

**DENR Administrative Order
No. 2000 – 46
June 13, 2000**

**SUBJECT : Guidelines On The Establishment
Of Regional Wildlife Rescue
Center**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 192, Presidential Decree 705, as amended, and DENR Administrative Order No. 142 Series of 1989, and in order to ensure the well-being of abandoned, confiscated and/or donated wildlife under the custody of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the following guidelines on the establishment of a Regional Wildlife Rescue Center (RWRC) is hereby promulgated.

Section 1. Policy. It is the concern of the DENR to look after the welfare of confiscated, donated and/or abandoned living wild plants and animals.

Section 2. Objectives. The objectives in the establishment of the RWRC are:

- 2.1 To provide temporary and appropriate shelter for confiscated, donated and/or abandoned wild plants and animals;
- 2.2 To provide isolation and quarantine facilities for confiscated, donated and/or abandoned wild plants and animals; and,
- 2.3 To provide adequate care and maintenance for confiscated, donated and/or abandoned wild plants and animals with the ultimate objective of releasing/putting back to the natural habitats those which are fit to survive.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Order, the following shall be construed as:

- 3.1 Abandoned - wild plants and animals intentionally left by keeper/owner (human) giving up responsibility for care and maintenance or left by “biological” parents (for animals)

- 3.2 Confiscated - wild plants and animals seized by the DENR personnel or turned over by other apprehending authorities
- 3.3 Designated Wildlife Rescue Center - recognized wildlife rescue center by the DENR
- 3.4 Donated - voluntary and unconditional giving up of ownership, and free of charge turn-over of wild plants and animals
- 3.5 Quarantine - wild plants and animals are kept in isolation to prevent spread or transmission of diseases
- 3.6 Rehabilitation - restoring the normal health of wild animals with previous injury or illness
- 3.7 Wildlife Rescue Center a temporary shelter and repository of injured, abandoned, donated, and/or confiscated wildlife for treatment, care and rehabilitation

Section 4. General Considerations. The establishment of RWRC is optional or depends on the need of the Regional Offices. In case the Regional Office shall establish a RWRC, the following should be considered:

4.1 Site Selection

- 4.1.1 It must **be located outside protected areas** to avoid transmission or spread of diseases to the free living wildlife population in the area. An exemption is made to the Ninoy Aquino Park and Wildlife Nature Center which is a man-made park.
- 4.1.2 It should only be established in areas where there are high confiscation records of flora and fauna.
- 4.1.3 It should be established in least human populated area to avoid possible disturbance and stress to wild animals. Prior clearance should be secured from the concerned local community.
- 4.1.4 The site should have continuous source/supply of water.

- 4.1.5 It should have access to animal source and animal clinic or hospital.
- 4.1.6 It should, be located at a significant distance away from nurseries or domestic animal farms such as poultry, piggery, cattle and the like, to prevent possible pest or disease transmission from wild to domestic and vice versa.
- 4.1.7 The size of the site must be spacious enough to accommodate the largest number of confiscated donated and abandoned wild fauna and flora. The Regional Office shall use as basis confiscation records for the past five years.

4.2. Basic facilities

- 4.2.1 Quarantine/Isolation Unit. For newly retrieved, donated, or confiscated animals which are not sick, injured or incapacitated.
- 4.2.2 Intensive Care Unit with 2 sections, namely:
 - (i) Rehabilitation Section - for sick, injured or wounded animals
 - (ii) Rearing Section - for incapacitated or young animals which are separated from the parents
- 4.2.3 Pre-release Enclosures. For animals transferred from the quarantine or intensive care unit
- 4.2.4 Clinic/Laboratory Unit. For monitoring animal health, it shall have areas for minor surgical operations, treatment, necropsy and basic laboratory procedure
- 4.2.5 Greenhouse/Nursery Unit. For retrieved, donated and confiscated plants.
- 4.2.6 Regional Wildlife Rescue Center Office with the following rooms/sections:
 - (i) for office staff

