



Animal Pest Management Services, Inc.
Urban Wildlife Professionals 

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November 13, 2014

Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street, Ste. 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Modify Title 14 Section 465.5(g)(3) as It Relates to the Use of Traps by Commercial Animal Pest Control Operators

Dear Mr. Mastrup:

I am the owner of Animal Pest Management Services, Inc. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Biology and have been handling Urban Wildlife problems for over 30 years. As a business owner, I have been working in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations, as well as other state and federal regulations, for the entire time I have been in business. We cover the following areas: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, & Kern Counties. We are one of the top 100 largest Pest Control Companies in the country.

This is to formally request that the Fish and Game Commission modify Section 465.5 (g) (3) of Title 14 to clarify that licensed commercial animal pest control operators possessing specified qualifications who are conducting business under a contract for animal pest control services are authorized to place traps within 150 yards of a structure used as a permanent or temporary residence.

Proposed modification:

465.5 (g) (3) (A) - Trap Placement Requirement. Traps may not be set within 150 yards of any structure used as a permanent or temporary residence, unless such traps are set by a person controlling such property, **or** by a person who has and is carrying with him written consent of the landowner, or by a licensed commercial animal pest control operator meeting the requirements of subparagraph (B) who has entered into a contract for animal pest control services with a person controlling the property where the services are to be rendered, to so place the trap or traps.

(B) Animal pest control businesses, in order to be exempt from the prohibition against setting traps within 150 yards of any structure used as a permanent or temporary residence, must hold the following:

- 1) Qualified Applicator License (QAL) issued by the Department of Pesticide Regulation;
- 2) Pest Control Advisor License (PCA) that includes the Category D for Vertebrate Pest Control;
- 3) Trapping License issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 4) A written Pest Control Recommendation issued by a licensed Pest Control Advisor for each trapping project that lists any potential hazards that would compromise safety, and which describes any modifications or alternate steps that should be taken in order to mitigate safety risks for people and/or non-target animals.

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Discussion:

1. Current Regulation - Trap Placement Requirement. Traps may not be set within 150 yards of any structure used as a permanent or temporary residence, unless such traps are set by a person controlling such property or by a person who has and is carrying with him written consent of the landowner to so place the trap or traps.

2. Reasons for Modification - The current regulation is an issue in relation to trapping in urban settings. In the majority of neighborhoods, residential properties are built in close proximity to each other. This makes obtaining permission from each property owner a difficult task. Multiple people need to be contacted and they must all agree to permit trapping on property that is not their own. There are added obstacles in regard to adjacent multi-unit properties, language barriers, inability to contact certain owners in case of tenant situations, etc. Additionally, even if contact is made with all parties affected within the 150 yard rule, they must all approve of the trapping request being asked, which is rare.

Many people still experience problems on their own property with regard to wildlife. They are not being allowed in many cases to protect their homes and pets from conflict with certain wildlife, even when the problem exists solely on their own property and such trapping would not affect adjacent residences. When trapping is performed correctly, it is a rare for non-target animals to be caught. People (even children), and pets are not at risk if there are responsible, capable trappers performing the trapping. It is all related to the qualifications and experience level of the person doing the trapping.

The current DFW Trapping License structure, does not have any licensing differentiation that recognizes the experience level, trapping education, knowledge, or qualifications of commercial animal pest control trappers, or even the different types of trappers, such as recreational, fur trapping, pest control, etc.

Assuming that the current regulation is intended to protect people and/or pets that could inadvertently enter an area where traps are set, APMS believes there are other appropriate options that could help to minimize these types of risks. The above proposed exemption for experienced professionals who hold licenses in specific branches of pest control is considered to be such an appropriate option, and APMS urges the commission to give it consideration for adoption.

We respectfully submit these recommendations for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or lynch@lynchlobby.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Fox
President/Urban Wildlife Biologist

cc: Dr. Eric Loft, Branch Chief, Wildlife Programs, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
Animal Pest Management Services, Inc.