

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER)
 NO. 24 :
 Series of 1990)

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE HANDLING OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES.

According to the Department of Health, recent laboratory findings of Ebola-like virus in Philippine cynomolgus monkeys require a need to formulate guidelines for preventing infections among monkey handlers and other persons at risk in the monkey export business. These non-human primates, particularly those recently captured from the wild, may harbor various pathogens infectious for humans. The following guidelines on the handling of non-human primates are hereby formulated:

I. Transport of non-human primates

- A. Persons handling crates containing non-human primates should be protected with gloves of a thickness which prevents penetration of splinters and other injuries to the hands. They should also wear face mask (goggle type), long sleeve shirt, long pants and substantial, (preferably) waterproof shoes or boots. Garments may be of light-weight materials to minimize discomfort during daily work routine.
- B. Crates should be escape-proof and free of sharp projections that may cause scratches or wounds to workers and animals.
- C. Crates containing non-human primates should be kept away from the general public and from other animals or cargo while in transit or prior to their transport.
- D. Whenever possible direct handling of non-human primates should be avoided.
- E. While transporting, records documenting the removal of dead animals, including date of death, sex, probable cause of death, shipment number, origin, destination and manner of disposition should be maintained.
- F. Carcasses must be placed in leakproof plastic bags and promptly incinerated.
- G. At the minimum, IATA and CITES regulations on the transport of live animals including specimens or by-products must be strictly observed.

II. Minimum Procedures in the holding facilities:

- A. Management should ensure that personnel are aware of the hazards of handling non-human primates and that all standard safety measures are enforced.

- B. Protective clothing, including gloves, cap, and surgical type mask should be made available to the animal handlers to be worn at all times when working within the animal holding areas. This clothing should be removed before leaving the facility and properly autoclaved or disinfected on site before laundering. The need for such measures should be well understood by the staff.
- C. Management should provide adequate security of their facility to ensure limited access. Persons not related to the work should not be permitted within the holding areas.
- D. An insect and rodent control program should be in effect.
- E. Eating, drinking and smoking should not be allowed within the animal holding rooms/areas.
- F. All wastes from animals such as feces, beddings, and uneaten food, and carcasses of dead animals should be disposed through sealed leakproof plastic bags and promptly incinerated.
- G. All cages, feeding bottles and other non-disposable equipment should be autoclaved or thoroughly disinfected, preferably with sodium hypochloride or its equivalent, before reuse.
- H. Management should maintain records on the medication, care and disposition of animals, document all procedures performed on them and been track of any occurrence of abnormal ethnological patterns, severe illness or deaths particularly in recently captured primates.
- I. Management should be notified without delay of wounds incurred while handling animals. Bleeding of the wound must be encouraged, followed by liberal washing with soap and water; a protective first aid dressing should be applied and treatment sought as soon as possible.
- J. All staff working in animal facilities should be immunized against tetanus and other harmful agents whenever necessary.
- K. Management should keep health records of personnel in contact with primates, and should promptly report cases of serious febrile illness (fever > 38.5 for > 2 days) to the Department of Health.

The DENR in coordination with DOH shall monitor compliance of these guidelines by all permittees.

All permittees must submit compliance reports every quarter to the DENR. Likewise, other related reports as mentioned in the guidelines must be submitted.

Previous Orders and Circulars inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

(SGD.) FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary