



## **Guidance on the keeping of Old-world Monkeys: Baboons, Guenons and Macaques**

Dangerous Wild Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 2004





1. **Species Names**      Family *Cercopithecidae*      Old-world monkeys including baboons, guenons and macaques.  
including the genera *Papio*, *Cercopithecus*, and *Macaca*
  
2. **Additional information**      All members of the *Cercopithecidae* family require a licence under this legislation. This includes other species in addition to those listed in Paragraph 1 above, such as drill monkeys, colobus monkeys, the gelada, langurs, leaf monkeys, the mandrill, mangabeys, the patas and proboscis monkeys and the talapoin.  
  
If you propose to keep an old-world monkey species not listed in Paragraph 1 above, please contact the Department of the Environment for further advice.
  
3. **Conservation status**      Some members of the *Cercopithecidae* are classified as Annex A species under EC Regulation 338/97 (relating to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)).  
  
Special permits must be obtained to buy, sell, breed or use Annex A species for any commercial purpose.
  
4. **Housing overview**      Primates are social animals and should be kept in groups if at all possible. A stable group structure is important for the welfare of the animals, and the behavioural development of any young.  
  
They may be given free access to an indoor sleeping area and outdoor enclosure, but it is recommended that they be shut in during the night for security reasons.

- 5. Keeping experience** In order to protect the welfare of these animals and to protect keeper safety, keepers must be able to demonstrate a good knowledge of husbandry and handling of the species they wish to keep.

There should normally be a second named person nominated and included on the licence who is competent to care for the animals should the owner be absent or incapacitated.

## Housing Recommendations

- 6. Construction** The old-world monkeys are strong climbers and are capable of dextrous manipulation and intelligent thought. Enclosures must therefore be extremely secure to ensure that these animals are not able to escape.

In outdoor enclosures, there should be a natural dirt or planted substrate if possible.

- 7. Fencing** Fencing for enclosures must be strong enough to withstand the weight of the monkeys climbing on it or jumping against it, and the mesh size used must be small enough to prevent the animals becoming entangled. Enclosures must be a minimum of 2.5 m (8 ft) high, and should have a secure roof.

The fencing should be set into concrete foundations to prevent the monkeys digging underneath.

There should be sufficient perches and shelters for all the animals to use them at the same time.

- 8. Size** A family group of one adult male, two females and two juveniles requires as a minimum:
- Height – 2.5 m (8 ft)  
Length and width – no less than five times the maximum head and body length of an adult male of the species to be kept.
- For example, for a family group of lion-tailed macaques, *Macaca silenus*, the minimum recommended enclosure size would be approximately 3m x 3m x 2.5m (10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft).
- 9. Temperature and Shelter** These species require a temperature of between 18-29°C (65-85°F). If the temperature drops below this level, heating should be provided in a shelter accessible to the animals at all times.
- Some individuals may still enjoy exercise outside in colder weather conditions.
- Shelters must be provided in outdoor enclosures as shade from the sun.
- 10. Lighting** These primates are most active during the day. Natural daylight is recommended, however additional lighting may be required in indoor nest boxes to allow adequate cleaning and maintenance.
- 11. Ventilation** Enclosed holding quarters should have some suitable form of ventilation. Humidity should be maintained at 40-60%.

- 12. Drainage** The drainage of the outdoor enclosures must be capable of rapidly removing all excess water. Drains should be designed to avoid injury to the animals. Any open drains, other than those carrying surface water, should be outside the enclosure. Any faecal material must be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.
- For indoor enclosures the floor covering should be changeable or easily cleaned.
- 13. Cleanliness** Outdoor enclosures should be maintained in a clean state, with faeces, food debris and litter being removed on a daily basis. Indoor housing, including perches and shelves where animals sit, should also be cleaned regularly.
- It is recommended that a separate holding enclosure be incorporated to allow the keeper to enter safely to clean and maintain the main enclosure.
- 14. Social dynamics and behavioural considerations** Cercopithecoid monkeys should be kept in social groups, ideally comprising of one adult male, several adult females and associated young.
- 15. Prevention of escape** The animals must be secured in a holding pen that can be operated from outside, before a keeper enters the enclosure. A double door must always be used to prevent the animals escaping past the keeper as the gate is opened.
- The public must not be able to gain access to the perimeter of the enclosure – this may require the erection of a secondary fence. Signs warning of the danger should be erected.

