptiles and reptile cages.~~
- ~~5. To prevent contamination of food preparation areas (e.g., kitchens) and other selected sites, reptiles shall be kept out of these areas in particular, kitchen sinks should not be used to bathe reptiles or to wash reptile dishes, cages, or aquariums.~~

Large reptiles can inflict serious scratches, cuts and bites and should be handled with respect.

~~————— SOME GUIDELINES FOR THE HANDLING OF LARGE REPTILES
————— (Adapted from AHA Shelter Veterinarian Education Program 1998 by Boyer, T.H., D.V.M.)~~

- ~~1. Reptiles should not be placed in public where people would not reasonably expect to see them. Do not force reptiles on someone who might not want to see them.~~
- ~~2. Transport reptiles in a safe manner that prevents escape.~~
- ~~3. Large reptiles especially snakes and crocodylians should be kept in a secure area with some sort of locking device. All large reptiles should be kept within a room with a locking door to prevent escape.~~
- ~~4. When handling any reptile over 8 feet in length or over 30 pounds in weight, a second person should be available within calling distance. This is extremely important and should be observed with even the most experienced handler.~~
- ~~5. Minors should seek parental consent before obtaining giant reptiles to ensure proper housing, maintenance and supervision. No store should sell giant reptiles without providing local regulations and guidelines for their proper care.~~
- ~~6. Keep in mind that, just as with dogs and cats, owners of large reptiles may be held liable for the treatment of trauma inflicted upon someone by their reptile.~~
- ~~8. Observe precautions in the handling of large reptiles as possible sources of Salmonella and ——— consider the possible public health and legal situations that may transpire from an exposure.~~

6.22 HORSES AND HORSE CARE

United States Federal and Rhode Island State Laws regulate the care and handling of equids. (Animal Welfare Act, Horse Protection Act, CFR pt.9, RI General Laws 3-41,4-1.4-21,5-13) These laws cover the care and welfare of equids at riding stables, horse shows, spectator events, pony rides, circuses, petting zoos and other events associated with equids.

- A. The responsible equine owner shall provide a healthy comfortable safe environment at all times including but not limited to proper food, clean water, space, shelter, exercise, necessary veterinary care, safe fencing, sanitation, temperature exposure, humidity, ventilation, bedding, light and noise control, odor and dust control, fire protection, transportation, protection from extreme weather elements, vermin and insect control and general husbandry.
- B. These factors shall depend on the age, gender, nutritional status, herd compatibility, physical status as well as the physical facility in which the horses are housed.

C. Environment

Horses have lived as wild free roaming animals for millions of years. They have adapted to changes in the environment and food sources by migration and seeking shelter as needed for their comfort and survival. The majority of horses are now domesticated and depend on humans to provide all of their needs albeit in a much smaller and less natural environment. It is now the horse owner's responsibility to provide for all its care and well-being.

1. Indoor Environment

All facilities for equids are not exactly the same. The individual equine facility will depend on owner economic status, owner preference, location, geography, type of equid and production standards.

- a. Indoor facilities shall be sufficient for a horse to make postural adjustments at will, to lie down in sternal or lateral recumbency (lie on its chest or side) and be able to get up and not lie in areas containing urine, manure or other wastes.
- b. Generally for a single animal: $AREA = 2(\text{height at withers}^*)^2$ where the neck meets the horse's back
- c. A minimum indoor area for a horse is $9ft^2 / 100 BW$ * (9' X 10' for a 1000 lb. horse)
- d. A box stall of 12' X 12' should hold most equids.
- e. A minimum tie stall area for a horse is $4ft^2 / 100 BW$ * (5' X 9' for a 1000 lb. horse) including the manger. *BW= Body Weight
- f. Stall doors shall be hinged, sliding or divided and in good working order.

- g. Stall doors and walls shall be solid smooth, waterproof and free of sharp or pointed edges. They shall be designed to be free of any hardware in which a horse might become entangled.
- h. All doors shall be wide enough for a horse to comfortably move in and out (3.5-4.0ft wide) and when open not block any alley.
- i Hinged doors shall open out into the alley. Divided doors shall be free of exposed lights, cords or other fixtures.
- j. Ceilings when present shall be smooth, waterproof and free of sharp edges.
- k. Fixtures and lights in the ceiling shall be recessed and shatterproof.
- l. Ceiling height shall be at least 1 ft higher than the horse's ears with its head extended to its highest height (about 8-10ft high for a 1000 lb horse in a stall or 14 – 16ft for riding areas.)
- m. Windows are suggested but are not essential, if adequate light and ventilation are present.
- n. All breakable windows shall be protected.
- o. A 2' X 2' window in each box stall at least 5' above the floor to prevent escape or injury is a minimum requirement. Skylights or Plexiglas panels are suggested as an alternative source of light in the facility.
- p. Floors shall be selected for ease of sanitation, cleaning and horse comfort and safety. Flooring for indoor stalls can be composed of seamless rubber matting, sand, packed clay, stone dust, concrete, wood or other approved material depending on the facility. Slippery floors can lead to injury and very hard floors can make horses more susceptible to lameness. Concrete floors are recommended for alleys, food and storage rooms.
- q. Concrete floors shall be sloped with approved drainage systems and a rough broom surface. Wood floors tend to absorb waste and are difficult to clean and sanitize. Sand flooring may promote ingestion and impaction leading to colic. Soft flooring can be dug away by horses leaving holes, which may pool waste and cause lameness.
- r. Alleys shall be wide enough for a horse to turn around (eight feet is a minimum) with exits at both ends.
- s. Alley doors shall be the dimension of the alleys and designed to be overhead, swinging or sliding.
- t. Alleys that have divided stall doors, shall be wider to accommodate horses' heads moving in and out of the stall into the alley.
- u. If stall floors are composed of concrete or asphalt they shall be covered with a seamless rubber mat to prevent slipping.
- v. The type of bedding used shall provide comfort for the individual horse and proper sanitation. It shall be free of toxic chemicals that may be harmful to animals and humans. Pressure treated wood shavings; cocoa fiber, cedar shavings and black walnut shavings are toxic. Acceptable bedding types include straw (oat, wheat, rye), grass hay, rice hulls, dried pasture cuttings, shredded paper (natural) and peat moss. Bedding depth will vary, but a minimum depth of 4" is recommended to absorb waste.

2. Temperature, Ventilation and Dust Control

- a. The indoor temperature shall be in the horse's comfort range of 45-85 degrees Fahrenheit. Most horses can acclimate to subzero temperatures. (Except newborn foals, or sick, injured or debilitated horses) Despite acclimation, horses still need wind protection with a windbreak or run-in stall. Relative humidity shall be in the range of 50-80%.
- b. Ventilation is needed to prevent odor, reduce ammonia buildup, control relative humidity and reduce respiratory disease. Proper ventilation will depend on such factors as number of animals (total weight), water vapor, outside humidity, environmental temperature and facility design.
- c. Ventilation rate capacity shall be a minimum range of 25-100ft³/minute per 1000 lb horse: the lower rate is for outside environmental temperatures of 0-20 degrees F and the higher rate is for outdoor temperatures 30-50 degrees F.
- d. Additional ventilation may be needed in hot humid weather and additional heat may be needed in very cold weather.
- e. The relative humidity in the facility shall be in the range of 50-80%.
- f. Environmental ammonia concentrations shall be kept less than 10 ppm.
- g. It should be remembered that lack of proper ventilation is a major factor in the spread of disease in any animal facility.
- h. Minimizing dust in the air with proper ventilation and rubber mats will reduce the possibility of allergic states and chronic lung disease in horses and their caretakers.

3. Lighting-

- a. Proper lighting shall permit visual inspection of horses and their
- b. 200-lux illumination environment. is a minimum light intensity for all alleys, handling and feeding areas.
- c. All light sources shall be designed to be recessed and away from horses to avoid injury.
- d. One (1) 100 Watt incandescent lamp (1600 lumens/90ft³) of floor or box stall space = 200lux.

- e. A total lack of light at night in a facility is not recommended.
 - f. Constant source of light or abnormal light can cause changes in normal circadian rhythms of the horses and lead to behavioral and hormonal problems.
- c. Sanitation and Waste Control-
- i. All stalls shall be cleaned at least daily for indoor-outdoor horses and morning and evening for horses kept inside in stalls at all times. This is to ensure proper ventilation, dust control, reduce ammonia levels and prevent disease as well as maintaining a clean and comfortable environment.
 - ii. All waste shall be removed to a compost area and away from horses to reduce the spread of pathogens.
 - iii. All gutters, drains, and alleyways shall be kept clean. Manure and animal waste is a source of insects and vermin, so removal and proper disposal reduces disease transmission. Since a 1000lb horse produces 45 lb of manure and waste daily, an unclean animal facility can quickly deteriorate clean conditions and promote respiratory diseases, parasitic diseases, and lameness problems related to poor hoof care. A clean, dry facility environment will greatly reduce disease and promote equine welfare and comfort.
- d. Noise –
- i. All equids can easily be startled by sudden noises. Horses are sensitive to high frequency sound devices or sources, so attention to the elimination of these sources will reduce stress and possible animal or human injury.
- e. Fire Safety-
- A. Remember to think of fire safety in any animal facility structure design. Attention to details such as fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, fire alarms (silent), fire retardant paint, firewalls and clean environments will reduce the risk of fire.
 - B. A written and posted evacuation protocol for a fire shall be available.
 - C. Post “NO SMOKING” signs, do not use electrical devices outdoors, leave a halter and lead rope next to every stall or structure, design an escape route for the horses and caretakers., discuss fire prevention with the local or state fire marshal and
 - D. make sure all electrical sources are approved as per state codes and regulations.
- f. Outdoor Environment
- a. Pastures , Paddocks and Corrals-Outdoor accommodations for equids shall provide a comfortable environment including nutritious

feed, clean potable water, exercise, avoidance of waste, protection from extreme weather (sunshades and windbreaks) and firm well drained soil to rest upon.

b. A safe dry area shall be available for the individual equid to lie down on and exercise normal postural movements.

c. An enclosure shall be available that is at least three-sided, permanently attached to the ground, positioned as protection from wind and severe weather and be sufficient to enclose the entire herd.

d. All enclosures designed to hold equines outdoors shall be clean, safe and free of holes, sharp objects, trash or other potentially dangerous objects.

e. Pastures-Ideally pastures shall provide a minimum of 2-3 acres per horse.

f. All pastureland shall be free of toxic plants, trash and objects, which may provoke an injury.

g. Space requirements for horses in paddocks and corrals will vary depending on environmental situations (soil type, climate, drainage, type of forage, etc.), size and class type (pony, light or draft horse), temperament of the horses, and production aims.

Space shall be adequate for the individual horse to exercise, roll and turn, lie down, avoid herd mates, and avoid wastes.

h. If run-in sheds are used, the recommended minimum area per 1000lb horse is 8'X10'.

i. All drainage shall be away from, shelters, feeders and water sources.

j. Horses kept in paddocks shall have supplemental hay and grain based on gender, age, class and condition.

k. Feed all horses from feeders off the ground and remove manure and waste as often as possible to reduce internal parasites, hoof disease and control insects and vermin.

l. Small-enclosed areas do not promote exercise and should be avoided.

m. Since muddy conditions promote hoof and other health problems, there shall be elevated areas for the individual horse to avoid mud and lie in a clean, dry area.

n. Pens shall be free of sharp objects, clean and wide enough (no corners less than 90degrees) to prevent injury if a horse needs to avoid a herd mate.

o. Extreme Weather Conditions-Extreme weather conditions will affect equine performance.

p. Shelter and shade will improve feed efficiency and production.

q. Equines can generally adapt to most weather extremes. The temperatures for horse comfort vary from 45-75 degrees F, with 55 degrees F an optimum temperature (except for new born foals that need to be dry and warmed to 75-80 degrees F).

r. Extremes of cold, heat, wind, snow ice and freezing rain require horses to seek shelter which may be man made (run-in shed, wind fences, barns) or natural (terrain, trees).

s. In extremes of very hot humid weather greater than 85 degrees F, horses require some form of shade provided from the sun (manmade or natural)

.t. Shelters shall be provided for all equines in extreme weather environments. Despite the fact that most equines adapt to weather extremes (depending on age, gender weight, class, nutritional status, husbandry status and time allowed to acclimate) and may refuse to use shelters;

u. The minimum of dry bedding, food, water, a three –sided permanently attached structure or run-in shed situated to avoid wind (minimum area per horse is 2-3times the straight stall area) with sunshades and adequate ventilation shall be available for all equines.

v. In temperate climate dry, elevated terrain, trees, wind fences and sunshades along with food and water are the minimum requirement for equines outdoors. It should be remembered that horses adapt to cold weather by developing a thick hair coat but require higher calorie needs for maintenance. So winter-feeding and care require more efforts for horses. Low minimum temperatures have not been adopted for horses. Those horses kept indoors with artificial light will need slow adaptation to acclimate to cool weather conditions or they will become stressed and become prone to weight loss and medical problems. In extreme cold conditions, foals and mares with foals will require special considerations of food, water, shelter such as a separate feeding area and shelter from extreme cold.

w. Extreme Hot Weather- Generally horses are tolerant of the heat but shall have some form of sunshade provided along with fresh clean potable water and access to salt.

x. The critical high temperature tolerance of horses is not known. Sweating of horses is a natural cooling method in hot weather. Horses respond to warm weather by sweating, shedding hair coats, reducing activity and food intake. When environmental temperatures reach 85-90 degrees F the risk of heat stroke in horses is very great. Therefore, horses shall NOT be exercised above 85 degrees F. Horses in general should not be exercised in high humidity and hot weather. Equine heatstroke is a strong possibility in extreme hot weather if these guidelines are not followed

EQUINE HEATSTROKE

What to look for-

1. Rapid Breathing
2. Rapid Heart rate
3. Fever (106-110 degrees F)
4. Weakness

5. Incoordination
6. Dry Skin Coat (No Sweating)
7. Recently Exercised In Hot Weather
8. Poorly Conditioned Horse

- What to do-
1. Contact Veterinarian
 2. Move Horse To A Cool Place
 3. Spray Cool Water Over Neck And Legs Or Use Ice Packs

9. Fences and Gates-

Fence and Gate construction is expensive and time consuming, so take time to evaluate what is best for each area. Fencing type and size will vary depending on the material available and location.

