

[PCSD RESOLUTION NO. 13-480, August 02, 2013]

CONFIRMING THE ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8 OF PCSD ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 12, SERIES OF 2011

WHEREAS, on the 29th day of July 2011, the PCSD approved the Detailed Guidelines in the Implementation of Republic Act No. 9147 and Joint DENR-DAPCSD Administrative Order No. 01 as may be made applicable in the province of Palawan now known as the PCSD Administrative Order No. 12, series of 2011;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the said Guidelines provides that "the PCSD shall establish wildlife rescue centers in Palawan based on a set of criteria that may hereinafter be promulgated with the assistance of Palawan Wildlife Management Committee";

WHEREAS, the PCSD's Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which exercises the functions of the Wildlife Management Committee, with the assistance of the PCSD Staff has deliberated and recommended the approval of the **Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in the Province of Palawan**;

WHEREAS, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee recommended the approval by the Council which the latter approved during its meeting held on February 22, 2013;

WHEREAS, since during the said meeting the members present failed to muster a quorum the body was constituted as an Executive Committee pursuant to PCSD Resolution No. 99-138, which provides that "*when a quorum cannot be constituted but the Chairman or the Vice Chairman is present and there are four other members present, the Chairman or the Vice Chairman may convene the group into an Executive Committee and proceed with the meeting. The action taken in the Executive Committee shall be confirmed in the next regular meeting*";

WHEREAS, in today's regular meeting, the approval of the Executive Committee of the subject guidelines is being presented for confirmation by this body in accordance with the above-quoted provisions of PCSD Resolution No. 99-138;

NOW THEREFORE, upon motion duly seconded, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved to confirm the action of the Executive Committee, as it is hereby confirmed, approving the "**Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in the Province of Palawan**" as an amendment to Section 8 of PCSD Administrative Order No. 12, series of 2011, to read as follows:

Purpose, Objective and Scope of Application

Section 1. Purpose. This is to ascertain the survival of the confiscated, rescued, turned-over or donated wildlife fauna species for ensuring biodiversity conservation.

Section 2. Objective. These guidelines aim to establish a standard procedure for the establishment and management of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers in the province of Palawan in order not to cause adverse effects of greater impact to species and its habitats pursuant to the "Wildlife Act" and its IRR, in accordance with the standard principles for establishing such and, with consideration of the biological, social/behavioral and physical requirements of wildlife fauna species as well as its zoogeography.

Section 3. Scope. Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers shall only cover wildlife species confiscated in violation of RA 9147, PCSD Resolution No. 04-243 and PCSD Resolution No. 05-245 as well as those abandoned, injured, wounded, accidentally caught, turned over or donated to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) including those rescued by the same office.

Definition of Terms

Section 4. Definition of Terms

4.1 *The provision of Section 3 paragraph nnn which reads:*

nnn. Wildlife Rescue Center – refers to a repository of confiscated, donated, retrieved, turned-over or abandoned wildlife species; an establishment where sick, injured, confiscated wildlife are temporarily kept and rehabilitated prior to their release to their natural habitat or implementation of other modes of disposition as may be authorized under existing guidelines" is hereby amended to read as follows:

nnn. *Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center* – repository of confiscated, donated, retrieved, turned-over or abandoned wildlife species; and, where sick, injured, confiscated wildlife are temporarily kept and rehabilitated prior to release to their natural habitat or implementation of other modes of disposition stated hereof.

4.2 *Nest box or den* – An enclosed shelter that provides a retreat area within, attached to or adjacent to a cage or enclosure, which shall provide protection from weather conditions and from extreme temperatures that are detrimental to the health and welfare of wildlife.

4.3 *Elevated platform or perching area* – A surface or structure, either natural or manmade, positioned above the floor, or above the grade level of the cage or enclosure, that will provide a resting area for the animal/s.

4.4 *Gnawing and chewing items* – Natural or artificial material that provide for the health of teeth, so as to keep teeth sharp, wear down enamel and promote general oral hygiene. Gnawing items should include but are not limited to logs and trees. Chewing items include, but are not limited to, woody stems, knuckle bones, and rawhide objects; suitability dependent upon species.

Disposition of Confiscated, Abandoned, Injured, Wounded, Accidentally caught, Turned-over or Donated Live Wildlife

Section 5. The disposition of confiscated, abandoned, injured, wounded, accidentally caught, turned-over or donated live wildlife shall be the sole responsibility of the PCSD through its District Management Offices (DMOs). If in case the confiscation was conducted by a member of any enforcement agency, deputized Wildlife Enforcement Officer (WEO) or a Multi-partite Quick Response Team (MQRT), the same must notify the nearest DMO for proper disposition. Disposition shall be based on the following condition; to wit:

- 5.1 Wildlife in-heat, pregnant, supporting/feeding a young, still reliant on their parents for survival, or recovering from sickness, injuries or diseases must be immediately brought to the nearest Rescue Center;
- 5.2 Wildlife in distress such as suffering from severe or deadly diseases/injuries/wounds must be immediately brought to the nearest Rescue Center;
- 5.3 Recently caught wildlife species (juvenile, adult or a mother and young) may be released immediately to the capture site upon certification by the authorized wildlife expert/biologist/zoologist/veterinarian that the same wildlife is/are in good health;
- 5.4 Confiscated wildlife which is/are subject of judicial proceedings shall be brought to the nearest rescue center and shall not be disposed unless authority is obtained from the proper court.

With the foregoing, it is necessary for the PCSD to build and manage a temporary holding facility in its every DMO for temporary custody of wildlife while the final disposition of the subject wildlife has not yet been decided upon by the PCSD/S.

