

# CA-WS Directive

2.501 1/3/06

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## TRANSLOCATION OF WILDLIFE

### 1. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for California WS employees on the translocation of wildlife.

### 2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces State Office memo dated November 6, 1989, titled, "Policy on the Relocation of Wildlife".

### 3. BACKGROUND

In some situations, it may be beneficial to translocate wildlife. Decisions to translocate wildlife will be made according to biological, economic and social impacts. Primary factors influencing translocation include availability of suitable habitat, impact (competition, predation, etc.) on the animal(s) moved as well as other species, likelihood of the animal returning, and potential for creating a similar damage conflict situation at the new location.

Translocation of wild mammals is not a biologically sound practice in many situations. Considerable stress can be placed on the transported animal due to relocation-related activities and territorial disputes often resulting in low survival rates. Studies indicate that those animals that do survive seldom remain at the location where they were released. There may also be problems associated with liability the programs could incur should the translocated animal cause future damage or transmit a zoonotic disease.

The American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists oppose relocation of mammals because of the risk of disease transmission among wild mammals (especially raccoons, skunks, and foxes).

California Fish and Game Commission regulations (Title 14), Section 671.6, prohibit release of any wild animal that: 1) is not native to California; 2) is found to be diseased, or there is reason to suspect may have potential for disease; 3) maybe genetically detrimental to agriculture or to native wildlife; or 4) has not been successfully introduced prior to 1955 without written permission of the commission.

### 4. POLICY

It is the policy of the California WS program to prohibit the relocation of wildlife without the specific written authorization of the California Department of Fish and Game.

## **5. REFERENCES**

**WS Directive 2.501, Translocation of Wildlife (7/30/03)**

**California Department of Fish and Game Code, Sections 4152, 4180, and 3005.5.**

**Rosatte, R.C., and C.D. Macinnes, 1989. "Relocation of City Raccoons," Proceedings of the Ninth Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado, April 17-20, 1989, pp. 87-92.**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, California Wildlife Services Guidelines for Urban Wildlife Damage Management.**

**California Code of Regulations, Title 14. Natural Resources, Division 1. Fish and Game Commission - Department of Fish and Game Section 671.6.**

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