- a. All fences shall be designed to avoid injury to horses. Avoid making fences with sharp objects, protruding nails, wire mesh, protruding gate latches or other hardware that might cause an injury. Do not construct narrow fence corners (Angles less than 90degrees), which may trap a subordinate horse and provoke an injury by a dominant herd mate.
- b. Fences can be composed of many types of approved materials such as wood, plastic, rubber mesh or metal.
- c. Barbed wire shall be avoided in equine fence construction.
- d. Fence heights will vary with the size of the herd, animal size, gender, class and temperament of the individual horse. Generally, a fence height of 4.5- 6.0' for horses and 3.5-5.0' for ponies is adequate for fence height.
- e. The bottom of a fence shall be 10"(inches) above the ground or flush with the ground to prevent limb injury.
 - f. While electric fencing is appropriate at times for horses, it should be properly installed and within the manufacturers guidelines. An alternative to electric fencing would be a highly visible type of plastic tape or mesh.
- c. Gates can be constructed of several approved materials including wood, metal, wire plastic or a composite of those products.
- d. Gate heights shall be the same as the adjoining fence.
- e. The width of the gate shall not leave any gap for a horse to be caught in or injured.
- f. Gate bottoms shall 10"(inches) above the ground or flush with the ground to avoid limb injury.
- g. Gates shall have no sharp or protruding objects. Since horses like to congregate near gates and like to chew wood, it is not recommended to use wooden gates. Do not use vinyl-covered wire for the same reason.
- h. Gateposts shall be strong enough to prevent the gate from sagging and prevent it from being opened.
- i. Avoid using a chain link gate since it tends to sag and lose its shape over time.
- j. All fence latches shall be designed to prevent horses from learning to open the gate or cause injury. Remember that at least 50% of all equine

injuries are fence related! (Evans, J.W., Horses 3rd Edition 2001 WH Freeman and Co)

10. Water

- a. Fresh clean water shall be available at all times.
- b. Water not available on a continuous basis to horses shall be supplied at least morning and night.
- c. Water needs of the individual horse will vary depending on ambient temperature, and activity level. General water intake for a 1000 lb horse in a thermo neutral environment is 4-8 gallons / day for maintenance and 12-18 gallons / day for a working horse. Water needs for a horse based on dry matter of food intake is 2-4 quarts of water / 2.2 lb (Kg.).
- d. All waterers shall be inspected at least morning and night for proper operation, leaks, or obstructions. Waterers can function from a simple bucket to automatic watering devices and shall be workable for all ages and sizes of horses.
- e. Outdoor natural water sources such as ponds and brooks shall be a clean source of running water but supplemental water must be provided to augment the natural source.
- f. Winter conditions mandate removal of ice not just breaking the ice surface as well as extra efforts to supply fresh water in waterers for horses.
- g. In hot weather cool down all horses before providing water that may be cold or there will be a great risk for the horse to founder or develop colic.
- h. Lack of water in winter conditions promotes horses to constipation. Remember that water is an essential requirement for horses and will vary with the season of the year, activity level, age, gender, class, weight, nutritional status and ongoing veterinary health problems.

11. Feeding

- a. All food fed to horses shall be nutritious and of sufficient quality for age, gender, class and working condition.
- b. Food shall be kept dry, and free of mold, insects and debris. Horses housed indoors shall be fed and watered morning and night.
- c. Roughage shall be provided (hay or other fiber sources) to reduce colic and behavioral vices (wood chewing, cribbing, etc.).
- d. All horses shall be fed for ideal body weight as described by the Henneke System as 4,5 or 6 by following the NRC Nutritional Requirements of Horses for normal body condition and health.
Nutritional needs will vary with such factors as age, gender, class, breed, environmental temperature, activity, forage availability and soil nutrients.
- e. Always provide a source of salt for horses as well as nutrient supplements as per locality where nutrients are deficient.
- f. Pasture forage may need additional supplements of hay and grain particularly in weather extremes.
- g. Make all feed and grain storage areas inaccessible to horses. Access to these areas will result in overeating and promote a variety of serious life threatening diseases (lameness, laminitis, colic, etc.).

- h. Feed containers can be constructed of any approved safe, sturdy, cleanable material. Containers shall be located off the ground, be waterproof and covered to keep out insects and vermin.
- i. General Dietary Intake for Horses as follows:
 - Complete hay diet of good quality – A 1000 lb horse will eat 1/4 – 3/4 bale of hay/day. Ponies or small equids will eat 1/3 bale of hay/day.
 - Partial hay diet of good hay (1/6 – 1/3 bale of hay/day) along with oats, sweet feed or other nutritious grain
 - Complete grain type diet for horses that cannot eat hay due to health or disease.
- j. Avoid feeding from the ground as this practice promotes disease.
- k. Do not feed to horses any feed labeled for use with other types of livestock

12. Social Environment for Horses

- a. Confined horses are more likely to have behavior problems and develop vices such as stall weaving, cribbing, wood chewing, biting and kicking. A program of exercise or walking will help to decrease some vices.
- b. Where possible keep horses in compatible herd groups(7-8 horses). Introduce new horses to herd groups in daylight to minimize any chance of injury . A
- c. All horses kept outdoors shall be grouped according to age , gender, breed, class, and behavior. Keep stallions apart except those raised together.
- d. Limit one stallion per brood mare herd.
- e. Separate foals from geldings and stallions during breeding season. Separate fillies and colts at sexual maturity.
- f. Wean foals by six months of age (2-8 month of age range) and separate them from the mare.
- g. Be aware of herd mate compatibility and social dominance since it may be needed to remove an animal for safety and production status of that horse.
- h. Keep all herds compatible by not adding any new horses to that group.

13. Husbandry Management-

- a. All horses shall be groomed at least weekly or more often as needed.
- b. All tack and associated equipment shall be kept clean, dry, neat and in good working order.
- c. Hoof care shall be provided by at least daily inspection and cleaning.
- d. Training shall be provided as needed for the individual equine .

14. Handling and Restraint- General guidelines are discussed elsewhere in the text under Handling and Restraint. Horses may be restrained by a variety of methods.

- a. Approved halters and bridles- with or without a chain lead shank.
- b. Hobbling
- c. Twitching
- d. Stocks and chutes designed to have solid doors and open from either end to prevent injury.

- e. Chemical- a. Tranquilization b. General Anesthesia Both of these methods requires a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian.
- f. The use of electric prods or similar devices is strictly forbidden.
The use of any or all of the above methods will depend on the individual horse and situation.

15. Transportation-

Vehicles for the transport of equines are designed specifically for horses and available from a variety of common sources.

- a. During transportation all efforts shall be made to reduce stress, anxiety and injury.
- b. Special considerations shall be made to the vehicle design and transport of horses.
- c. Interior space of vehicle- depends on the size and number of horses.
- d. Ceiling height for an individual horse
Up to 15 Hands (One hand is approximately 4 inches [10 cm]) =5.6 –6.5 ft
15 – 16 Hands = 6.5 – 7.0 ft.
- e. Width of Trailer
 - a. Single or Tandem = 4.0 ft.
 - b. Two horses abreast = 5.6-6.6 X 5.9-10.2 ft.

f. Ventilation

G. Interior padding

- g. Footing
- h. Driving the vehicle
- i. Avoid double deck type trailers
- j. Avoid mixing sizes of horses
- k. Only mix compatible horses
- l. Avoid mixing genders
- m. Avoid mixing horses unfamiliar to each other
- n. Separate all aggressive males and females
- o. Do not transport sick or injured horses unless there is a valid veterinary exam and permission to do so
- p. Do not transport pregnant mares due to foal
- q. Length of trip- may need to offload, feed , water and exercise horses

Remember that specific United States Federal Laws (CFR part 9) and Rhode Island State Laws (4-1.4-4,4-4.1) exist concerning the care and transport of various animals including horses. Specific health records, certificates of veterinary health, permits to transport, laboratory tests and vaccinations are needed for the transportation of equines interstate.

16. Equine Trailers

All vehicles shall be inspected prior to transportation of all horses for proper structural soundness.

1. Floorboards- shall be able to support at least twice the weight to be transported
2. Floor planking
3. Floor braces
4. Door latches
5. Structure of the hauling vehicle

6. Structure of the trailer sound outside including wheels, hitch and electrical hookups.
7. Be familiar with loading and unloading horses in the specific vehicle used for transport
8. All rear doors shall be strong enough for loading or use as ramps.
9. All latches on trailer doors shall be easy to open but strong enough to prevent doors opening in transit.
10. Floors shall be dry and covered with bedding or a mat to reduce slipping and limb injury
11. Do not tie horses in large groups in trailers. If a horse is tied in a trailer use a slip knot that will easily come loose if a horse slips and falls. Do not tie young foals in trailers.
12. Partitions in two horse trailers shall be within 1.5 ft. of the trailer floor, depending on the specific trailer design.
13. During transport protect legs with wraps or bandages of all horses.
14. Ventilation is needed to protect horses from exhaust (carbon monoxide) CO and temperature extremes. Avoid travel on hot days to reduce the threat of heatstroke. Provide blankets for all horses in extreme cold weather.
15. Periodically check all animals for anxiety and health status during travel.
16. Pay particular attention to time during transport as horses may need to be offloaded, fed, watered and provided with exercise.
17. Reducing stress during transport reduces health problems such as colic , leg edema, laminitis and other shipping diseases.
18. Use a “Head Bumper” on selected horses to prevent injury.
19. Separate a foal and mare with a partition so the foal is not stepped on.
20. Some horses may need tranquilization and veterinary assistance to be loaded on the trailer.
21. Observe proper rules and regulations of driving for the safety of humans and horses.
22. Notify others as to your destination and provide methods as to contacting you (cell phone, veterinarian, fair or show officials, auction, etc.) in case of emergencies or delay in arrival.
23. Specific guidelines now exist as of 2002 for the transportation of horses to slaughter which are strictly enforced on a United States Federal and Rhode Island State level.

17. Exercise

1. At least one (1) hour /day exercise by turnout in a paddock or pasture
2. If no turnout area is available, at least 15 minutes of continuous exercise /day (walking, treadmill, pool, etc.)
3. All stabled horses shall be exercised daily or more often.
4. Never turnout aged horses without proper food, water and shelter.
5. Mares with foals shall be provided with separate turnout areas from other herd-mates.

If horses are left for days standing without exercise in a stall or small enclosure they will develop edema (a condition of fluid retention in the tissues) of the lower limb and abdomen.

18. Necessary Veterinary Care

All horses shall have veterinary care

1. A minimum of a yearly veterinary health exam

2. Proper vaccinations as per veterinarian and Rhode Island State Law
3. Proper hoof care including daily inspection and cleaning as well as trimming and or shoeing at 6-8 week intervals
4. Worming for internal parasites at least every 6-8 weeks
5. External parasite control
6. Appropriate blood screening as per age and gender.
7. Necessary blood tests prior to interstate travel, out of country travel, prior to a sale or travel to fairs and shows etc.
8. All horses teeth examined yearly and teeth floated as needed.
9. Proper United States Federal International and State health certificates and permits.

