

APPLICATION TO CAPTURE, MOVE AND RELOCATE BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS



APPLICATION PART 1 - PERMIT INFORMATION

- **Live (wild-to-wild) relocation: permit required, complete full application, include \$40 permit fee**
- **Transportation of live prairie dogs to black-footed ferret or raptor rehabilitation facilities: permit required, complete only Parts 1 and 2 of application, include \$40 permit fee**
- **Transportation of dead prairie dogs to black-footed ferret or raptor rehabilitation facilities: no permit or application required. However, CPW notification is required prior to any trapping efforts and a completed "Dead Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Donation Report" is required after transportation.**

CAPTURE SITE LANDOWNER:

Organization/agency, if any:

Primary Contact (name/title):

Address:

Phone:

RELOCATION FROM (address/legal description & acreage):

× PROPOSED CAPTURE SITE LANDOWNER OR OFFICIAL AGENT'S SIGNATURE GRANTING RIGHT TO ENTER, CAPTURE, REMOVE BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS. **No other capture site will be authorized.**

RELEASE SITE LANDOWNER or BLACK-FOOTED FERRET FACILITY:

Organization/agency, if any:

Primary Contact (name/title):

Address:

Phone:

RELOCATION TO (address/legal description & acreage):

× RELEASE SITE LANDOWNER OR OFFICIAL AGENT'S SIGNATURE GRANTING RIGHT TO ENTER AND RELEASE BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS. No other release site will be authorized.

APPLICANT/PERMITTEE:

Organization/agency, if any:

Primary Contact (name/title):

Address:

Phone:

× I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION I HAVE PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE. I HAVE INCLUDED ALL FEEDBACK I HAVE RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THIS APPLICATION AND I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY ERRONEOUS OR OMITTED INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN THE DENIAL OF THIS PERMIT.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PRAIRIE DOGS TO BE RELEASED (may not exceed 16/acre): _____

Date(s) for which permit requested:

_____/_____/_____ to ____/____/_____

REQUESTED SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Method of capture: _____

Fumigation of burrows? Yes No

Release Site Management Plan: New Existing

Interim hold? Yes No

_____ Days

Location: _____

Name & Signature of property owner for interim hold:

Other Special Conditions unique to this permit:

CONTRACTOR:

Organization/agency, if any:

Primary Contact (name/title):

Address:

Phone:

× I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND HEREBY AGREE TO ALL TERMS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT. I agree to practice currently accepted standards for capture and release to maximize relocation success and comply with Colorado wildlife law.

Volunteers and Employees will be trained on and provided a copy of the **Human Health Risks**. (initial): _____

Non-target captures, injuries and mortalities will be reported immediately to the capture site DWM or other CPW representative. Most non-target captures can then be released. However, in the case of any protected, threatened or endangered species, the capture site DWM or other CPW representative will provide guidance. (initial): _____

APPLICATION PART 2 - RISKS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ZOONOTIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT:

- A. **Treatment of burrows and animals:** Unless noted in the special conditions, capture site burrows shall be dusted with an insecticide, in compliance with its label and Department of Agriculture regulations, effective against fleas one week before capture activities begin. Prairie dogs will be observed for symptoms of disease. If no signs of disease are present then capture activities may begin. All prairie dogs shall then be individually treated with an appropriate insecticide at the time of capture. **If at any point in the capture/relocation activity any prairie dogs appear sick, the capture/relocation activities shall immediately cease and the capture site DWM shall be notified.**
- B. **Sick / Dead Animals:** Permittee must notify CPW and the local health department immediately regarding any sick or dead animals. Capture shall be suspended until the cause of illness or death is determined, and shall not be resumed without guidance and approval of CPW. Burrow dusting may be required prior to further capture.
- C. **Die-offs:** Any sudden die-off or mortality rates in excess of 10% in captured animals should be investigated.
- D. **Follow-up:** If the release site is a colony with existing prairie dogs, it should be checked by the permittee and/or contractor at two and four weeks post-relocation. Any sick or dead animals must be reported to CPW.
- E. **Trap Cleaning:** All traps and associated equipment used in the capture, holding, relocation and release of prairie dogs shall be cleaned and then treated with a disinfectant solution. In the absence of other local requirements, follow the steps below:
 1. Standard household detergents should be used first to clean surfaces, eliminating all visible biological material.
 2. Follow this cleaning with a disinfectant solution such as a chlorine bleach and water solution of ¼ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water.
 3. Cages, food containers, and other objects used in association with trapping wild prairie dogs will be cleaned and disinfected preferably by hand (or in a dedicated dishwasher), and then may be reused.
 4. Materials (such as wood chips) used for animal bedding 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. Proper discarding after thorough soaking with a disinfectant solution (e.g., bleach solution), is by placement in a plastic bag, and then contained in a covered trashcan for disposal with other household waste.