- (ii) for animal food preparation and food supplies
- (iii) for storage of other supplies and materials
- (iv) for quarters of animal caretakers
- (v) for personal hygiene and to control zoonotic (animal to man) and epizootic (man to animal) infections - comfort room and bathroom

4.3. Construction of basic facilities

4.3.1 The pre-release enclosures should be spacious to provide adequate movement for the wild animals. They should be structurally sound to contain the animals to which they are intended. They must protect the animals from adverse weather conditions such as severe heat or strong rain and wind. The materials to be used should blend with the natural environment. The use of lead paint and other harmful chemicals should be avoided.

4.3.2. Footbaths should be constructed/installed in all entrances of the enclosures.

4.3.3. The enclosures and nursery should be strategically located near the water source.

4.3.4. The enclosures should be designed that:

- (i) animal wastes and food left-over can easily be cleaned
- (ii) animals can easily be captured for regular check-ups

4.3.5. Septic tank for animal waste should be provided.

Section 5. Regional Wildlife Rescue Center Establishment Plan. The Regional Office shall submit a Regional Wildlife Rescue Plan, with the inclusion of a waste management system, to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau for review and evaluation by the Wildlife Rescue Center Establishment Review committee to be created by the PAWB. In the preparation of the Plan, Section 4 shall be considered.

Section 6. Manpower Requirement. The minimum manpower requirement in the operation of the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center, which shall be under the supervision of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, are as follows:

- 6.1 In-charge of the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center
- 6.2 Veterinarian (resident or consultant)
- 6.3 Animal caretakers
- 6.4 Nursery caretakers
- 6.5 Clerk
- 6.6 Carpenter (optional)
- 6.7 Medical Technologist (optional)
- 6.8 Maintenance worker (optional)

Section 7. Existing RWRC and designated Wildlife Rescue Center. All existing RWRC and designated Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRC) shall be evaluated by the PAWB and concerned Regional Office based on the guidelines herein provided. RWRC which do not conform with the objectives and/or Section 4 of this guidelines shall either be renovated or phased out. In the case of designated WRC, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be terminated.

In cases where a Regional Office could not establish its own WRC, it may recommend to the Secretary to enter into a MOA with a private individual or entity. The provisions of the MOA, shall include but not limited to the following:

- i) compliance with relevant provisions of this Order;
- ii) animals or plants turned-over by the Regional Office to the private individual or entity must not be used for display, exhibit or commercial purposes;
- iii) private individual or entity must not sell, exchange', donate and loan turned-over plants and animals;
- .iv) concerned Regional Office can only retrieve turned-over plants and animals for conservation or. scientific purposes and with letter of notification from the Regional Executive Director (RED);

- v) private individual or entity could not dispose or transfer turned-over plants and animals to another facility without the written approval from the concerned RED;
- vi) submission of quarterly reports by private individual or entity to include, among others, the following:
 - quantity and date of animals or plants turned-over
 - birth occurrence
 - quantity and date of animals or plants retrieved by the Regional Office
 - mortalities
- vii) conduct bi-annual monitoring by concerned Regional Office

Other terms and conditions, e.g. animal maintenance, provision of technical assistance, among others, as may be agreed by the Parties concerned shall be stipulated in the MOA.

The MOA shall have a duration of one year and renewable every year based on the recommendation of the Regional Office with the endorsement of PAWB to the Secretary for approval.

Section 8. Budget Allocation. The DENR Regional Office, after approval of the RWRC Establishment Plan by PAWB, shall prepare the budgetary requirement for its establishment as well as its five (5) year operation which shall be endorsed by the RED to the DENR Planning and Policy Studies Office for possible funding in the next fiscal and subsequent years.

Section 9. Effectivity and Repealing Clause. This Order takes effect immediately and amends, supersedes or revokes all Orders, Circulars, and Memoranda inconsistent herewith.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO H. CERILLES**
Secretary