19. Emergencies

All facilities shall have two emergency telephone numbers of equine veterinarians as well as the emergency telephone of a veterinary school and the Rhode Island State Veterinarian on file as well as posted in a easy to locate area .The following list is a review of some conditions of horses that are considered to be an emergency:

1. Any injury- accidental or deliberate
2. Shock
3. Colic
4. Fever greater than 103 degrees F taken rectally (Normal 99.0-102 degrees F)
5. Open wounds
6. Punctures
7. Abnormal breathing or coughing
8. Horse not eating
9. Constipation
10. Horse not urinating
11. Chronic diarrhea
12. Lameness-acute
13. Weight loss
14. Horse is down and cannot get up
15. Excess salivation
16. Abnormal bleeding from any source or body orifice(Eye, nose, rectum, etc.)
17. Abnormal hair and skin coat
18. Neurological abnormalities-Seizures, tremors, paralysis, etc.
19. Abnormal behavior
20. Fractures
21. Eye injury
22. Sick foal
23. Difficult Birth
24. Reproductive Discharge
25. Known Poisoning
26. Excess water drinking
27. Blood in urine with or without discomfort
28. Yellow gums

29. Suspect Cruelty/Abuse-Neglect Cases

30. Any condition that after a discussion with a veterinarian warrants an examination

20. Conditions which mandate a horse is not fit for use:

1. Lameness of any kind. The use of a horse with a lameness must be certified by a licensed veterinarian detailing the condition of the individual horse and its treatment.
2. Any serious injury or sickness
3. Any sores involving contact areas of a saddle, bridle, harness or other equipment used on the individual horse.
4. Obvious emaciation, exhaustion or malnutrition.
5. Disease conditions causing blindness in both eyes.
6. Suspect Foreign Animal Disease or zoonotic disease.

21. Horse Welfare

It is the obligation of the owner-guardian to provide for all the care and well being of the individual horse in their care. This care shall be within the ethical standards of the AAEP (American Association Of Equine Practitioners) , AVMA(American Veterinary Medical Association) and the AHC(American Horse Council)

6.23 LIVESTOCK

A. All livestock facilities licensed and inspected by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, including but not limited to, livestock dealers, petting zoos, USDA Animal Care Facilities, livestock rescue and adoption organizations, must provide for and/or utilize standard accepted husbandry practices and facilities as determined by the RIDEM Division of Agriculture and its designees. Exclusions will apply to properly licensed swine garbage feeding operations and poultry dealers, which are subject to the requirements set forth in R.I.G.L. Title 4 pertaining to the licensure and inspection of these operations.

B. All livestock must be provided housing and care consistent with the intent and requirements of Part One (I), General Requirements, of these regulations.

6.24 WILD EXOTIC ANIMALS

A. Possession and importation of exotic wild animals must be in compliance with current permit requirements as provided in R.I.G.L. Title 4 and the related Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Possession of Wild Exotic Animals.

B. All wild animal permittees must provide for the required accepted husbandry practices and veterinary care as stipulated by permit application and regulations. Where applicable, both the general and specific requirements of these regulations will apply to wild exotic animal facilities.

6.25 TRAFFIC IN FACILITIES

Adequate space shall be provided for personnel to work comfortably and for all equipment to be stored in a proper manner.

- A. The main receiving area of any animal housing facility shall be large enough for the flow of animals in and out and for easy separation of those animals.
- B. The flow of traffic shall be designed for easy transfer of animals from one area to another with minimum stress for the animals and personnel. A written procedure for handling a kennel escape shall be available to all personnel.

6.26 HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY

A. Food and Water

Animals shall be fed according to the nutritional requirements of the individual animal taking into account its species, age and gender. An exception will be extended to all animals under direct veterinary care.

Food shall be of such nutritional value needed to maintain normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal to ensure normal growth in young animals and to maintain normal body weight in adults. Food shall be clean and free of contamination, palatable and nutritionally proper for the individual animal. All perishable food shall be refrigerated.

Food shall be offered to minimize the possibility of contamination by urine and feces.

All food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitized as often as needed to prevent mold and bacterial contamination. Food receptacles shall be cleaned and sanitized prior to any new animal introduction. Disposable food containers can be used if they are discarded after each use. Self-feeders can be used if they are sanitized and contain enough food to meet the individual animal's nutritional requirements.

Fresh potable water free of contaminants shall be available to all animals. Water shall be available daily according to individual animal requirements. Drinking water shall be available at all times and in sufficient quantities to prevent dehydration and heat related injury except when an animal is under direct veterinary care. Self-watering devices can be used, but shall be checked for proper function daily and sanitized as often as needed. All water containers shall be sanitized prior to any new animal use. If water cannot be provided at all times, it shall be available to satisfy all needs at least twice daily and for not less than one hour each time.

Attention shall be given to the type of water source as chlorine content and other chemicals may be harmful to specific animals especially aquatic animals and animals used for research.

Watering devices shall be replaced and not refilled to prevent contamination. Animals housed outdoors may be exposed to accessory water sources that is contaminated via rain pooling in puddles or other natural structures. Attention to this potential source of water is important in the prevention of disease and animal comfort. An emergency source of potable water shall be available for disaster situations.

B. Bedding-

Some type of approved bedding shall be provided to absorb water spills, urine and fecal waste and to help maintain body temperature. No specific bedding is ideal for all species.

Newspaper is an ideal bedding to use with dogs and cats in runs and cages as it is economical and

absorbs urine and water. Bedding shall be used in amounts to keep animals dry and free of contamination by water, urine and fecal waste. Cedar shavings shall not be used as bedding since many animals have reactions to the hydrocarbons emitted by the cedar causing changes in the animal's metabolism and toxicity to specific tissue such as the liver . Consultation with a veterinarian prior to the use of a specific type of bedding for animal use is strongly recommended. All bedding shall be transported in a safe manner and stored off the floor on pallets. An above the floor bed or rest area shall be provided to keep the individual animal dry clean and warm. Outdoor facilities shall use such materials as hay, straw, shredded paper or wood shavings especially in colder weather conditions.

6.27 Classification and Separation

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure shall be maintained in compatible groups Any animal exhibiting aggressive behavior shall be housed individually in primary enclosures to prevent that animal biting and injuring the public. All animals under quarantine or being treated for a communicable disease shall be physically separated from other susceptible animals to minimize the spread of disease.

6.28 Identification

A system shall be established for the rapid identification of all animals, All animals shall be identified by numbering individual runs, pens, and cages, placing identification cards on rooms, cages and holding areas, by using collars or identification bands, ear tags, ear buttons, tattoos, microchips combinations of the previous mentioned methods or other approved methods. All stray dogs and cats brought to a shelter or pound, public or private, shall be examined for identification such as a collar/tag, tattoo, ear button, microchip (by using an approved scanner) or other means of identification.

Information on the identification card shall include identification number, date, species, gender, age, color, special markings, and, if owned, owner name, address, telephone number (s). A section on the card shall include an area for notations such as Rabies Suspect, Quarantine, Dangerous, Requires Medication, Special Diet, etc. An electronic means of identification such as digital photography is an excellent method for permanent identification of animals.

6.29 Exercise and Environmental Enrichment

All animals require exercise as per Code of Federal Regulations Part 9 and the Animal Welfare Act. All facilities shall have a written plan available for puppies and kittens over sixteen weeks age. Exercise is any form of physical activity. Exercise depends of the species , type of animal, and the specific conditions under which that animal is housed. Consultation with a licensed veterinarian is required with cases of sick, injured or debilitated aged animals relating to what constitutes exercise for that individual animal. Dogs shall be exercised twice daily or not less than twenty (20) minutes on a leash if dogs are to be caged for special reasons (such as a pregnant dog) three times daily.

No more than five (5) dogs over six (6) months of age may be housed in any one common area. Cages are necessary for short -term holding and isolation of sick animals. There are practical reasons for pens and runs and other out of cage space in the housing of dogs. In addition to providing more opportunity for exercise , pens and runs also provide a convenient place to hold

dogs while their cages are being sanitized. When dogs are allowed out of their cages regularly, sanitary maintenance of cages is made easier. It is well known that dogs and cats are highly social animals and isolation of dogs results in behavioral abnormalities. Some scientific studies of dogs and cats show that a regular program of exercise reduces stress and may provide easier management of behavior problems resulting from isolation.

6.30 Sanitation Practices

1. Cleanliness

- a) The animal facility shall be kept in good order and clean. A regular daily schedule of routine sanitary maintenance shall be followed in all housing areas.
- b) Animal rooms, corridors storage rooms and other areas of the animal facility shall be mopped, vacuumed or swept daily or as often as needed using appropriate detergents and disinfectants to keep them free of dirt, debris, and harmful contamination. These areas shall always be maintained neat and uncluttered.
- c) Litter and bedding used in animal cages or runs shall be changed as often as needed to keep animals clean and dry and to minimize offensive odors.
- d) Cages and runs from which animal waste is removed by hosing and flushing with water shall be cleaned one or more times daily. All animals shall be removed from the area prior to doing any cleaning to protect them from coming in contact with wastes or cleaning solutions.
- e) All cages, runs and accessory equipment such as feeders, bowls, and water bottles shall be washed and sanitized as often as needed to keep them clean and physically free of contamination. Cleaning shall be done a minimum of twice a week. In addition, all cages shall be sanitized before being occupied by new animals. Extra clean cages shall be available at all times to allow for a systematic cage washing schedule. Washing and rinsing or both shall be done at a temperature of 180 degrees Fahrenheit or higher to make possible destruction of pathogens. Sanitizing may also be accomplished by approved disinfectants and detergents.
- f) Waste containers shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. It is a good practice to line waste containers with disposable bags and wash each waste container every time it is emptied using the same methods for cleaning animal cages (water is to be at least 180 degrees F or higher for washing and rinsing or using detergents and disinfectants)
- g) All individuals entering an animal room and /or handling an animal shall disinfect their hands between animals and prior to leaving the room.

2. Sanitary Waste Disposal

- a) All solid waste shall be collected and removed in a safe and sanitary manner. All drains shall be trapped to collect fecal matter, hair and debris so as to prevent clogging of the drainage system. All wastes shall be removed regularly or as frequently as necessary. Collected waste shall be stored away from the housing area water- proof metal or plastic approved containers and be covered with a secure fitting lid. All waste containers shall contain a leak-proof disposable liner.
- b) Highly infectious wastes shall be rendered noninfectious by steam autoclaving or

other approved methods.

c) Solid waste materials should be removed regularly. If waste must be stored prior to its being removed, the storage area must be physically separated from other storage facilities and be located in an area that is vermin proof.

d) Success of a disinfectant in a sanitation program depends on several factors:

1 Surface conditions -Disinfectants must come in direct contact with pathogens in order to effectively kill them. The most important step in disinfection is the initial cleaning of all surfaces to remove any debris which may harbor pathogens.

2 Dirty, rough and absorbent surfaces protect pathogens (microorganisms) from disinfection and are more difficult to clean and disinfect than smooth waterproof surfaces.

3 Contact Time - Disinfectants must remain in contact with microorganisms (pathogens) for a minimum time in order to be effective. The greater the time a disinfectant has to work the more effective it is.

4 Concentration- - Cost, effectiveness and toxicity influence the concentration of the disinfectant to be used. Using a concentration greater than indicated by the manufacturer is wasteful and can be expensive. Since most disinfectants are toxic at higher concentrations, toxic residues could remain posing a possible hazard to animals when they come in contact with them, personnel and the environment.

e) Temperature - Most disinfectants work better when utilized at higher temperatures ,therefore, disinfectants should be diluted in warm to hot water for maximum efficacy.

f) The manufacturer's label should always be consulted for complete instructions on proper use of such chemicals. All instructions shall be carefully followed to achieve maximum results.

g) Live steam can be used for disinfection. Steam cleaning machines are commercially available which convert water to live steam that is then applied to surfaces using a hand held nozzle.

h. Exterior runs with gravel surfaces shall be sanitized by removing all soiled gravel to a depth of at least six (6) inches properly disposing of the waste gravel and replacing it with new gravel as often as needed. A written record shall be maintained to provide a schedule of removal and sanitation including date, signature of person in charge and a detailed source of waste gravel disposal. Gravel is harder to maintain due to the difficulty in cleaning fecal matter and its potential for harboring pathogens and parasite larvae within its surface. Dogs tend to dig and create holes in gravel. Gravel tends also to pile at the end of runs due to dogs running and turning in them.

6.31 Housekeeping

The animal facility shall be kept clean, neat, orderly and in good repair. There shall be a regular program of inspection at prescribed intervals for signs of disrepair. Repairs shall be done promptly to prevent animal or personnel injury and to insure effective cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces.

Food storage areas shall be checked on a regular basis for signs of spillage or contamination.

If spillage or contamination is noted, the food shall be removed immediately to discourage vermin infestation. Other areas designated for storage shall be cleaned as often as necessary.

All solid wastes including soiled bedding, empty food bags and cans shall be disposed of at regular intervals.

Work areas shall be clean neat and uncluttered. Eating and drinking of food is not permitted in work areas. A separate designated room or area away from animal rooms for personnel shall be available for the eating and preparation of food for human consumption.

6.32 Vermin and Pest Control

A. An approved program shall be followed for the control of insects, rodents and similar pests which constitute a menace to animal and public health. A strict program of constant vermin and pest control is the ultimate way to control and eliminate vermin and pests from any animal housing. This can be accomplished by using approved pesticides or trapping procedures in conjunction with a strict program of sanitary maintenance.