**16. Food, drink and bedding**

Cercopithecoid monkeys will eat a mixture of fruit, vegetables, nuts, seeds and insects in addition to a commercial prepared diet.

Fresh drinking water should be provided at all times. Water dispensers should be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Some form of bedding, such as straw or shredded paper, should be provided in indoor shelters.

**17. Visiting interval**

The animals must be monitored at appropriate intervals, normally at least once every 24 hours.

**18. Exercise and enrichment**

The provision of enrichment is important for this species. All old-world monkeys are strong climbers, very active and capable of dextrous manipulation. Enclosures should be made as interesting as possible.

Enrichment items could include raised walkways, ropes and perches. The provision of non-toxic play items such as tree branches, or novel feeding methods, is also recommended to provide stimulation.

The use of natural planting or straw as an outdoor ground cover can allow the monkeys to express their natural foraging behaviour if feed is scattered into it.

- 19. Provision for capture and transportation** As has been stated previously, there should be some method of enclosing the animals into a holding pen, to allow the safe cleaning of the enclosure and the administration of veterinary treatment. The door mechanisms for these holding pens should be operable from outside the enclosure.
- Veterinary treatment should be provided on-site.
- A licence, issued by the Department of the Environment, for the keeping of these animals may specify restrictions on the movement of these animals and procedures to be followed.
- 20. Emergency planning** There should be a written contingency plan in place to be used in the event of an emergency, for example fire, flood, animal escape or injury to the keeper.
- 21. Notification Requirements** A licence, issued by the Department of the Environment, for the keeping of these animals may specify procedures to be followed in the event of an escape and on the provision of information to the Emergency Services (e.g. the Fire Service) on the dangerous wild animals being kept.
- You are required to notify the Department of the Environment of any intentions to breed the animals.



## **22. Prevention and control of spread of infectious disease**

Some provision should be made to allow the separation of sick or injured animals if a group is kept.

The keeper should provide details of their veterinary arrangements with a practice prepared to treat these animals. A schedule of veterinary care, including vaccination and routine parasite control is required, and the keeping of records of veterinary attention is essential. These animals are susceptible to human diseases, including the common cold.

Animals acquired from outside the United Kingdom may be subject to rabies quarantine regulations. Anyone requiring further information should contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

There are no transmissible diseases carried by these animals that pose a risk to the general public as long as there is no direct contact, and visitors are not allowed to handle the animals or their by-products.

## Explanatory Notes

These notes have been produced to provide people wishing to keep dangerous wild animals with guidance on the requirements they may have to meet. In determining whether or not a licence should be issued, the Department of the Environment will consider the information provided by the applicant when applying for a licence. The Department will also arrange for a suitably qualified person to carry out an inspection of the premises at which the animal or animals will be kept and the inspector's report will also be taken into consideration. It is at the Department's discretion to waive certain recommendations, or add additional ones, to the guidance provided in this document. There is a right to appeal within 21 days if a licence is refused or if the applicant contests conditions applied to a licence.

## Contact Information

*For further information on the Dangerous Wild Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, contact the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Biodiversity Unit on (028) 9056 9557*

### For CITES enquiries:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration  
Service  
Global Wildlife Division  
**Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs**  
Zone 1/17 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6EB

Tel 0117 372 8691

### For rabies quarantine enquiries:

Quarantine Section  
**Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs**  
Area 209  
1a Page Street  
London SW1P 4PQ

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