

## **Subpart F. Specifications for the Humane Handling, Care, Treatment, and Transportation of Bears**

*Licensees must comply with the following requirements for all species of bears with the exception of polar bears.*

### **(a) Primary enclosure general requirements.**

- (1) primary enclosures must be designed and constructed of suitable substrate that mimics a natural habitat of a bear such as: soil, soft earth, grass, mulch.**
- (2) Concrete substrate shall be prohibited except for enclosure features designed for spectator safety.**
- (3) Primary enclosures must provide shelter and protection from the viewing public. The bears must have an opportunity to seek solitude and privacy at their discretion.**
- (4) Primary enclosures must provide shelter and protection from extreme temperatures and weather conditions and give them a chance to retreat from sun light by providing adequate accessible shaded areas at all times of the day.**
- (5) Primary enclosure must provide bears with easy and convenient access to clean food and water.**
- (6) Primary enclosures for bears must include a pool that is large enough for the bear to fully submerge itself and express species-typical behaviors. The pool cannot be made of metal material. The pools must be cleaned regularly (water for drinking must be freshened daily) to ensure proper water quality.**
- (7) Primary enclosures must include a den that is not made of metal and is large enough for a bear to stand up; the den must be large enough to allow mothers and their cubs to den together.**

**(b) Minimum space requirements.** The primary enclosures size must be measured in integral multiples of acres rather than in square feet. If several bears are housed together, the enclosure must expand by the multiples of the animals, (i.e. 2 bears require 2 acres, 3 bears require 3 acres, etc.).

**(c) Environmental Enhancement.** Exhibitors must develop and follow an appropriate plan for environmental enhancement adequate to promote the psychological well-being of bears.

- (1) Social grouping.** The environment enhancement plan must include specific provisions to address the proper socialization of bears. Bears must be given the opportunity to choose to socialize or remain in solitude.
- (2) Handling of bear cubs.** Bear cubs may not be removed from their mothers until brought out of the den by the female. Bear cub handling by the public is prohibited.
- (3) Environmental enrichment.** The physical environment of the primary enclosure must be enriched by providing means of expressing species behavior that bears would exhibit in the wild.

**(a) Sensory stimulation.** Environmental enhancement must offer olfactory, visual, auditory and tactile stimuli. If an enrichment activity's affect wears off, it must be revised or replaced. The minimum standards of enrichment must provide bears with the opportunity for all of the following behaviors:

- i. Climbing**
- ii. Digging**
- iii. Nest Building**

#### **iv. Hibernating**

**(d) Feeding.** Bears must be fed a varied diet that includes fresh, seasonally available food, similar to what they would eat in the wild, that is presented in a stimulating manner that encourages natural foraging behavior. Public feedings are prohibited.

**(e) Veterinary Care.** Bears must have ready access to acute veterinary care. They must have regularly scheduled veterinary check-ups to ensure their physical and psychological well-being. Veterinary findings of illness or insufficient well-being must be addressed with a plan to resolve, or demonstrate progress toward resolution of, the issue within one week.

**(f) Adequately-trained employees.** Every exhibit subject to the Animal Welfare regulations for maintaining bears must have sufficient employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required in this subpart. The employees who provide husbandry practice and care, or handle bears, must be trained and supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of bears.