B. Pesticide application shall be done by a professional exterminator to prevent toxic effects on the animals housed and on personnel.

C. All cracks and crevices noted shall be sealed and doors, windows and vents shall be screened to block the entry of vermin and pests. Good housekeeping and sanitation practices are essential in controlling pest problems. Spilled food and solid wastes shall be cleaned as they occur. All waste and spillage shall be immediately cleaned and stored in covered labeled containers.

6.33 Record Keeping and Identification Classification and Separation.

Record Keeping- Each record shall contain:

a) a complete rapidly available record of information on each animal that is within the housing facility and shall include a physical description of species, breed, type, gender, color, markings, age (as close as can be determined), date and time of entry, specific identification number, location within the facility, notations as to health status, veterinary medical care, and pertinent notes. (i.e. RABIES SUSPECT, pregnant, dangerous, nervous, injured, needs medication, aggressive, in heat, special diet, etc.) This information shall conform to any logs or forms used at each animal housing facility for the tracking of animals within that facility. This data will also extend to include any and all animals that are in foster or temporary care. Records shall be kept a minimum of two (2) years from the date of entry into the specific housing facility.

b) Source of animal with the date of acquisition, name, address, and telephone of the person of origin (where applicable).

c) All veterinary medical treatment while the animal is in the housing facility.

d) Disposition of the animal with the date of sale, adoption, transfer of ownership or death (natural or via euthanasia) and the name address and telephone number of the new owner, adopting person, foster care person or person performing the euthanasia.

e) All records shall be available for inspection at reasonable times during business hours or at some mutually agreeable time.

f) Sales and purchase records shall be available for a minimum of two (2) years.

These records shall be available to any duly authorized representative of the state veterinarian at reasonable times during normal business hours or at some mutually agreeable time.

Identification-

Identification systems shall include I.D. cards on animal rooms, runs, houses, cages and racks, etc, numbered rooms , houses, runs and pens, identification bands/ collars, ear tags/buttons, microchips, tattoos or some combination of the above systems. All new animal arrivals shall be scanned for microchips as part of the normal entry into an animal facility(Pounds, Shelters and Pet Shops)

Classification and Separation-

1. Housing: Animals housed in the same primary enclosure shall be maintained in compatible groups.
2. Behavior: Any animal exhibiting aggressive behavior shall be housed individually and placed in a primary enclosure that is safe for the animal and prevents the animal from injuring or biting the public, personnel or other housed animals.
3. Quarantine: Animals under quarantine or being treated for a suspected communicable disease shall be physically separated from other susceptible animals to minimize the spread of disease.
4. Gender Issues: (Dogs and Cats) Animals that have reached sexual maturity shall be kept in primary enclosures separate from those of the opposite sex. Females in estrus shall not be kept in the same enclosure, run, pen or exercise area with males. Any animal that is pregnant and due to deliver offspring shall be housed individually in a pen, run or primary enclosure or exercise area for a minimum of one (1 week prior to the estimated delivery date
5. Young Animals: Dogs and cats under the age of four (4) months shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure, pen, run or exercise area with adult animals other than their mother or foster mother unless under direct staff supervision. Special attention shall be directed to mothers and neonates including maternal nutrition and environmental stress. It is illegal to sell, transfer, give away or adopt any dog or cat under eight weeks(8) of age and rabbits, gerbils and hamsters under the age of four(4) weeks.
6. Nursery: Primary enclosures for dogs and cats from weaning to four months of age shall be large enough to accommodate all occupants allowing them to turn around, stand up, lie down, exercise postural movements, provide normal thermal regulation and encourage socialization .
7. Observation: Each animal shall be observed by an animal caretaker or someone under the caretaker's direct supervision on at least a daily (minimum)basis. Sick, injured or diseased animals shall be provided with veterinary care or euthanized by an approved humane method as per current A.V.M.A. Guidelines for Euthanasia.
8. Animal Ownership: Animals of different ownership shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure without owner knowledge of this and a written statement signed by `the owner consenting to that form of housing.

6.34 Animal Control Devices:

1. Definition: Any device used for behavioral control of pet animals
2. Animal control devices shall be used for the safety of pet animals and their handlers, provided they meet criteria for being humane and are approved according to manufacturer's intended use.
3. Battery operated or electrical devices such as a shock collar or electrical fence shall be used only with the owner's knowledge and written consent.

6.35 Inspections:

All animal housing facilities shall be subject to inspection yearly or as often as needed and upon request, access to any part of that facility must be given to appointed personnel .

Foster Care or rescue facilities directly involved with pounds and shelters are also subject to the same laws and regulations and inspection procedures as the parent shelters and pounds.(For a more detailed discussion see the section on Foster Care, Rescue and Adoption.)

6.36 Transportation of Animals:

I. Vehicles

a- Vehicles used in the primary transportation of pet animals shall be required to provide fresh or filtered air to all animals being transported without exposure to injurious drafts. Adequate ventilation and air flow must be provided to all animals during transport to allow normal breathing and in hot weather to prevent heat stress. Precautions shall be taken to prevent engine exhaust gas from coming into the primary enclosure. Adequate ventilation can be provided through the use of pop out or roll down windows , roof exhaust fans, air conditioning or a combination of these methods.

II. Enclosures

- a- All animals shall be confined within the vehicle during transportation.
- b- Temporary enclosures such as compartments, transport cages or crates if used to transport animals, shall be secured , water proof, constructed of cleanable material and designed to protect the health and ensure the safety of the animals. Such enclosures shall have adequate ventilation to ensure the comfort and health of animals at all times.
- c- Such enclosures shall be constructed or positioned in a vehicle in a manner that :
 - 1-) Each animal in the vehicle has access to sufficient air for normal breathing .
 - 2) The openings of the enclosures shall be designed to allow access at all times for easy emergency removal of the animals.
 - 3) All animals are protected from the elements
 - 4) The animal areas of the vehicle shall be heated or cooled when needed to prevent hypothermia or hyperthermia of the animals being transported..
 - 5) Transportation of animals specifically noted in this section shall be in accordance with laws and regulations set forth for each species or as directed.
- d- Animals shall not be placed in enclosures directly over other animals in transit

unless the floor of that enclosure is fitted with material which prevents animal waste from entering the lower enclosure.

e- Enclosures shall be large enough so that each animal has space to turn around, fully lie down and be designed for easy access and visualization of each animal.

1) Animals not conditioned to each other may not be transported in the same primary enclosure.

2) A nursing mother with her young may be transported in the same primary enclosure.

3) All animals shall be visually inspected at regular intervals during transportation for signs of distress. If any animal appears to be in distress, appropriate measures must be taken to relieve that stressful situation.

f- All enclosures shall be cleaned and sanitized after each animal between trips daily or more often as needed.

g- Animals being transported shall be offered water sufficient to prevent dehydration.

h- All animals transported longer than eight (8) hours shall be removed for urination, defecation and exercise and offered food in accordance to the species, age, gender and physical condition of the animal.

i- Cats in transit more than six (6) hours shall have a litter pan in the enclosure. The litter pan shall not be larger than 50 % of the floor surface of the individual enclosure.

j- All vehicles shall contain appropriate equipment that includes but is not limited to: gloves, portable stretcher, variable lengths and sizes of rope, communication devices (cellular phone, car telephone, CB radio, personal 2 way radio, etc.) basic tool kit, flashlight , flares, traps, bolt cutters, camera and film, portable animal carriers, fire extinguisher Type BC, animal and human first aid kits, list of veterinarians names, addresses and telephone numbers , brochures relating to spay/neuter, RI Anti-cruelty Laws and Regulations, refuse and cadaver bags and specific local codes of standards for animal care. These items shall be properly stored in a neat and orderly way and be easy to obtain when they are needed.

k- Separation and classification shall be similar to those issues discussed under primary enclosures.

l- All vehicles used for the transportation of animals shall have appropriate inspection and insurance forms covering the vehicle and driver.

6.37 Employees:

A specific number of people shall be employed to maintain the prescribed level of professional care. The individuals shall be trained in the proper humane care and handling of animals, be good observers of animal behavior and have a sensitive caring attitude for animals and people. A job description for all employees shall be written and in place in one or more forms (i.e. on paper, stored on cd, disk , diskette, etc.) A yearly review of all training shall be required for personnel to upgrade skills and knowledge and inform employees of new knowledge , procedures, etc..

A written training procedure for new employees is also strongly advised. Written procedures for handling animal related injuries (i.e. bite wounds, scratches, exposure to potentially harmful animal wastes) which may be related to contracting various infectious, contagious and zoonotic diseases.

A written list of all personnel listing and documenting all current protection via vaccination for Rabies, Tetanus, or other diseases shall be on file . This list shall be reviewed on an annual basis. Workman's compensation insurance and forms as well as other insurance coverage for all employees shall be on file and posted as per local and state law. All employees working with animals shall be under the direct supervision of at least one person who possesses an experienced background in animal care, animal husbandry or a specific related field of study. Training of employees shall also include methods to provide protection from physical and verbal harm. It is suggested to consult a law enforcement official who deals in security and employee personal safety.

Volunteers- Appropriate training, insurance, vaccinations, identification, age related legal issues and laws shall be reviewed before allowing volunteer help in any animal housing facility.

Rule 7.00 VIOLATIONS

The Department of Environmental Management may make regulations governing the care of animals within the State of Rhode island; and any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of these regulations shall be subject, upon conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the first offense and no to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the second offense and loss of specimen(s) and revocation of license and or certificate after public hearing, per R.I.G.L. 4-19-11.3.

Rule 8.00 Severability

If any provisions of these rules and regulations is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or provisions of the regulations shall not be affected thereby. These regulations supercede any prior regulations.

RULE 9.00 Consistency

No provisions of these regulations shall be construed to prevent enforcement of any state, federal, or local laws and regulations duly adopted for the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare.

Rule 10.00 EFFECTIVE DATES

These regulations will take effect on the date specified in the attached certification of promulgation by the Director of Environmental Management.

The foregoing rules and regulations, after due notice an opportunity for hearing, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this-----day of----- to become effective twenty (20) days after filing, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4-19 Section 4-19-13 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode island of 1956, as amended.

Signature, Director, RIDEM

Notice Given on
Public Hearing held on
Filing Date
Effective date

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RIDEM LOGO HERE

DRAFT 10-18-2004 #4

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE

**PART THREE (III)
HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE**

EFFECTIVE _XXXXXXXXXXXX

Authority : These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-35, 42-17 and Title 4,

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RULE 1.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to:

Provide written regulations and guidelines for the feeding, housing, care and management of animals in, or under the control of, licensed animal care facilities and related animal rescue and animal care operations in Rhode Island.

RULE 2.00 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Title 4 entitled Animals and Animal Husbandry, Chapters 4-1 to 4-22, in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

Comfortable housing and appropriate husbandry is an essential element in good animal care. It is impossible to develop a single definition of comfortable housing and adequate husbandry that is applicable to all facilities. Comfort depends on a variety of subjective and objective factors. Experienced animal-care workers know that the well being of animals is not entirely dependent on a modern physical plant and the newest of housing equipment. Well trained and motivated personnel frequently can overcome physical deficiencies to assure a high quality of animal care. Therefore, satisfactory housing and husbandry is necessary to insure that all systems of management, care, and housing permits animals to grow, mature, or behave normally, and be maintained in good health, while protecting the health of humans.

RULE 4.00 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purpose of all applicable state laws, regulations, goals and policies.

These regulations will apply to any facilities, person or organization that imports, procures, impounds, captures, accepts, releases, transfers, transports, adopts, fosters, feeds, shelters, buys, sells, trades, euthanizes, provides care for or facilitates the management of animals for the purpose

of rescue, adoption, retail sale, wholesale sale, private exotic animal possession, exhibition, fair and show within the State of Rhode Island.

RULE 5.00 DEFINITIONS

GLOSSERY OF TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS PENDING FINAL DRAFTING
Definitions provided for in Rhode Island General Law Title 4, Chapters 1-22, as amended, will apply to these regulations, including the definitions listed below:

RULE 6.00 HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE

A. General Statements-

1) All facilities shall have a licensed veterinarian (s) on call with an emergency phone of the clinic or hospital posted in a prominent place. It is suggested that a second veterinary facility be used as a backup for the primary veterinary facility. There shall be a regular program of veterinary care for the facility. A written copy of this program shall be available to all workers and reviewed on an annual basis with the veterinarian.

2) All animals shall be observed at least daily by a qualified person or persons. Any animal(s) showing signs of illness shall receive veterinary care appropriate for that illness given in a timely manner and recommended therapy followed or the animal(s) euthanized in a humane manner.

3) A preventive health care program shall be in place to combat the possibility of infectious and or zoonotic diseases. Periodic consultation with a veterinarian is strongly advised to strengthen the preventive health care program .

4) Prescription medication can only be given to animals under the specific direction of a licensed veterinarian. All prescription medications must be in the original container as directed by the veterinarian or pharmacy and given to the individual animal as per veterinary directions on the label. Animals boarding at a facility shall be given medication as directed by the owner's veterinarian.