 Initial to confirm you have read the ZOONOTIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT information.

HUMAN HEALTH RISKS:

Permittees shall notify all relocation participants of the potential health risks inherent in handling prairie dogs and advise participants about specific diseases and the symptoms.

A. Required General Preventive Measures:

1. Minimize direct handling.
2. Wear protective clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirts, closed toe shoes and gloves.
3. Use an insect repellent effective for fleas.
4. Ensure that all prairie dogs are dusted with insecticide.
5. Notify a physician if bitten by a flea or a prairie dog or at the onset of a fever and/or flu-like symptoms within 14 days of the relocation activity or their last contact with prairie dogs, or with any other concerns.
6. Sick, lethargic, or dead (unless it is a known trap mortality) prairie dogs should not be handled.

B. Specific Diseases: It may be appropriate to contact your personal physician, or the state or local health department, for more information on these diseases. The following list of diseases is by no means all-inclusive.

1. Plague: risk from flea bites and from direct contact with blood or tissues
 - *Yersinia pestis*, the causative agent of the disease plague, is principally a flea-transmitted bacterial disease of rodents. Humans and other animals become infected with the organism following the bite(s) of one or more infected fleas, or via direct contact with the tissues of body fluids of infected animals. Clinical signs of plague can be non-specific and can occur after a 2-6 day incubation period. Clinical signs include fever, chills, generalized pain, diarrhea, shock and prostration. The bubonic form of plague is manifested by painful swelling under the arms and groin. The septicemic form is manifested by central nervous system signs, bloody urine and saliva, and red splotching of the skin. The pulmonary form is manifested by coughing, bloody sputum and respiratory difficulty. It can arise from the previously mentioned two forms.
2. Tularemia: transmitted through arthropod bites or direct contact with blood or tissues
 - *Francisella tularensis* bacterium causes tularemia. Human infections result from the bite of arthropod vectors which are either infected or have contaminated mouthparts (ticks, deerflies, and occasionally other blood-sucking arthropods including mosquitoes, or by ingestion or inhalation of soil or water contaminated by urine or feces or carcasses of infected animals. Tularemia in humans is usually marked by sudden onset (1-10 days, average 3 days after exposure) with high fever, shaking chills, weakness and/or fatigue. Often slow healing ulcers (sores) form at the site of the arthropod bite or where the organism penetrated the skin.
3. Tetanus: risk if bitten by prairie dog; current tetanus shots recommended (within the past 10 years).
 - *Clostridium tetani* bacterium causes the disease tetanus, (commonly called lockjaw). It affects the nervous system and is contracted through a deep cut or wound that becomes contaminated with tetanus bacteria. Infection with tetanus bacteria causes severe muscle spasms, including "locking" of the jaw so the patient cannot open their mouth or swallow, and may even lead to death by suffocation. Tetanus is not transmitted from person to person. Common first signs of tetanus are a headache and muscular stiffness in the jaw and neck, difficulty in swallowing, rigidity of abdominal muscles, spasms, sweating and fever. Symptoms usually begin 8 days after the infection, but may range in onset from 3 days to 3 weeks. Consult your medical doctor about vaccination protection against tetanus which can be prevented with a safe and effective vaccine.

4. Bite wounds: risk if bitten by prairie dog; can lead to serious infections if not treated.
 - Bite wounds may be infected with a number of harmful bacteria. Bite wounds should be examined/treated by a medical professional immediately.

 Initial to confirm you have read the information pertaining to HUMAN HEALTH RISKS.

APPLICATION PART 3 - RELEASE SITE DESCRIPTION

Provide a complete description of the proposed release site by answering the following questions. If this site is managed by a federal, state or local natural resource agency, please submit the appropriate portion of the management plan for the site, and provide answers to any of the following not addressed in the agency plan.

Regarding Habitat Suitability:

A. Site Capacity:

1) How large is the property? Describe the size of the entire property as well as the release area.

2) What is the shape/configuration of the property? (Attach map)

B. Site Vegetation:

1) How would you describe the site (select all that apply)? Short Grass Mixed Other

2) Further describe the general vegetation type, including weedy species:

3) What percentage of the site is covered with vegetation?

