

## WHY ALL THIS CONTROL?

### CUTE

All animal babies are always “cute” when very young, but this “cuteness” soon disappears when they grow up and want to be independent or become sexually mature. They then tend to be a handful or become aggressive or troublesome. It is at this stage when Environmental personnel are then contacted and then the problem becomes ours. Often too late to rehabilitate the animal and thus these “pets” needs to be put out or spend the rest of their lives in a captive situation like a zoo or animal park.

### IMPRINTING

In many animal species “imprinting” is a big problem. This means that if humans pick up these small animals and rear them, they grow up thinking they are humans.

The result is that they lose their fear of humans and will eventually attack instead of flee when they feel threatened or want food. This is more so amongst social animals like baboons and monkeys when they regard the human family that reared them as their troop and then attacks visitors as the latter are seen as intruders.

In some species imprinting can result in these animals never being able to breed with their own kind—rendering them useless to nature.



**Directorate:**  
**Wildlife Trade & Regulation**

### Service Center Contact details

#### Waterberg

014 - 717 1055  
Modimolle - 014 717 5383  
Lephalale - 014 763 2886  
Mokopane - 015 491 8010  
Thabazimbi - 014 777 1539

#### Capricorn

015 - 297 3839  
Polokwane - 015 297 3839  
Dendron - 015 501 0893

#### Vhembe

015 - 962 4722  
015 - 290 7085  
Louis Trichardt - 015 - 516 0002  
Musina - 015 - 534 2307

#### Mopane

015 - 812 0365  
Klaserie - 015 793 2471  
Phalaborwa - 015 769 1792

#### Sekhukhune / Groblersdal

015-633 5169 / 015 297 3839  
Lebowa Kgomo - 082 801 1495  
Lebowa Kgomo - 082 801 1494

The information is supplied as detailed as possible within the limited space - if unsure about anything, please consult your local service center.

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**DEPARTMENT OF:**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

## CAPTIVE KEEPING OF WILD ANIMALS in LIMPOPO



To the benefit of the public,  
issued by:

**Wildlife Trade & Regulation**

## THE LAW SAYS:

Many people often want to **keep** different wild animal species for various reasons. However, whatever these reasons may be, the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Affairs is to see to the wellbeing of the wildlife and to control the captive keeping of any wild animal. One of the methods in controlling this activity is by means of legislation.

South African law is based on Roman / Dutch law whereby wildlife is regarded as “**res nullius**”. A term that actually means the wildlife of the country does not belong to anybody but to the entire community. Even if you have bought it legally, you only have the rights entrusted to you by the specific legislation—in the form of **permits**.

Permits are required for the keeping of various species & are only granted on prior written application and on merit of each case if captive keeping requirements set by the department are met.

### “KEEP”

In the legislation “**keep**” in relation to a live wild or alien animal, means to –

(a) possess or keep in captivity or custody a live wild or alien animal;

(b) supervise and control in any way whatsoever and by

whatever means, a live wild or alien animal in order to discourage its natural behaviour; or

(c) restrict the movement or flight of a live wild or alien animal;



### PERMITS

In terms of the current legislation, permits are required for the keeping of most wild animals, even though you intend to only keep it for a temporary period. All permits also have an expiry date and it is the permit holder’s responsibility to adhere to this date.

#### MAMMALS

A permit is required for **MOST** mammal species. It is recommended that you enquire at your local service center for more information on a particular species.

#### BIRDS

A permit is required for **ALL** indigenous birds. A specific procedure exist by means of which a permit may be issued and no birds may be wild caught for this purpose.

#### REPTILES

A permit is required to keep **ALL** indigenous reptiles such as chameleons, tortoises and snakes; only the 2 leguan species are excluded, and **ALL** exotic / alien / foreign snake species

#### INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Some imported (Exotic / Alien) species have become invasive to such an extent that they negatively impact on indigenous species. For these species a keeping permit is required. Please consult your local service center.



### GAME FARMS

Having an exempted property such as a game farm or private reserve, does not authorize the captive keeping of any wild animal for whatever purposes without a special permit.

### ORPHANED WILD ANIMALS

Because of lack of knowledge or understanding by members of the public of wild animal habits, young animals are often picked up under the impression that they are so-called orphaned or rejected babies.

Don’t just assume a little animal is orphaned—the mother is often nearby and had just temporarily hid the baby and will come back.

The golden rule here is to let nature go its own way unless you have **substantial** evidence that the animal is suffering because of human activities and needs help.



### REHABILITATION

The rearing of a young animal or the treatment of an injured animal in such a way that it can be released back into the wild, is a specialized process and needs to be done by a registered and experienced rehabilitation center.

The information contained in this document is an abstract from the Limpopo Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2003.