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Edition 1

SABS STANDARDS DIVISION

Recommended practice

Wildlife rehabilitation — Specific housing requirements

Part 1: Birds

WARNING
This document references other documents normatively.

This document does not have the status of a South African National Standard.

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Table of changes

Change No.	Date	Scope

Foreword

This recommended practice was prepared by National Committee SABS/TC 1040/SC 07, *Nature conservation – Rehabilitation of wildlife*, in accordance with procedures of the SABS.

This document was approved for publication in March 2017.

Reference is made in 4.5.2.3 to the "relevant national legislation". In South Africa this means the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962).

Compliance with this document cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

Animals become injured from time to time. These animals need specialized care and need to be subjected to an intense rehabilitation program before they can be released back into a natural system. The facilities to undertake such rehabilitation processes are specific and in most cases expensive to erect and maintain. Furthermore, the rehabilitation process is a very specialized field and should only be left to experienced people that have extensive experience in the specific species.

Rehabilitation in this document refers to the healing of injured wild animals and the release of healthy wild animals in the shortest possible time. This does not include the raising of orphans of higher order animals such as primates and predators. It also implies that no human imprinted animals can ever be regarded as rehabilitated.

Presently the nine provinces of South Africa have different guidelines regarding the rehabilitation of wild animals. There is a need to standardize regulations and policies between provinces so that wildlife rehabilitators do not move from one province to another to avoid regulations imposed by one province but not in another.

Regulations are necessary because rehabilitation facilities often mutate to other uses (for example, performing, display and other commercial aspects). There are also welfare and biodiversity issues involved in uncontrolled rehabilitation attempts and releases.

There is strong pressure from the public for the rehabilitation of affected animals whenever possible, and where this is not an option, for the provision of care and sanctuary. This puts pressure on the authorities to allow these activities, although they may not be in the best interest of individual animals or species.

There is a growing awareness of concern for animal welfare. Wildlife rehabilitation is now recognized as a specialized field with a valid contribution to make. As with any dynamic and challenging field, structured and controlled development is essential. Wildlife rehabilitation is a specialized field that falls outside the scope and expertise of the conservation, veterinary and animal welfare fields, yet it is interdependent and interactive with all three. The conservation and environmental authorities have a responsibility to protect and control the use of all wild animals.

Introduction *(concluded)*

Throughout the country there are various facilities where a particular activity, or combination of activities, is carried out under the auspices of rehabilitation.

This document is intended to address "housing requirements specifically for birds under rehabilitation". Recommendations outlined in this part of ARP 1049 may not apply to every case, larger cages and improvements are acceptable and encouraged.

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Wildlife rehabilitation — Specific housing requirements

Part 1: Birds

1 Scope

1.1 This part of ARP 1049 addresses specific housing requirements for birds undergoing rehabilitation.

1.2 This part of ARP 1049 is also intended to establish professional standards for wildlife rehabilitation, to encourage the development of improved wildlife rehabilitation programs, and to improve care for all wild birds in rehabilitation. Improvements in care and treatment protocols can be made and better facilities can be planned for.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Information on currently valid national and international standards can be obtained from the SABS.

ARP 1048, *Wildlife rehabilitation – General housing requirements*.

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

3.1.1

altricial birds

birds that are helpless when hatched and completely dependent on their parents for care

3.1.2

aspergillosis

infection caused by a type of mould affecting the respiratory system

3.1.3

astroturf

artificial grass