C. Is the vegetation type generally more than 2" tall, but less than 12"? Yes No

1) If vegetation type is higher, can it be mowed? Yes No

D. Does the site show signs of degradation or disturbance, for example, has it been overgrazed? Yes No

1) Describe:

E. Soil type: Is soil type less than 70% sand? Yes No

F. Topography:

1) Is the general slope of the site less than 20% grade? Yes No

2) Describe general topography:

G. Are there any natural barriers that may limit the distribution of prairie dogs such as steep slopes, wetlands, creeks/ditches, tall vegetation, roads? Yes No

1) Describe:

Presence of Prairie Dogs:

A. What is the history of prairie dog use on this property?

B. Is the property currently inhabited by prairie dogs? Yes No

1) If no, but there is evidence of previous occupation: When was the most recent plague outbreak, if known?

2) If yes:

a. What species?

b. What percentage of the site is covered by burrows?

c. What percentage of these burrows are occupied? Approximately:

d. Where are the currently occupied burrows relative to the entire burrowed area? (Attach a drawing if necessary):

e. What type of burrows will be used? Are they a minimum of 3 feet deep? Acclimation cages?

C. How far away is the nearest prairie dog town? What species is it?

D. What is your assessment of the opportunity for prairie dogs to move between towns? (e.g., are there major obstacles between your proposed site and other towns?):

Presence of Wildlife Species Associated with Prairie Dogs:

A. Are any wildlife species known to be closely associated with prairie dogs present on the site? (may include, but not limited to: burrowing owls, golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, mountain plover, pronghorn, kit fox, rabbits, snakes, etc.)

Please list:

B. What other wildlife species are recorded or likely to occur on the property? (Please attach list if appropriate/available):

Land Use:

- A. What, if any, legal stipulations, easements or management plans guide the uses of this property?

- B. What is the current use of the site?

- C. What uses are planned or anticipated for the future?

- D. What is the current zoning for the property (residential, commercial, agricultural, etc.)?

- E. What are land uses of adjacent properties?

Relocation project potential benefits:

Please describe what the potential benefits of this project may be. These benefits may relate to ecological, social, economic, recreation/education, or other values.

Relocation project considerations and potential impacts:

Please describe any potential undesired impacts this relocation project may have. Potential conflicts/impacts may relate to ecological, social, economic, human health, historic/archeological, land-use and/or other values. *You are encouraged to contact potentially affected parties, and may use the attached letter templates to assist you in requesting and identifying concerns and mitigation strategies. In some cases, the CPW District Wildlife Manager may require contact with specific organizations, or individuals for comments and suggestions. In all cases, the release site Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) should be notified. If the release site is in a different county than the capture site, Colorado state law requires approval from the receiving site BOCC.*

A. Is it likely that the relocation will result in conflict with adjacent land uses? Yes No
Please explain:

B. Have neighboring landowners been notified, and expressed their support or concerns?(Attach copies of letters expressing support or concerns, if available) Yes No
Please summarize their support or concerns:

C. What is your assessment of community support for this relocation project? High Medium Low
Please explain:

D. Other potential impacts and/or considerations:

Summary regarding notification letters sent and comment letters received:

A. Board of County Commissioners: Response attached? Yes No
If BOCC approval is required, proof of approval must be attached to this application.
Additional comments:

B. Soil Conservation District notified? Yes No Response attached? Yes No response
Additional comments:

C. Adjacent neighbors notified? Yes No Response attached? Yes No response
Additional comments:

APPLICATION PART 4 - FUTURE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Describe the plan for future management of prairie dogs and related habitat on the proposed release site by answering the following questions, or by attaching a previously approved site Management Plan.

Site Preparation: Describe how the release site will be prepared or enhanced to optimize relocation success. (Processes may include, but not be limited to mowing, vegetation enhancement, installation of burrows, placement of movement barriers etc.)

Population Management:

Estimate the carrying capacity of this site, and describe strategies for monitoring and managing prairie dog populations, including escape control where/when necessary.

Impacts and Mitigation:

Identify plans for mitigating the potential impacts, conflicts or concerns identified in the “Site Description” section of this application, or any newly identified concerns.

Follow Up- Monitoring:

Identify efforts to monitor the site and the prairie dogs post translocation. Please commit to providing CPW information after one year regarding plague, maps of the colony, and successes in preserving this colony.

Is there any other pertinent information that should be considered?