5) All animals that die at a facility shall be refrigerated or frozen or disposed of in an appropriate manner that will not cause a problem in accordance with the owner's or the veterinarian's instructions. If a necropsy is indicated, the animal shall be refrigerated and held pending instructions of the owner or facility veterinarian .All information relating to the death of the animal(s) shall be kept pending review by the facility director or their appointed representative in counsel with the facility veterinarian. The time of death, if known, shall be accurately recorded.

B. Disease Control

1. Zoonotic Disease Reporting - Reporting requirements exist under Rhode Island General Laws 4-4-3 as well as possibly other statutes, rules and regulations of various cities and towns.

2. Cleanliness- All areas and isolation/quarantine rooms which contain pet animals having infectious or transmissible disease shall be cleaned and sanitized daily if not more frequently.

3. Transfer of Animals- Reasonable care shall be taken to release or transfer animals that are free of disease. Diseased animals can be transferred to a veterinary facility for appropriate care or returned to the owner under direct veterinary supervision. Quarantined animals shall not be released until the quarantine is rescinded or until they are quarantined at another approved facility.

4. Quarantine- Quarantine requirements exist under Rhode Island State General Laws 4-4-23,4-4-9, 4-11-9, 4-13-29, 4-19-13 as well as possibly other statutes , rules and regulations of various cities and towns.

C. Quarantine/Isolation

1.All animal facilities shall maintain a separate approved area for the quarantine isolation of sick animals from other healthy animals. This is needed to reduce the risk of spreading infectious or zoonotic diseases.

2.The duration of quarantine may vary with the species and specific disease. If the source is known , the animal may only need to spend a short time in quarantine / isolation.

Animals of unknown origin as with stray dogs and cats may require a longer stay before they are released from the facility or moved into the facility from a few days to as long as a few months.

3.Quarantine- Is defined as the segregation of newly arrived animals from those animals already in the animal facility

Isolation- Is defined as the segregation of suspected or known to be diseased animals from animals known to be in good health.

4.Basic Isolation Requirements:

a. Location

The location of the isolation area shall be based on the individual animal facility

physical plant . The main reason for this area is to provide a physical barrier to the transmission of disease.

b. Outside- A separate area away from the main animal housing facility is an excellent isolation facility since it is not within the main housing area and disease transmission is contained in that isolation area. However, it is a disadvantage to have to visit this area frequently or send workers to check on animals in isolation in addition to their daily work. It may also be difficult to maintain proper temperature and ventilation to the standards of the main facility.

c. Inside-an isolation area within the housing facility is easier to visit and check on the health status of those animals in isolation. This area shall be away from the main animal facility and traffic areas to reduce the possible spread of infectious disease.

d. Specific Needs

1. Entry to isolation shall be by one entrance only to reduce the threat of disease transmission.

2. Doors shall have a window to be used to reduce the need to enter the area to observe the animals ' health status.

3. Ventilation

a-A negative pressure gradient shall exist in the isolation facility to reduce the dissemination of pathogens.

b- Air exchange shall be separate from the main animal facility and be 100 % turnover with 10 -15 changes per hour.

4. The design of the facility shall be for easy cleaning and disinfection.

5. Ambient temperature shall be between 55-85 degrees F.

6. If possible, a source of hot and cold water shall be within the isolation area.

7. All needed equipment shall be stored within the facility and replaced in a timely manner. This will help eliminate the need to enter and leave the isolation area to obtain items and increase the risk the spread of disease. All items in the isolation area shall be specifically designated for use in this facility. This will eliminate the chance of items being used in the main facility (i.e. mop and bucket, waste bins, brooms, etc.)

8. A list of proper procedures for the isolation shall be posted or in the facility for easy access.

9. All bowls, dishes, clothing shall be disinfected to prevent disease spread.

10. Protective gowns , gloves and footwear (preferably disposable) shall be used by all workers.

11. All workers upon exit from the isolation shall disinfect footwear or use disposable foot covers. Oval plastic tubs make excellent foot baths for disinfection. Change the disinfectant daily.

12. Any disinfectant for use in the isolation shall be effective against bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. Care must be taken to determine the use of each type of disinfectant in the facility based on the package label . A simple disinfectant is a 1:30 mixture 1 part bleach and 30 parts water. Care shall be

given in the use of bleach around animals with respiratory disease. Cats may have sensitivities to disinfectants specifically phenol based products.

D. Protocol for Isolation

1. Report all suspected zoonotic diseases to appropriate authorities.
2. Only qualified trained workers shall be allowed in an isolation
3. Keep in close contact with the facility veterinarian about the health status of animals in isolation
4. Select those animals that go into isolation based on need (i.e. is a suspected parvovirus dog more important than a dog with suspected kennel cough ? Who goes where?)
5. A separate area for cats away from dogs is ideal.
6. All waste shall go in a designated double plastic bag container.
7. Shredded paper or recycled newspaper in pellet form is excellent for cat litter.
8. Don protective items of clothing on entry and remove those items on exit from an isolation area.
9. Disinfect hands and feet prior to exit from the isolation facility.
- 10 All items that go out of the isolation shall be disinfected.
11. After an animal leaves the area, the cage or specific housing unit shall be disinfected
12. All bowls, dishes, feeding bottles, toys, towels, etc. left in a cage shall be disinfected before a new animal occupies the cage.
13. Make sure that the health status of all care -givers is adequate for work in an isolation facility. (physical and mental states may dictate that an individual may not be able to work in the isolation on a specific day or with certain animals)
14. Whenever the isolation facility is emptied, it should be completely disinfected.

The goal of an isolation facility is to prevent pathogens from gaining access to the animals in the main housing facility.

It takes preparation, time, vigilance and patience to keep pathogens from spreading in an animal housing facility . The result of this effort is the general good health of all animals and humans at the facility.

E .General Reasons for Quarantine/Isolation of Animals

1. Known (confirmed) or suspect animal with contagious or zoonotic disease at animal housing facility.
2. General malnutrition of animal(s)
3. Severe parasitism (ectoparasites and or endoparasites)
4. Dangerous /Vicious animal
5. Rabies Suspect (See Guidelines for Rabies Quarantine)
6. Any animal known to violate RI General Laws concerning importation

F. Conditioning Program

1. Definition: Conditioning is defined as the physiological and behavioral adjustment

to a new environment. The time required for that adjustment to occur is called the conditioning period.

2. It is a good practice to have a conditioning program that includes the following procedures:

- a. Upon arrival, (all animals) a physical exam including appropriate clinical and laboratory diagnostic tests.
- b. Veterinary care and treatment for ectoparasitism and endoparasitism and other appropriate prophylactic and therapeutic procedures such as immunizations, worming, etc. as needed by individual species to protect animals for infectious diseases.
- c. Adaption to specific diets including supplemental feeding if needed to meet the nutritional requirements of the individual species and animal.
- d. Observation of animals within a quarantine area until free of signs of communicable disease is determined.
- e. Specific husbandry (grooming) procedures such as bathing, nail trimming, ear cleaning and clipping of matted fur, etc. can be performed during the conditioning period.
- f. There is no specific optimal time for a conditioning period.

Remember that humane care and treatment are of primary importance in the conditioning program of all animals in the primary housing facility. This means to care for and be watchful of and be concerned with and to look after every animal.

G. General Considerations for Disease Prevention in Animals

1. Perform an examination of all newly arrived animals into the facility
2. Quarantine all newly acquired animals
3. Isolate all animals that exhibit signs of disease and seek appropriate veterinary care.

Details on infectious and zoonotic diseases can be obtained by consultation with the veterinarian for the facility, the office of the Rhode Island State Veterinarian or the Rhode Island Department of Health.

H. General Symptoms of Disease in Animals

1. Ocular Discharge (eye drainage)
2. Nasal Discharge (nose drainage)
3. Coughing - Breathing Difficulty
4. Anorexia (poor appetite)
5. Lethargy
6. Diarrhea
7. Vomiting
8. Neurological Deficits - (abnormal gait, seizures, dragging of one or more limbs)
9. Excess Salivation (Drooling)

10. Fever - (determined by thermometer)
11. Bloody urine
12. Dehydration
13. Behavior Changes
14. Vocalizing - Crying
15. Constant Scratching
16. Excess hair or feather loss

If an animal exhibits any of these symptoms or other symptoms a veterinarian must be consulted and the animal placed in isolation. Many diseases present with different symptoms not all of which are the same with each animal.

I. Disease Prevention Recommendations

1. Where possible, vaccinate and worm all animals
2. Ensure proper sanitation and cleaning of the animal facility
3. Isolate all sick animals
4. Ensure all animals have proper shelter, nutrition and clean fresh water based on species, age, gender and physical status.
5. Make the environment as free of stress for the animals as possible

Remember that proper veterinary care of animals goes beyond prevention, diagnosis and disease control . It also requires monitoring animal care and welfare and providing proper handling of all animals to prevent or reduce their pain and distress while in the animal facility.

Suggested Space for Routine Housing of Animals

SPECIES	WEIGHT	TYPE OF HOUSING	OVERALL SIZE WIDTH-DEPTH-HT			NO. OF ANIMALS
Dogs	Up to 30#	Pen or Run	46"	72"	36"	1
	30#-60#	Pen or Run	48"	72"	48"	1
	Over 60#	Pen or Run	84"	120"	60"	1
Dogs	Up to 30#	Cage	36"	32"	32"	1

	30#- 60#	Cage	48"	36"	36"	1
	Over 60#	Cage	72"	36"	48"	1
CATS	Any weight	Cage	24"	24"	24"	1
RABBITS	Any weight	Cage	24"	24"	24"	1 or 2
GUINEA PIGS		Cage	18"	20"	8"	2 - 4
HAMSTERS		Cage	14"	20"	8"	Up to 10
MICE		Cage	12'	18"	5"	10 - 20

Suggested Space for Routine Housing of Animals II

SPECIES	WEIGHT	TYPE OF HOUSING	OVERALL SIZE WIDTH-DEPTH-HT			NO. OF ANIMALS
BIRDS	Individual	Cage	6"	10"	6"	1 - 2
BIRDS SMALL	Group	Cage	24"	30"	24"	Up to 20

Please Note: The above chart contains only minimal suggested requirements. Please see the text of the current standards of housing in animal care under the individual animals for more information.

J. PREVENTIVE VETERINARY HEALTH CARE

1. All facilities shall have a written program of veterinary health care for the animals in their care and reviewed on an annual basis.

2. This program of veterinary health care shall include domestic livestock, horses, as well as dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, rodents, birds, fishes, snakes amphibians and various exotic animals.

3. A Rhode Island licensed veterinarian shall be consulted about all appropriate veterinary preventive health care on a regular basis. The minimal standards of veterinary care shall include but not be exclusive of the following:

1. Regular veterinary health exams of all animals
2. No sick or injured animal will be sold, adopted, placed, traded or moved to a different facility without a veterinary health exam and prior notification of the RI State public health veterinarian (RI Gen. Laws Title 4 Chapter 4-4 Section 4-4-9)
3. Appropriate vaccinations as per species
4. Appropriate worming as per species
5. Proper shelter
6. Clean potable water available at all times
7. Proper nutrition as per species, gender, age, and medical condition.
8. Environmental enrichment
9. Exercise as per species
10. Proper animal husbandry and grooming to include attention to the coat, claws, and hoof care (trimming, shoeing etc.)

4. All decisions about veterinary preventive health care shall be decided by the consulting veterinarian for that facility along with the Animal Control Officer (ACO), Director, Guardian, owner or person designated responsible for the facility in which that particular animal resides.

K. NECESSARY VETERINARY CARE

1. Primary basic veterinary medical care shall be provided for all sick and injured animals on a case-by-case basis.

2. The decision when to provide appropriate veterinary care shall be decided based on discussion with the on call veterinarian.
3. All animals that are sick or injured shall receive immediate veterinary care until the type and extent of the injury or cause of the animal's sickness has been determined by the facility veterinarian.
4. The need for after hours, weekend and holiday veterinary care shall be determined based on the individual circumstances of the case.

