

SPECIAL CONDITIONS
for PERMIT TO CAPTURE, HOLD, TRANSPORT AND RELOCATE
PRAIRIE DOGS



1. **NOTIFICATION:**

Permittee must notify the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) of the intent to begin capture/relocation efforts by contacting the capture site District Wildlife Manager (DWM) and the release site DWM (if appropriate) 48 hours prior to initiating capture activities.

DWM: _____
 Capture Site DWM Office Phone Office Address

DWM: _____
 Release Site DWM Office Phone Office Address

2. **INSPECTION AND INTERIM HOLDING:**

- A. A copy of this Permit must be available for inspection at all times and at all locations throughout the project, including during capture, transport, holding and release.
- B. Permittee must notify the CDOW (e.g., capture and release site DWMs) in writing, of any changes in the physical address where any prairie dogs will be held in captivity and allow the inspection of those facilities by the CDOW and /or our authorized agents.
- C. In most cases, prairie dogs shall be relocated as soon as possible. However, interim holding in CDOW approved facilities / or in US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved facilities may be authorized, and must be stated on the application and on the permit. CDOW and the USFWS are authorized to establish holding guidelines and protocols, to establish official quarantine facilities and pre-conditioning facilities, and to inspect facilities.

3. **METHOD OF CAPTURE:**

Prairie dogs shall be captured by an acceptable method such as live box trap, water flushing, vacuum extraction or by a specifically authorized alternative method. If an alternative method of capture will be used, please describe below, and secure the signature of the capture site DWM to approve.

Alternative method: _____

Signature of capture site DWM approving this method: _____

4. **DISEASE MANAGEMENT:**

- A. **Treating Prairie Dogs and Burrows for Disease Management:** The capture site burrows shall be treated, one week before capture activities begin, with an insecticide effective against fleas (and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and labeled for that specific use). Prairie dogs will then be observed for symptoms of disease (e.g., lesions, lethargy etc.). If no signs of disease are present then capture activities may begin. All prairie dogs shall then be individually treated with an appropriately labeled (EPA approved) insecticide at the time of capture. (See "4B" below for information on approved pesticides and licensure). If at any point in the capture / relocation activity any prairie dogs appear sick, the capture / relocation activities shall immediately be suspended and the capture site DWM and the local health department (LHD) shall be notified (see "4C" below).
- B. **Use of Pesticides – Licensure, Approved Products, and Safety Concerns:**
 - (1) **Licensure:** The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) regulates the *commercial application* of pesticides in Colorado. Permit applicants/ permittees and contractors should check with legal counsel to determine if the proposed activities are considered commercial or non-commercial as defined by Colorado statutes, and must comply with the law. Regarding prairie dog relocation activities, it is the commercial application of pesticides *to prairie dog burrows* that is regulated by the CDA. All individuals, groups and volunteers that receive compensation for relocation services and that treat *prairie dog burrows* to control fleas (per above), must comply with the Colorado Commercial Pesticide Applicators' Act administered by the CDA. (For specific information, see Title 35 Article 10; also reference Title 35 Article 9). If required, compliance can be achieved by obtaining the proper license(s) (licensure in the public health category 110), or by working under the supervision of a properly licensed commercial pesticide applicator. Currently, government employees performing job responsibilities are not considered commercial applicators.

- Application of pesticides on prairie dogs is not an activity directly regulated by the CDA. Treatment of captured prairie dogs to control fleas does not require licensure in Colorado.
- (2) **Approved Pesticide Products:** Any pesticide used in the treatment of prairie dog burrows or prairie dogs must be labeled, with an EPA approved product label, to specifically allow such use. For a complete listing of products labeled for treatment of fleas on non-livestock / non-pet animals and for use in rodent burrows, see the Colorado Pesticide Information Retrieval System (CPIRS) database; it contains information pertaining to pesticides currently registered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture for distribution and sale in Colorado. See Internet address: <http://state.ceris.purdue.edu/doc/co/stateco.html> .
Product update as of January 2005:
- Carbaryl: Newer products containing Carbaryl (e.g., Sevin) are not labeled for use in rodent burrows or directly on prairie dogs. Use of older product, from its original container (labeled for this use) is allowed.
 - Deltamethrin: Newer containers of Delta Dust, EPA Reg. #432-772, manufactured by Bayer Environmental and containing deltamethrin, are currently labeled for use in and around rodent burrows. (Older products are not labeled for this use).
 - Pymethrin: Pyranha Insecticide aerosol spray, EPA Reg. # 21165-1, manufactured by Pyranha, Inc., a product containing pymethrin, is currently labeled to allow use on prairie dogs for controlling fleas. For company information see: <http://www.pyranhainc.com/index.htm>

Permit applicants and contractors are responsible for obtaining up-to-date information on legally permissible pesticides. CDOW cannot provide recommendations or approval.

