



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: **Wild Animals as Pets**

Section: *Wildlife*

Number: *CVM 6.12.02*

Pages: *2*

Date: *2012*

Replaces Policy Dated: *1996*

To Be Reviewed Yearly by: *AHC Director, Service
Chief of Community Veterinary Services*

Source:

Cross Reference:

WILD ANIMALS AS PETS

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University (CVM-MSU) adheres to the Mississippi Code of 1972 Unannotated §49-8-5 *Animals Inherently Dangerous to Humans* and §49-8-7 *Possession of Wild Animals Prohibited; Permit Required; Exemptions* as revised April 23, 1997. The College also abides by the AVMA policy on Ownership or Possession of Wild Animals or Their Hybrids approved by the AVMA Executive Board November 2006 and revised June 2012. Provision of care for these patients will be assessed and reviewed on an individual case basis.

In agreement with AVMA policy, the CVM-MSU:

- a) opposes the keeping of wild carnivore species as pets;
- b) opposes the keeping of inherently dangerous (i.e. poisonous) reptiles and amphibians as pets; and
- c) opposes the performance of surgical procedures on wild animals for the sole purpose of making the animal more socially acceptable to its owner.

Animal types or species that may be admitted into the Animal Health Center, in addition to conventional domestic animals, include European ferrets, non-hazardous reptiles, domestic (European) rabbits, guinea pigs, various pet rodents, African hedgehogs, properly licensed birds of prey, birds kept commonly as pets (such as mynah birds and certain psittacine birds) and animals from public zoos or private sanctuaries.

Approved: _____

Gary J. Burt
Gary J. Burt, Director
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9-19-12

Date

Approved: _____

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9/19/12

Date



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: *Treatment of Wildlife at the
Animal Health Center*

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Chief of Community Veterinary Services*
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Treatment of Wildlife

During Business Hours:

If a person calls regarding wildlife during business hours, the admissions staff may give the caller the number and website for Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc.; (662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org.

If a person brings in orphaned, non-injured animals during business hours:

1. The admissions staff may give the visitor the number and website for Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc.; (662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org.
2. The admissions staff may give the visitor and MS Wildlife Rehabilitation brochure.

If a person brings in injured wildlife during business hours:

1. The student/clinician will be contacted and the animal will be examined.
2. The person bringing in the wildlife will fill out a Good Sam/Wildlife Admittance form.
3. If the animal cannot be treated, it will be euthanized.
4. If the animal can be treated and returned to normal function necessary for life in the wild, it will be treated and released to Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc. [(662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org] or other LICENSED rehabilitator for further care and release.

During Non-business Hours:

If a person calls regarding an orphaned, non-injured animal during **non-business hours**:

1. The student may give the caller the contact information to the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc.; (662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org.
2. A clinician does not need to be called.

If a person calls regarding injured wildlife during **non-business hours**:

1. The person can bring the animal to the AHC for euthanasia.
2. The student may give the caller the contact information to the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc.: (662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org.

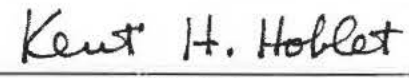
If a person brings in orphaned, non-injured animals during **non-business hours**:

1. The person will be given the contact information to the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc. [(662) 429-5105 or www.mswildliferehab.org] and/or the emergency student will call the organization for assistance in locating the nearest licensed rehabilitator.
2. The person will be given a brochure on orphaned wildlife.
3. If the person cannot or will not accept the information provided, MSU-CVM will take the animal.
4. The animal will be euthanized.

If a person brings in injured wildlife during **non-business hours** the animal will be euthanized.

Exceptions: Bald eagles, Golden eagles or any endangered/threatened species. These can be transported to Auburn University Raptor Rehabilitation or other appropriate licensed rehabilitator.

Approved:  8-30-12
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Approved:  9/19/12
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