~~GUIDELINES~~ **PROTOCOL FOR INITIAL VETERINARY CONTACT
FOR SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS**

1. How, where and when animal found
2. How was animal injured or how did the animal come to be sick (Auto accident, shot, kicked, poisoned, fell, fight with another animal, found sick, brought in sick, unknown etc.)
3. What is the condition of the animal?
 - a. Respiratory Distress (Breathing Difficulty?) Severity? Nasal or Ocular discharge?
 - b. Bleeding? Where? How much? Skin bruised? Mouth bleeding? Gum color (pale, pink, blue, very white, yellow, etc.)
 - c. Any vomiting or diarrhea? How much? How often? Any blood in vomit or diarrhea?
 - d. Lacerations or skin wounds? Where? Describe? Bleeding? How Much?
 - e. Can this animal walk or stand? Describe! Lameness present? Which leg(s)? Any soft tissue trauma? (Lacerations, open sucking wounds, swellings etc.) Any bone fractures? Bone(s) protruding through the skin?
 - f. Describe the animal's behavior and appearance- shy, aggressive, barking, vocalizing, depressed, calm comatose, etc.
 - g. Does the animal appear to be in pain? Vocalizing, whining, rapid breathing, depressed, quiet, not moving?
 - h. Overall body Appearance-normal, thin, emaciated, overweight, and obese? Weight-estimated? Actual?
 - i. Skin and Hair coat-Normal, dry, scaly, smelly, matted, ticks, fleas, maggots other insects? Abscess, skin growth?
 - j. Eye appearance-Normal, enlarged, bloody, pus drainage. Swelling around the eye? Cloudy? Red, blue, yellow, clear ?
 - k. Miscellaneous- Highly aggressive, Bite wound (known or unknown source), vaccination history, Rabies suspect, microchip? Number? Tattoo/ Collar, harness, tags or other external medallions? ABUSE/CRUELTY CASE? Species, breed, sex age, color. Photographs, videos, other electronic data?

The decision to provide immediate veterinary care for an animal can be based on one of the following categories:

1. EMERGENCY VETERINARY CARE

Life threatening injury or sickness that includes owned as well as those of unknown Status and suspect abuse/cruelty cases

Require immediate veterinary examination

2. NON-EMERGENCY VETERINARY CARE

Non-life threatening injury or sickness that will need veterinary care

3. TERMINAL INJURY OR SICKNESS

Animals, which have injuries or sickness, that appears to be near death and may be beyond even immediate veterinary care

L. VETERINARY TRIAGE

In order to save time and aid the veterinarian and emergency hospital staff, the following are classifications of veterinary emergency care. Since emergencies may vary in how they present it is up to the on call veterinarian and staff to determine the actual type of emergency.

1. Veterinary Emergency Classifications

A. Emergencies which need immediate veterinary exam and treatment or death may be imminent, suspected abuse/ cruelty cases, owned or unowned

1. Acute Respiratory Distress or Failure (severe breathing difficulty)
2. Grand Mal Seizures
3. Heatstroke or Fever greater than 107 F (via thermometer)
4. Comatose or in Shock
5. Severe loss of blood
6. Open thoracic (Chest) wounds
7. Severe burns with shock
8. Bites of poisonous animals
9. Severe hypothermia (low body temperature) along with shock/Coma
10. Severe hyperthermia (high body temperature) along with shock/Coma
11. Severe heart failure
12. Drowning/Near Drowning
13. Electrocution
14. Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus Complex (Severe Bloat)
15. Gunshot /Penetrating wounds (arrow, knife , etc)

B. Emergencies which need to be seen within one hour owned or unowned

1. Mild blood loss
2. Shock
3. Orthopedic Injuries (Bone fractures, dislocations, etc.)
4. Severe Pain and or discomfort
5. Respiratory difficulty (difficult breathing, open mouth breathing)
6. Persistent vomiting and or diarrhea
7. Compound fractures less than 24 hours old
8. Seizure-like Episodes
9. Severe eye Trauma (proptosed eye, foreign body, ruptured eye)
10. Fever greater than 105 F
11. Severe burns
12. Rectal prolapse
13. Vaginal prolapse
14. Open abdominal wounds less than 24 hours old
15. Inability to urinate and in pain or discomfort
16. Inability to defecate and in pain or discomfort
17. Known history of poisoning
18. Acute spinal or major peripheral nerve damage (Trauma, spinal disc)
19. Severe infected wounds
20. Neglect Cases (Severe)
21. Dystocia-with blockage

C. Emergencies that need to be seen within 3-4 hours are stable and determined by a veterinary consult can wait to be treated. Owned or unowned status.

1. Severe Upper Respiratory Disease (Ocular discharge, Nasal discharge, sneezing with bloody discharge etc.)
2. Dystocia (Difficult birth) without blockage of birth canal
3. Moderate Pain (discomfort is mild, may or may not vocalize)
4. Eye injury without severe bleeding or eye rupture
5. Spinal injury
6. Mild to severe vomiting and or diarrhea –non responsive to conservative methods of treatment
7. Compound fractures greater than 24 hours old
8. Fever less than 105 F
9. Inability to urinate but appears not be in distress
10. Inability to defecate but appears not to be in distress
11. Hematuria (blood in urine) but is in distress
12. Severe coughing and gagging
13. Eye injury –severe conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer etc.
14. Wounds less than 24 ours old that are not bleeding
15. Any abnormal mass (swelling) that is causing discomfort

16. Wounds that are bleeding but controlled with a pressure bandage
17. Excess salivation
18. Abnormal behavior
19. Mild to severe self mutilation

M. Non-Emergency Veterinary Care

1. Conditions which may or may not be true emergencies based on a veterinary consult and can wait 24 hours to be seen by a veterinarian for an examination
 1. Any symptoms which are deteriorating treated or not treated
 2. Closed fractures and dislocations
 3. Hematuria (blood in the urine) without distress
 4. Mild coughing and gagging
 5. Acute skin disease causing mild to moderate discomfort
 6. Soft tissue mass (swelling) causing mild discomfort
 7. Eye disease (conjunctivitis, drainage etc) not responding to treatment
 8. Non-acute spinal or peripheral nerve damage
 9. Wounds greater than 24 hours old (abscess, hematoma, etc.)
 10. Fresh small wounds (Lacerations, punctures, abrasions etc.)
 11. Jaundice with other symptoms
 12. Anemia with other symptoms
 13. Mild upper respiratory symptoms (sneezing, ocular discharge, nasal discharge, oral lesions, etc.)
 14. Reproductive Conditions
2. Conditions which are stable based on a veterinary consult and can wait 72 hours for a veterinary examination. These conditions can be treated until a veterinary examination is performed.
 1. Any soft tissue swelling
 2. Chronic skin disease without discomfort
 3. Overlong nails, hooves, poor husbandry

4. Ear problems (Hematomas, infections)
5. Lameness but weight bearing
6. Old wounds (lacerations, abrasions, punctures etc.) greater than 24 hours
7. Mild coughing
8. Mild respiratory disease
9. Mild dental disease (Fractured teeth, gum disease, etc.)
10. Nutritional Conditions
11. Behavioral Conditions

3. Terminal Injury or Sickness

a. Critical or near death animals which may need to be euthanized by a veterinarian. Owned or unowned status

1. Comatose with multiple injuries
2. Comatose – related to debilitating medical conditions
3. Hemorrhage from one or multiple sources leading to shock
4. Spinal cord lesions such as fractured spine with complete severing of the cord (broken back), tumors, trauma, etc.
5. Severe soft tissue injuries (degloving injury, limb avulsion etc.)
6. Emaciated with extremely poor condition (Very old animals, Cruelty-Abuse animals, end stage kidney disease, heart failure, Cancer)
7. Moribund condition leading to shock and comatose state
8. Severe trauma (Auto accident, high rise syndrome, gunshot, poisoning)
9. Any condition which may pose a public health threat (Zoonotic Disease or Foreign Animal Disease)

4. All cases shall have accurate records kept documenting the condition, prognosis and treatment.

4. A written medical record describing medications, tests, and followup care shall be signed by the attending veterinarian
5. All medical records shall be retained at least one year.
6. Animals with medical conditions requiring surgery or other medical procedures shall be delayed until owner approval or if unowned approval of the facility director, or guardian, unless the attending veterinarian feels the medical condition is life threatening and the surgery or medical procedure will save the animal's life.
7. All other medical treatments to stabilize the animal shall depend on the individual case as evaluated by the attending veterinarian and with consultation with the owner, ACO, facility director, or guardian.
8. This section does not apply to veterinary facilities, zoos, aquaria, wildlife or research facilities.

N. BIOSECURITY ISSUES

Biosecurity issues are management practices that limit exposure to disease. These issues can limit the spread of disease from one location to another via animal-to-animal or animal to human contact. Introducing new animals into a closed group of animals (farm, zoo, pound, shelter, pet shop, petting zoo, etc) can result in the spread of a wide variety of agents such as viruses, bacteria , chlamydia, prions and parasites.

~~SUGGESTIONS~~ *PROTOCOL FOR REDUCING THE RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION*

- J. Isolate and or quarantine all new animals for a specific period of time that exceeds the incubation period for most of the diseases of that species of animal. The time factor will vary with the animal species and the agent.
- K. Comprehensive veterinary health exams of all new animals. The examination shall include appropriate vaccinations, worming, and specific laboratory tests for infectious diseases and parasites as well as inspection of hooves, skin coat , tack and ancillary equipment in contact with the animal(s).
- L. Avoid animal-to-animal contact of other species as well as contact with food and water to reduce stress and the transmission of disease such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, Leptospirosis, Tuberculosis, prion diseases and parasites.
- M. Provide proper storage of food and water
 - a. Food
 1. Secure all food containers to resist vermin, birds, insects and parasites.
 2. Check all food for contamination and store properly.
 3. Trace back all food sources as well as bedding.
 4. Do not feed food from the ground as it increases the risk of internal parasites.
 5. Feed only approved food from known sources

6. Provide maximum nutrition for all stages of growth, age, gender and production.
7. Do not feed food specifically made for another species.

b. Water

1. Monitor all sources of water for purity
 - a. Free of contaminants
 - b. Free of infectious agents (bacteria, protozoa, viruses, parasites etc.)
 - c. Assay mineral content and levels of toxins
 - d. Periodically check water available from local ponds, streams, lakes and rivers.

N. Waste Removal

- a. Proper storage and removal from facility
- b. Monitor where all waste is taken
- c. Eliminate vermin, birds and insects by keeping the facility clean and free of waste

O. Eliminate stray or wild animal incursions within the animal facility

- a. Use security fences and/or alarm systems
- b. Where possible, relocate all strays and wildlife

P. Restrict access of vehicles and equipment from other facilities

- a. Provide a designated area away from the facility for parking and short-term storage.
- b. Sanitize all equipment entering and leaving the facility.

Q. Make the facility restricted or limited to entry

- a. No outside visitors
- b. Post signs such as “Restricted Entry”, “Authorized Personnel Only” or “No Visitors Allowed”

R. Restrict the travel of personal animals (Dogs, cats, birds etc.) from one facility to another

S. Monitor all vendors, Veterinarians, Farriers, Agricultural Extension Representatives, Artificial Insemination Specialists, and Drivers etc. as to where they have traveled prior to coming to your facility.

T. Personal Husbandry

- a. Disinfect all shoes-boots upon entry and exit from the facility
- b. Use disposable boots, gloves and coveralls
- c. Wash hands and clean them with an approved disinfectant
- d. Do not visit other facilities and return to a new one.

- e. Do not eat, drink, smoke or do personal grooming at the facility

U. Train all personnel in biosecurity basics and have written instructions available

including appropriate telephone numbers and contact agencies.

V. Observe all guidelines established by the CDC (Communicable Disease Center) to

Prevent diseases transmitted from farm animals to humans (Petting Zoos, County and State Fairs, Farms, etc.) MMWR April 20, 2001 Vol.50 No.15 p293-297

- a. Information should be provided. Persons providing public access to farm animals should inform visitors about the risk of enteric pathogens from farm animals to humans and strategies for prevention of such transmission.
 - b. Venues should be designed to decrease risk. Farm animal contact is not appropriate at food service establishments and infant care settings and special care should be taken in settings with school-aged children. At venues where farm animal contact is desired, layout should provide a separate area for humans where the animals are not allowed, as well as an ‘interaction’ area. Animal petting should occur only in the interaction area to facilitate close supervision and coaching of visitors.
 - c. Hand-washing facilities should be adequate. Hand washing stations should be available to both the animal-free area and the ‘interaction’ area. Running water, soap and disposable towels should be available so that participants can wash their hands immediately after contact with the animals. Children under 5 years old should wash their hands with adult supervision.
 - d. Hand to mouth activity should not be permitted in ‘interaction’ areas. Hand to mouth activities such as eating and drinking, smoking, and carrying toys and pacifiers should not be permitted in ‘interaction’ areas.
 - e. Persons at high risk for serious infections should observe heightened precautions. Farm animals should be handled by everyone as if the animals are colonized with human enteric pathogens. However, children under 5 years, the elderly, pregnant women and immunocompromised persons (e.g. those with HIV/AIDS) are at higher risk of serious infections. Such persons should weigh the risks of contact with farm animals. If allowed to have contact, adults should closely supervise children less than 5 years, with precautions strictly enforced.
 - f. Raw milk should not be served. Most people become infected with O 157* primarily by ingesting food (including meat, produce, fruit and juice) or water contaminated by animal feces. Petting farm animals or touching their surroundings that are contaminated with animal feces can also infect people, and then putting there unwashed hands in their mouth. *(E. coli O157)
14. Know the source of all new animals
- a. Obtain proper entry permits and health certificates
 - b. Appropriate blood tests and vaccination history of animals
 - c. Inspect all animals on and off the delivery vehicles prior to entry into the primary facility
 - d. Do not accept animals at night
15. All visitors and workers who have recently visited countries with known Foreign Animal Diseases shall be restricted from entry into the facility for a

- minimum of seven (7) days or more depending on the specific FAD.
16. Continually monitor all animals and report any sick or abnormal animals to the appropriate person or agency (private veterinary practitioner, State of RI Veterinarian, USDA Veterinarian, ACO, County Agriculture Representative, Health Department, Owner, Guardian, Facility Director, local Police or RI State Police.
 17. Constantly monitor information sources for current news about animal health
 18. Report any signs in livestock in general with the following:
 - i. Sudden death of unknown origin in a herd or flock
 - ii. Central nervous system abnormalities causing incoordination, falling, behavior changes.
 - iii. Ticks, fleas or maggots that look different or unusual.
 - iv. High morbidity (many of the animals in a herd or flock are sick with severe illness.
 - v. Any blistering around the mouth, nose, hooves or teats.
 - vi. Any associated animal sickness with human sickness.

O. DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

1. As written in RI DEM Rules and Regulations Governing Wild Animal Importation and Possession 1.02 Administrative Findings, CFR part 9, as well as various federal laws and regulations (Marine Mammal Act, Endangered Species Act, etc.). It is illegal to own, possess, sell, barter, trade, and give away etc. certain wild animals or their body parts. United States Federal and RI State Laws and Regulations require specific guidelines for the care and handling of wild animals.
2. Any person possessing or handling a wild animal capable of inflicting bodily harm on a human or other animal and failing to exercise proper care in safeguarding the public from such wild animals will be in violation of Section 4-18-11 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island and be subject to criminal and administrative legal proceedings which may include fines, confiscation of the said animals(s) including body parts and be responsible for all costs to feed, care for, Veterinary care, transport of the animals as well as costs for human and /or animals injured until all administrative proceedings are completed. (Section 7.00 Violations)
3. Wild animals shall mean vertebrate animals and invertebrate animals other than those defined as domestic animals or native wildlife.

P. HOARDING OF ANIMALS

An animal hoarder is defined as “someone who accumulated a large number of animals; fails to provide minimum standards of nutrition, sanitation and veterinary care: and fails to act on deteriorating conditions of the animals (including disease, starvation and even death) or the environment (severely overcrowded and unsanitary conditions) or the negative impact on the collection on their own health and well being.” G. Patronek, VMD PhD, Public Health Reports Jan-Feb 1999 1114: 81-87.

Hoarding is the pathological collection of animals. Any animal may be collected. The results of one scientific study found Cats (65%), Dogs (60%), Farm Animals (11%), and Birds (11%). The hoarder is usually female (76%), and sixty (60) years or older (46%). In eighty percent (80%) of the hoarding cases animals were found dead or in poor condition. The person hoarding has no idea they are hoarding or causing harm to themselves or the hoarded animals.

The fact that no psychological profile exists for an animal hoarder, makes it difficult to prosecute hoarding cases without using existing state animal cruelty laws. Hoarders have mental health problems and should be evaluated by a qualified psychiatric investigator.

ANIMAL EVALUATION FORM
Veterinarian Statement

Animal Description:

Species: Breed: Sex: Age:
Weight: ID# : Color:
Microchip #: Tattoo:

Additional Information:

Animal found at premises of

Location

Phone #

Cell Phone #

I, , am a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian , located at

Phone #

I am responding to a request by to evaluate the
above named animal.

I hereby certify that the above named animal exhibits the following:

Extreme emaciation	dehydration
Bite Wounds	respiratory infection
Trauma	shock
Excess hair loss	severe bleeding
Mange	fleas, lice, ticks
Fractures	infectious disease
Zoonotic disease	severe neglect

Behavior abnormalities

neurological disease

Other diseases or observations

Laboratory Tests:
Signature

Radiographs /Ultrasound:
Date:

ANIMAL EVALUATION FORM

Location of animal:

On premises:

relocated to:

Description of Treatment:

Medication(s):

Other comments:

If humane destruction of animal is to be performed.

I hereby certify that the above described animal is so maimed, diseased, disabled or infirm as to require euthanasia to be spared pain and suffering.

Signature (Veterinarian)

Date:

Signature (ACO, Facility Director)

Date:

(After New York State Humane Society Inc.)

PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

A PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN:

Licensee name				Veterinarian			
Business Name				Clinic/Hospital			
Mailing Address				Business Address			
City	State	Zip		City	State	Zip	
Telephone #				Telephone #			

The attending veterinarian shall establish, maintain and supervise programs of disease control , pre-procedural and post-procedural care, nutrition, pest and parasite control, euthanasia and adequate veterinary care for all animals on the premises of the licensee. A written program of adequate veterinary care between the veterinarian and the licensee shall be established and reviewed on an annual basis. All programs must include regularly scheduled visits to the facility by the veterinarian. Scheduled visits are required to monitor animal health and husbandry and to issue health certificates for saleable animals.

Please fill out the following forms. Lines which do not apply to the pet shop shall be marked N/A. Additional sheets may be added if needed to provide more detail.

I have read and completed this Program of Veterinary Care, and understand my responsibilities. Each party shall maintain a copy of this program on file.

Regularly scheduled visits by the veterinarian will occur according to the following schedule:

Signature of Licensee

Signature of Veterinarian

Date:

Date:

PROGRAM OF VETERINARY HEALTH CARE

1. Each licensee shall have an attending veterinarian who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals.
2. Each licensee shall retain a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Rhode Island. This formal relationship shall include a written program of veterinary health care and regularly scheduled visits to the facility by the veterinarian. All visits shall be documented by some form of written record and shall be signed and dated by the veterinarian. This document shall be available at the pet shop at the time of its inspection.
3. Each licensee shall maintain programs of adequate veterinary care including:
 - The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to comply with provisions of RI General Laws 4-19-11 and Animal Care Regulations.
 - The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases and injury.
 - The availability of emergency, weekend and holiday veterinary health care.
 - At least daily observation of all animals at the facility to assess their health and well-being. This observation may be by someone other than the veterinarian as long as the veterinarian has communication with that individual.
 - The veterinarian shall outline to personnel appropriate methods of treatment and handling for diseased animals or those requiring pre-procedural or post-procedural care.

PROGRAM OF VETERINARY HEALTH CARE

DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS

Check if N/A _____

Vaccinations

Specify the frequency of vaccination for the following:

Canine	Feline	Ferret
Distemper	Panleukopenia	Distemper
Parvovirus	Respiratory Diseases	Rabies
Hepatitis	Rabies	Other (Specify)
Bordetella	Bordetella	
Coronavirus	Infectious Peritonitis	
Leptospirosis	Leukemia	
Lyme Disease	Other (Specify)	
Other (Specify)		

Parasite Control Program

Document the frequency of sampling and treatment for the following:

Ectoparasites (fleas, ticks, lice, mites,
etc.) _____

Blood Parasites (Heartworm, Erlichia, Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever,
Babesiosis, etc.) _____

Intestinal Parasites (roundworm, tapeworm, hookworm, whipworm, protozoa, coccidian, etc
also list fecal exams and deworming product , dosage and frequency)

Emergency Care

Describe the provisions for all emergency, after hour, weekend and holiday care:

PROGRAM OF VETERINARY HEALTH CARE

Emergency Care

Have arrangements been made for backup coverage in the event that the primary veterinarian is unavailable? YES _____ NO _____

If so, please list that veterinarian or veterinary practice.

Euthanasia

All sick or injured animals shall be provided with appropriate veterinary care or be euthanized . Euthanasia shall be carried out in accordance with the current AVMA Panel on Euthanasia guidelines and appropriate Rhode Island General Laws. A signed statement by the attending veterinarian and a representative of the facility describing the condition of the animal, method of euthanasia, date and time of the euthanasia shall be retained in a written form at the facility for a minimum of two (2) years.

Miscellaneous Topics

The following topics shall have been discussed in the formulation of the Program of Veterinary Health Care:

- Quarantine/Isolation Procedures
- Hereditary/Congenital Conditions
- Nutrition as per species
- Anthelmintic medications(Worming medications)
- Proper handling of medications and biologics
- Disease control
- Pest Control
- Record keeping
- Zoonotic diseases
- General husbandry

Certification of health status at time of sale

No animal shall be sold, traded, bartered, given away or transferred to another facility without a valid written health certificate issued by a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian not more than seven business days prior to such transaction. Material misstatement by either the licensee or the veterinarian may lead to the loss or suspension of the individual pet shop license or the loss of the veterinarian's accreditation and referral to the Rhode Island State Board of Professional Licensing. The issuance of blank pre –signed health certificates is

viewed as a serious offense punishable by loss of accreditation and license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Rhode Island.

Conclusion

I have read the pet shop regulations in the Rhode Island General Laws, Animal Care Regulations and the guidelines described in the Program of Veterinary Health Care.

Licensee signature _____ Date:

Veterinarian signature _____

Rule 8.00 VIOLATIONS

The Department of Environmental Management may make regulations governing the care of animals within the State of Rhode island; and any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of these regulations shall be subject, upon conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the first offense and no to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the second offense and loss of specimen(s) and revocation of license and or certificate after public hearing, per R.I.G.L. 4-19-11.3.

Rule 9.00 Severability

If any provisions of these rules and regulations is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or provisions of the regulations shall not be affected thereby. These regulations supercede any prior regulations.

RULE 10.00 Consistency

No provisions of these regulations shall be construed to prevent enforcement of any state, federal, or local laws and regulations duly adopted for the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare.

Rule 11.00 EFFECTIVE DATES

These regulations will take effect on the date specified in the attached certification of promulgation by the Director of Environmental Management.

The foregoing rules and regulations, after due notice an opportunity for hearing, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this-----day of----- to become effective twenty (20) days after filing, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4-19 Section 4-19-13 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode island of 1956, as amended.

Signature, Director, RIDEM

Notice Given on
Public Hearing held on
Filing Date
Effective Date

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RIDEM LOGO HERE

DRAFT 10-18-2004 #4

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE

**PART FOUR (IV)
ANIMAL RESCUE AND FOSTER CARE**

EFFECTIVE _XXXXXXXXXXXX

Authority : These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapters 42-35, 42-17 and Title 4,
Chapters 1-22 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

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RULE 1.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to:

Provide written regulations and guidelines for the feeding, housing, care and management of animals in, or under the control of, licensed animal care facilities and related animal rescue and animal care operations in Rhode Island.

RULE 2.00 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Title 4 entitled Animals and Animal Husbandry, Chapters 4-1 to 4-22, in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

Comfortable housing and appropriate husbandry is an essential element in good animal care. It is impossible to develop a single definition of comfortable housing and adequate husbandry that is applicable to all facilities. Comfort depends on a variety of subjective and objective factors. Experienced animal-care workers know that the well being of animals is not entirely dependent on a modern physical plant and the newest of housing equipment. Well trained and motivated personnel frequently can overcome physical deficiencies to assure a high quality of animal care. Therefore, satisfactory housing and husbandry is necessary to insure that all systems of management, care, and housing permits animals to grow, mature, or behave normally, and be maintained in good health, while protecting the health of humans.

RULE 4.00 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purpose of all applicable state laws, regulations, goals and policies.

These regulations will apply to any facilities, person or organization that imports, procures, impounds, captures, accepts, releases, transfers, transports, adopts, fosters, feeds, shelters, buys,

sells, trades, euthanizes, provides care for or facilitates the management of animals for the purpose of rescue, adoption, retail sale, wholesale sale, private exotic animal possession, exhibition, fair and show within the State of Rhode Island.

RULE 5.00 DEFINITIONS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS PENDING FINAL DRAFTING

Definitions provided for in Rhode Island General Law Title 4, Chapters 1-22, as amended, will apply to these regulations, including the definitions listed below

- 1. Animal Rescue-means any person or group who facilitates or accepts animals for the purpose of finding permanent adoptive homes for animals and does not maintain a central licensed facility for keeping animals, but uses a system of fostering in private homes, or boarding or keeping in licensed regulating facilities.*
- 2. Foster Home- means a site at which through a written agreement with a licensed animal rescue facility, livestock rescue facility or primary licensed releasing agency provides care and /or rehabilitation for sick, injured, orphaned, juvenile or other pet animals that are otherwise the responsibility of the parent rescue facility.*
- 3. Livestock- means any animal(s) defined as livestock including but not limited to cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, camellids and cervids as per Rhode Island General Laws Title 4 Chapter 7 Section 6.*
- 4. Livestock Rescue – means any person or group who facilitates or accepts livestock for the purpose of finding permanent adoptive homes for livestock and does not maintain a central licensed facility for keeping livestock but uses a system of fostering in private homes, or boarding or or keeping in a licensed regulating facility.*
- 3.Mobile Adoption Facility- means a mobile vehicle that is used to adopt animals or livestock.*
- 4.Behavior Specialist- means a person trained to evaluate animal and livestock behavior such as a veterinarian , animal ethologist, or a certified animal behavior specialist.*

RULE 6.00 ANIMAL RESCUE AND FOSTER CARE

6.01 License Requirement

- A. No person or group shall operate a animal rescue or livestock rescue without an animal shelter license issued to the primary agency, group, organization or person as per RI General Laws Chapter 4-19 Animal Care.*
- B. Mobile Adoption Clinics shall be individually licensed as an animal shelter.*

C. Animal rescue and livestock rescue groups need not be licensed if they place ten (10) or less pet animals per year provided that documentation of less than ten (10) animals placed per year is provided to the Director annually on or before December 31st of each year.