- (3) **Health and Safety Concerns re: Pesticides:** Permittee or contractor shall notify all relocation participants of the potential health risks inherent in working with potentially toxic pesticides, and assume all responsibility for health and safety. Pesticides may be harmful or toxic by inhalation, by swallowing, and/ or through skin absorption. Applicators of pesticides shall wear suitable protective clothing, chemical resistant gloves and eye/face protection. *Permittees/ contractors and participants are advised to seek medical advice immediately in the case of an accident or illness.* All risks shall be assumed by the permittee, contractor, and applicants, and not the CDOW.
- C. **Sick / Dead Animals:** Permittee/ contractor must notify the CDOW and the local health department (LHD) immediately regarding any sick or dead animals for which the cause of illness or death is unknown, or for which the suspected cause of illness/death is plague or monkey pox. If the county does not have an LHD, the report should be made to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Capture shall be suspended until the cause of illness or death is determined, and shall not be resumed without guidance and approval of the CDOW. Burrow treatment may be required prior to further capture.
- D. **Die-offs:** Any sudden die-off or excess mortality in captured animals should be investigated. Mortality rates in excess of 10% should be reported and representative carcass specimens submitted to the CDPHE or CDC in Fort Collins for testing.
- E. **Post-relocation Follow-up:** The relocation site shall be checked by the permittee and/or contractor at two and four-weeks after relocation. Any evidence of a die off among the relocated prairie dogs, or among the population of existing prairie dogs (if the relocation site included a population of prairie dogs), shall be reported to the CDOW release site DWM and the LHD or CDPHE.
- F. **Equipment Cleaning/Disinfection:** The United States Health And Human Services Food and Drug Administration, recommends that all traps and associated equipment used in the capture, holding, relocation and release of prairie dogs be cleaned and then treated with a disinfectant solution. In the absence of other local requirements, follow the steps below:
1. Use standard household detergents to clean surfaces.
 2. Follow this cleaning with the disinfectant solution such as ¼ cup chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of water.
 3. Cages, food containers, and other objects used in association with trapping wild prairie dogs must be cleaned and disinfected (by hand or in a dedicated dishwasher), and then may be reused.
 4. Materials used for animal bedding (such as wood chips) and similar materials that have been in contact with wild prairie dogs must either be soaked in a disinfectant solution and then discarded or laundered in a dedicated washing machine with a disinfectant solution and then discarded.
 5. To properly discard, after disinfection, place in a plastic bag, and then in the covered trash-can for disposal with the other household waste.

5. **MINIMIZING RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH:**

Permittee and/or contractor should be aware of and shall notify all relocation participants of the potential health risks inherent in working not only with potentially toxic pesticides (see above), but also in the handling of wild prairie dogs and in working in the out-of-doors. Permittee/ contractor shall advise all participants about the potential of contracting specific diseases and describe the symptoms of these diseases. **In all cases, seek medical advice immediately in case of accidents or illness.**

Additionally, all participants must practice the following preventive measures.

A. **Required General Preventive Measures:**

- 1) Minimize direct handling of pesticides and prairie dogs.
- 2) Wear suitable protective clothing including gloves and eye/face protection.
- 3) Use a personal insect repellent effective for fleas.
- 4) Ensure that all prairie dogs are properly treated with insecticide.
- 5) **Notify a physician if bitten by a flea or a prairie dog, or at the onset of a febrile illness (fever) within seven days of the relocation activity or their last contact with prairie dogs, or with any other concerns.**
- 6) Sick, lethargic, or dead prairie dogs should not be handled, or should be handled with extra precaution (unless they are known to be trap mortalities). Use a plastic bag (fold to double) to handle and store, and notify capture site DWM or local health department officials for further instructions.
- 7) Properly clean, disinfect, and dispose of equipment and supplies. (See "4F" above).

B. **Specific Diseases:** The following briefly summarizes some known diseases with potential to spread from animals to humans. It may be appropriate to contact the state or local health department, or your family physician, for additional information on any of these diseases.

- 1) Plague: risk from flea bites and from direct contact with blood or tissues; symptoms include sudden onset of high fever, chills, and the development of inflamed lymph nodes; can be treated; is an internationally quarantinable disease. To minimize exposure: *Use personal insect repellent effective for fleas.*
- 2) Tularemia: some risk from arthropod bites (from fleas, ticks, deerflies etc.) or direct contact with blood or tissues; symptoms include sudden onset (1-10 days, average 3 days after exposure) of fever, chills and prostration. To minimize exposure: *Use personal insect repellent.*
- 3) Pasteurella: risk if bitten by prairie dog; can lead to blood poisoning if not treated; symptoms include swelling, drainage. To minimize exposure: *clean any wounds thoroughly.*
- 4) Tetanus: risk if bitten by prairie dog; symptoms include headache, muscle stiffness in the jaw and neck, difficulty swallowing, fever etc.; onset approximately 8 days after infection, but can range from 3 days to 3 weeks. To minimize exposure: *clean any wounds thoroughly; current tetanus shots recommended (within the past 10 years).*
- 5) Monkeypox: risk from contact with exposed animals through bites or contact with body fluids or rash; rare, as of 12/31/2004, there is no evidence of naturally occurring monkeypox in Colorado; monkeypox has been reported in several people in the US, most became sick after contacting pet prairie dogs that were infected; symptoms similar to smallpox, but usually milder, and include tiredness, fever, headache, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes, followed by the development of a rash; the CDC has established guidelines explaining when the smallpox vaccine should be used to protect against monkeypox. To minimize exposure: *wear protective clothing, avoid handling sick or dead prairie dogs.*
- 6) West Nile Virus: risk from mosquito bites and perhaps from direct contact with blood or tissues; symptoms flu-like, some people become seriously ill, others have no symptoms; onset between 3 and 14 days after bite by infected mosquito. To minimize exposure: *use an insect repellent containing DEET on clothing and on skin to reduce mosquito bites.*