Accreditation of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

Section 6. Accreditation. Rescue and rehabilitation center shall be accredited by the PCSD to take temporary custody and care of all confiscated, abandoned, injured, wounded, accidentally caught, turned over or donated wildlife to ensure their welfare and well-being upon compliance with the provisions stated in Sections 9, 12, 13 and 14 hereof. Accreditation shall be covered by certain conditions that shall be imposed by the PCSD which shall include, among others, regular monitoring of the center by an authorized PCSD Staff and, submission of inventory, mortality and production reports (if applicable).

Accredited centers shall only accept wildlife disposed to them by the PCSD. Turn-over of said wildlife by the same agency to a rescue center determined by the PCSD/S shall be accompanied with the following applicable information on the subject wildlife; to wit:

- a) Identification of wildlife specifying its Scientific and Common Names
- b) Age categorized as Young/immature, juvenile or adult and sex/gender
- c) Source (Specific Site where the wildlife was captured)
- d) Date of Acquisition
- e) Mode of Acquisition (i.e. whether collected from the wild, purchased or donated)
- f) Classification (indicate whether Confiscated, Donated or Turned - Over)

- g) The condition of wildlife when turned over/donated/confiscated
- h) The place and date of seizure
- i) Accessories accompanying the wildlife, including quantity and detailed descriptions
- j) The name and address of donor or person from whom the wildlife was seized
- k) The investigative case file number with which the wildlife was connected
- l) Investigating body/officer

Transport of Wildlife

Section 7. Transport of Wildlife. An authorized representative of the PCSDS must always accompany the transport of confiscated, abandoned, injured, wounded and accidentally caught wildlife fauna species. The biology and behavior of wild animal shall be the prime considerations prior and during its transport such as those specified in Section 5 hereof, among others. The transport from the PCSDS or apprehension area to a rescue center determined by the PCSDS or, from apprehension area to the PCSDS shall abide by the standards set hereunder; to wit:

7.1 Animal Biology and Behavior. With consideration of the biology and behavior of the subject wildlife, the following shall be the general guidelines for transporting them

- 7.1.1 Wild animals must be transported during the coolest time of the day.
- 7.1.2 Nocturnal animals must be transported during the early mornings while diurnal animals at night time.
- 7.1.3 In order to ensure the safety and health of wild animal in transit, it must be checked periodically especially during long trips
- 7.1.4 If the travel time for transporting wildlife would take more than 12 hours, a rest period must be considered for feeding and watering subject wildlife without necessarily implicating disturbance. Suitable and sufficient food and, water shall be made available to the wild animals during this transport.

7.2 Transport Cage/Enclosure. Transport cage/enclosure shall be a secondary consideration for transporting wildlife, thus the standards hereunder are set for the purpose; to wit:

- 7.2.1 Its design, size, and material must be appropriate to the type of wildlife species subject for transport and, must be sufficient enough to bear with the normal effects of transport. The design should prevent accidental opening and/or escape of the wild animal within.
- 7.2.2 Its interior must be smooth, comfortable, and free from any protrusion, projection, or abrasive material that could be injurious to the wild animal within.
- 7.2.3 It must have sufficient holes on at least three sides for adequate ventilation
- 7.2.4 Its materials must not contain any chemical which may be harmful to the health and well-being-of the animal

- 7.2.5 During transport, it must be placed in a well-ventilated area and protected from direct sunlight, excessive rain, extreme heat, noise, harmful gases and fumes.
- 7.2.6 While on transit, it must be safe from declining, leaning and slipping or moving. Visual barriers must be set up to avoid from any disturbances.
- 7.3 Loading and Unloading. Loading and unloading of wildlife shall be done in accordance with the provisions stated below and those under Chapter 7 hereof:
- 7.3.1 Loading and unloading of wild animals shall be done by an experienced or trained wild animal handler/s or supervised by a registered veterinarian/zookeeper.
- 7.3.2 For air transport, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) rules, regulations, and requirements shall be observed.
- 7.3.3 Drivers, captains, or pilots of transport vehicles must be oriented that any unnecessary or sudden vehicle motion may frighten and stress the animal.
- 7.3.4 After unloading, wild animals must be immediately transferred to a (pre-determined) holding facility/area, and then transferred directly to the quarantine area of a rescue center.

Qualification, Requirements and Procedures for the Accreditation of a Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

Section 8. Qualification. Applicants for the accreditation of a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center should meet the qualifications enumerated hereunder; to wit:

- a. Must be a member of a scientific institution or organization, academe, LGU
- b. Must have sufficient knowledge on the biology; ecology; social, reproductive and feeding behavior; and, nutrition and diet requirement of wildlife
- c. Must have technical expertise or experience pertaining to wildlife husbandry
- d. Must be financially capable

Section 9. Requirements. Qualified applicants must comply with all the necessary requirements herein specified.

- 9.1 A Project Proposal which is in accordance with the standards set in Sections 12, 13 and 14 hereof. Further, the proposal must include the rehabilitation, reproduction (captive breeding) and IEC programs of the center;
- 9.2 List of animal caretakers who have undergone a training on animal-keeping/ zookeeping and certified by the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center or by a registered zoo keeper;
- 9.3 Wildlife Veterinarian
- 9.4 Cage location Plan
- 9.5 Tagging/Marking System for specific wildlife taxa
- 9.6 Resolution of endorsement from the concerned barangay, municipal/city LGUs and Sangguniang Panlalawigan.