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Nonresident Short-Term Exhibition of Carnivores

Nonresident animals subject to these provisions may be brought into California for short-term exhibition (e.g., circus, fair) under a wild animal importation permit issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Veterinary Public Health Section (VPHS), and upon payment of a \$10.00 permit fee per animal. Carnivores may not be imported until the consignee receives a permit issued by CDPH-VPHS. Persons wishing to import carnivores shall complete and submit to CDPH-VPHS a permit application no less than ten business days prior to importation. The following supplementary documentation must be provided to CDPH-VPHS no less than five business days prior to importation:

1. A certificate of veterinary inspection (a.k.a. health certificate) signed/dated not more than 30 days prior to importation, certifying that the animal has been examined by a veterinarian accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture and is free of signs of infectious diseases, and
2. Veterinary records of the animal--or the parents if less than six months of age--reflective of the 180 days prior to importation, and
3. A signed statement from the consignor describing the date and location of acquisition if the animal has been in the consignor's possession less than 180 days, and
4. A signed statement describing the manner in which the carnivore will be maintained to preclude public and other animal contact while traveling, and
5. A detailed itinerary inclusive of all dates while traveling in California.

Carnivores approved for short-term travel in California must remain in isolation except while the animal is being exhibited.

Carnivores permitted entry under these provisions shall not be sold, traded, or given away without notification and prior approval by CDPH-VPHS and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Local Restrictions: An importation permit shall not be issued where local ordinances (city or county) prohibit the possession of the species. Importers must provide CDPH-VPHS with any applicable permit or licenses required by a local ordinance prior to the issuance of a wild animal importation permit.

[Internet Address & Forms](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CDPHWildAnimalImportationApplication.pdf): (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CDPHWildAnimalImportationApplication.pdf>)