All health related risks must be assumed by the permittee, contractor and participants, and not the CDOW or its employees.

6. **TIME OF CAPTURE:**

Prairie dogs may be relocated year-round; however, capture is discouraged during March, April, and May, when young are not weaned and are still in burrows. If capture of adults takes place during these months, it should be followed by euthanization of the remaining pups to minimize starvation.

7. **STANDARD PRACTICE:**

Permittee must practice currently accepted standards for capture, transport, holding and release, aiming to maximize relocation success for wild to wild relocation, and programmatic successes in other cases.

8. **NON -TARGET INCIDENTS:**

Non-target captures, injuries and mortalities shall be reported immediately to the capture site DWM. Most non-target captures can then be released. However, in the case of any protected, threatened or endangered species, the capture site DWM will provide guidance.

9. **OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS UNIQUE TO THIS PERMIT:**

If additional conditions specific to this permit are attached, CDOW will check here: ____

- 10. **MOST RESTRICTIVE LAW:**
The most restrictive federal, state, or local laws shall apply. Throughout the relocation process, Permittee and Contractor and their agents must comply with all CDOW regulations, statutes, and guidelines. If capture, holding (interim or otherwise) or release sites are managed by other agencies, their lawful requirements shall be followed.
- 11. **REPORTS:**
Permittee shall submit a report within 30 days from the expiration of the Permit on CDOW provided forms. Failure to submit reports will be cause to deny future permit applications and permits.
- 12. **AMENDMENTS:**
Permits may be amended upon request, unless the proposed amendment significantly changes the nature of the permit. Requests for minor amendments shall be submitted for review, recommendation and approval by the appropriate DWM. CDOW internal guidelines will dictate final approval level. Significant changes require submittal of a new application.
- 13. **VOID PERMIT:**
This Permit shall become void if any of its provisions are violated and/or if the landowner (or manager) of the receiving site withdraws authorization, and/ or if the CDOW withdraws authorization.

INDEMNIFICATION OF STATE OF COLORADO, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, & ITS EMPLOYEES

Regarding these Permit Special Conditions, (including but not limited to Special Condition #4 "Disease Management" and Special Condition #5 "Minimizing Risk to Human Health"), the general precautions, the product label instructions, the directions for use of chemical pesticides / insecticides etc., and all other information herein are believed to be adequate and should be followed carefully. However, because laws and regulations regarding use of pesticides change, and because the manner of use and other actions and reactions of individuals are beyond the CDOW's control, and because the nature of wildlife and the natural world is not possible to always predict, it is impossible for the CDOW or the product manufacturer(s) to eliminate all risks associated with the use of various products and the capture and handling of wildlife. Injury, ineffectiveness, or fatality is possible. All such risks shall be assumed by the permittee, contractor and user. The CDOW, its employees and agents disclaim any liability whatsoever for damages, injury or death resulting from the use or handling of pesticides and/or from the interaction with/handling of wildlife.

Regarding all activities related to this permit, the Permittee(s) and the contractor(s), those who work or volunteer for them, and the family members of the permittee(s), the contractor(s), and those who work for them, shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the State of Colorado, the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife and all its employees, and agents against any and all claims, damages, liability and court awards including costs, expenses and attorney fees incurred as a result of any alleged negligent act or omission of the state or its employees, which occurred or is alleged to have occurred during the performance of their duties within the scope of their employment, unless such acts or omissions are willful and wanton. Such claims shall be subject to the limitations of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, CRS 24-10-101 et seq.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES:

THIS PERMIT APPLICATION IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT. IF NOT UNDERSTOOD, LEGAL OR OTHER COUNSEL SHOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE SIGNING. I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND HEREBY AGREE TO ALL TERMS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT. I ALSO AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ANY FUTURE WRITTEN MODIFICATIONS SIGNED BY ME AND BY THE CDOW.

_____ / _____
Permittee /Land Manager Signature Date Relocation Contractor Signature (if appropriate) Date