6.02 Structural Standards

The primary facility where animals and livestock are kept shall be subject to the General Requirements, Part One (I) and Specific Requirements, Part Two (II) of the Animal Care Regulations as per the purpose of the regulations, when applicable, as well as the following basic standards when applicable:

- A. Building Structure-shall be constructed of sound building materials, be maintained in good repair, protect all animals and livestock from injury and restrict entry of other animals and contain those fostered within the facility.*
- B. Electricity shall be provided in this facility*
- C. Water- Fresh clean potable water shall be available to all animals and livestock for drinking.*
- D. Heating and Cooling shall be provided to all animals and livestock to maintain them in their thermo-neutral zone.*
- E. Ventilation shall be provided to all animals and livestock as fresh or filtered air to reduce odors, drafts and moisture and to maintain the health and comfort of the animals. Ventilation can be provided by natural or mechanical means such as fans windows, vents or air conditioning.*
- F. Lighting-Lighting in the form of natural and artificial light shall be provided for the animals and livestock in a diurnal pattern or as per species and to provide for maintenance of the facility.*
- G. Primary enclosures- where primary enclosures are used the cages, pens kennels and crates are to meet the following standards:*
 - 1. All primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and in good repair to protect the animals and livestock from injury, to contain them in a humane way and to keep predators away.*
 - 2. Floors- floors of the primary enclosure shall be constructed to prevent injury to the animal's and livestock's feet. Wire floors may be used if they are structurally sound and prevent sagging under the weight of the animal and the mesh is small enough to prevent the animal's feet from passing through the floor.*
 - 3. Cleaning Requirements-All surfaces of the primary facility shall be constructed of material that can be easily cleaned and sanitized.*
 - 4. Space Requirements- All primary enclosures shall allow each animal and livestock to turn, lie down, and exercise normal postural movements and have normal socialization with a cage mate where applicable. Primary enclosures for animals shall be in accordance with those standards set forth in the body of the Animal Care Regulations as required for all licensed agencies as set forth by the Director.*

H. Sanitation

- 1. Buildings and grounds shall be kept free of accumulation of trash.*
- 2. Animal and livestock wastes shall be removed from primary enclosures and exercise areas daily or more often.*
- 3. Animals and livestock shall be protected from exposure to water or chemical solutions when they are used to sanitize the primary enclosures and exercise areas.*
- 4. Primary enclosures and exercise areas shall be cleaned and sanitized daily or more often to reduce odors and prevent disease transmission.*
- 5. All primary enclosures shall be cleaned and sanitized after an animal leaves and prior to the entry a new animal in that enclosure.*
- 6. All food and water containers shall be kept clean and sanitized daily or more frequently.*
- 7. Hot and cold running water shall be available for cleaning and sanitization*

6.03 OUTDOOR FACILITIES

All outdoor facilities shall meet the standards as set forth in the General Requirements, Part One (I) of the Animal Care Regulations as per the purpose of the regulations, as applicable.

6.04 ANIMAL CARE All mobile adoption and foster care shall meet the standards and requirements as set forth in Part Three (3), Health and Veterinary Care, of the Animal Care Regulations as per the purpose of the regulations, as applicable.

- A. Food and Water - Animals and livestock shall be fed as per species, age, gender or special nutritional needs as per direction of a licensed Rhode Island veterinarian.*
- B. Fresh clean potable water shall be available at all times consistent with the needs of the individual animal species or under the direction of a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian.*
- C. All perishable food shall be refrigerated in a separate refrigerator for animals only.*
- D. All food containers for animals and livestock shall be clean and sanitary.*
- C. Waste containers shall be kept closed with a tight lid and be stored away from the primary enclosures.*

6.05 CLASSIFICATION AND SEPARATION

- A. All foster rescue and livestock rescue animals in the same primary enclosure shall be behavior evaluated for compatibility. Any animal or livestock exhibiting aggression shall be separated and housed individually.*

B. Appropriate husbandry and grooming shall be provided for each animal and livestock.

6.06 FOSTER CARE

A. All animals and livestock are the responsibility of the animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency and as such are not owned by the foster care giver.

B. Animals and livestock in the custody of the foster caregiver shall not be housed with or otherwise be exposed to animals in foster care settings without prior approval from the animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency.

C. All licensed releasing agencies, animal rescue and livestock rescue shall review the standards of care, length of time the animal will spend at the foster care facility and review who is responsible for food, water, veterinary care, toys, collars, leashes and food dishes, etc.

D. A signed foster care agreement shall be issued prior to placing any animal in foster care outlining the responsibilities and liability of the participating person.

E. The number of animals or livestock per foster care home shall be decided by the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue or livestock rescue in accordance with state and local city laws, regulations and ordinances.

F. If the foster care provider cannot provide care for the foster animal or livestock the animal or livestock shall be transferred to animal to another approved facility or location.

G. The final disposition of all animals or livestock is the choice of the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue or livestock rescue.

H. Detailed instructions shall be written as to how to handle an emergency such an animal escape, serious injury to the animal, if the animal bites a human, if the animal contacts a known wildlife rabies vector, if the animal dies, if the animal is stolen or if the animal is euthanized.

I. All foster care animals or livestock shall not be sold, traded, given away, used for breeding, bartered out or placed by a foster caregiver.

J. All foster caregivers shall undergo a pre-foster care orientation and review by animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency designee specific for this purpose.

K. All foster caregivers are subject to the same standards of the RI General Laws relating to animal cruelty and applicable to RI Gen Law 4-19-11

L. All animals and livestock shall be presented to the licensed releasing agency, livestock rescue or animal rescue at least every two weeks for evaluation by a veterinarian and /or evaluation by a representative of the licensed releasing agency animal rescue or livestock rescue. A permanent record of each visit shall be kept. If the foster caregiver provides their own veterinary care all records of the veterinary examinations shall be provided at the time of the every two week visit. Certain cases may need to be seen more frequently such as illness, behavioral problems, neonatal animals, geriatric animals or animals or livestock placed with new foster care givers with little experience.

6.07 NECESSARY VETERINARY CARE

All rescue groups and foster care facilities shall be subject to the standards and requirements as set forth in Part Three (3), Health and Veterinary Care, of the Animal Care Regulations as per the purpose of the regulations, as applicable.

- A. All animal rescue and livestock rescue groups shall have a working relationship with a Rhode Island licensed veterinarian(s). The name, address, telephone number and emergency phone numbers of the veterinarian shall be posted at the foster care facility and be available nights, weekend and holidays.*
- B. All animals and livestock shall be observed daily or more often.*
- C. All sick and injured animals and livestock shall have veterinary care provided in a timely manner or be humanely euthanized.*
- D. All animals and livestock shall have a veterinary examination, appropriate vaccinations as per species, treatment for internal and external parasites, behavior examination and disease free certification prior to being placed in foster care unless prior approved arrangements have been made.*
- E. All animals and livestock shall be vaccinated as per state and city laws, regulations and ordinances.*
- F. No animal or livestock shall be fostered that is currently under quarantine.*
- G. No animal or livestock shall be fostered that has a known or potential zoonotic or contagious infectious disease.*
- H. No animal or livestock shall be fostered that is injured or sick without a signed letter from a veterinarian and approval by the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue or livestock rescue.*
- I. No known vicious dog shall be fostered.*
- J. No animal or livestock shall be fostered if that animal(s) or livestock is involved in a legal case unless it is the opinion of the court that such animal(s) or livestock may be safely fostered without threat to the animal or livestock, foster caregiver or their family. Legal cases in which an animal or livestock is owned and is in foster care as deemed by the court shall be kept in confidentiality away from the owner(s) and every effort shall be made to secure all previous veterinary medical records, behavioral status evaluation, nutritional needs or other pertinent information relating to the care of the animal(s). No veterinary treatment for any animal or livestock shall be allowed without knowledge of the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue, livestock rescue and the court unless the life of the animal or livestock is threatened. Special cases in which an animal or livestock is owned but not involved in a legal case shall apply similarly to the foster care mentioned in section J for owned legal cases.*
- K. Special long-term care may be needed in some cases involving terminal illness or chronic disease may end in euthanasia. Foster caregivers shall be informed of these special situations and needs of these animals or livestock and be counseled that the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue or livestock rescue makes the final decision on the disposition of these animals or livestock on a case by case basis and although the foster caregiver is involved, the licensed releasing agency, animal rescue or livestock rescue shall objectively and compassionately be the final word on all foster care cases.*

6.08 RECORDS

All animal rescue and livestock rescue groups shall be subject to the standard and required record keeping as set forth in R.I.G.L. Title 4, Chapter 19, Animal Care and all animal care regulations promulgated under said chapter.

A. All animal rescue and livestock rescue groups shall keep and maintain records of all animals for a minimum of two(2) years from the date of disposition. Each record shall include but is not limited to:

- 1. A detailed physical description of each animal including but not limited to species, breed, age, gender, color, markings or other identification.(scar, microchip, digital photo, tattoo, broken tail, notched ear)*
- 2. The source of the animal (if known) including name, address and telephone number.*
- 3. All medical records while at the facility.*
- 4. The disposition of the animal with the date of adoption, transfer of ownership or euthanasia. This information shall comply with RI Gen. Laws 4-19-11.2, 4-19-12 and 4-19-13.*
- 5. All psittacine birds shall comply with current RI Gen Laws concerning psittacine birds (Chapter 11 4-11-1 through 4-11-13)*
- 6. All records shall be available for inspection at the animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency for two years.*
- 7. The animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency shall maintain a list of the address and telephone number of all locations where animals or livestock are kept or transferred.*

6.09 INSPECTIONS

- A. The licensed animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency is responsible for inspection of the foster care facility.*
- B. All foster care facilities are to be inspected annually or more often.*
- C. A record of each inspection detailing the date and findings of the inspection signed by an agent for the animal rescue, livestock rescue or licensed releasing agency shall be available at all times.*
- D. The Director of DEM or his or her designated representative if deemed necessary, may at reasonable times have access to the rescue/foster care site as per RI General Law 4-19-15(Access of Inspectors to property).*

6.10 TRANSPORTATION

A. The transportation of all animals or livestock shall be within the guidelines for humane transportation as discussed in the animal care regulations.

B. Transportation is to be strictly from one approved facility to another approved facility.

C. The movement of any animal or livestock from an approved facility in Rhode Island to another state requires notification of the Division of Agriculture prior to any movement of said animal(s) or livestock and be in compliance with the state of destination's import requirements.

6.11 SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Special situations may occur which require specific changes in the handling and care of a foster animal or livestock including but not limited to the following:

- 1. Disasters-refer to RIDART, RIVMA and Appendix I of State of Rhode Emergency Operations Plan*
- 2. Domestic Violence-refer to RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) 401-467-9940 and RIVMA Safe Pet Program 877-521-0103*
- 3. Animal cruelty-abuse case where the animal(s) or livestock is owned and is being held by the licensing agency. All evidence pertinent to each case shall be completely documented including a veterinary health exam, behavior exam, all prior veterinary care records and notification of appropriate agencies before the animal or livestock is placed in foster care.*
- 4. Owner of animal(s) or livestock is temporarily unable to care for the animal or livestock. The owner or his/her legally appointed representative shall sign a document detailing the care of the animal or livestock while in foster care including the length of time in foster care, veterinary care, emergency care, special dietary needs, who to contact in an emergency, what costs will be covered by the owner and rescue group, behavior problems of the animal, all veterinary medical records pertinent to the animal and documented proof of current vaccinations as per Rhode Island state law. This may also apply to animals or livestock owned by military families. The base veterinarian shall be contacted in addition to the above recommendations.*

Rule 8.00 VIOLATIONS

The Department of Environmental Management may make regulations governing the care of animals within the State of Rhode island; and any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of these regulations shall be subject, upon conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the first offense and no to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the second

offense and loss of specimen(s) and revocation of license and or certificate after public hearing, per R.I.G.L. 4-19-11.3.

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RULE 10.00 Consistency

No provisions of these regulations shall be construed to prevent enforcement of any state, federal, or local laws and regulations duly adopted for the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare.

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These regulations will take effect on the date specified in the attached certification of promulgation by the Director of Environmental Management.

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Signature, Director, RIDEM

*Notice Given on
Public Hearing held on
Filing Date
Effective date*

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TX Texas General laws Chapter 821

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IL Animal Welfare Act Illinois Comprehensive Statutes Chapter 225

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