



**California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 CCR 679
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND VARIANCE PROCESS

Transition Period. A permittee issued a permit prior to the effective 2025 date, pursuant to Title 14 CCR 679, shall be authorized by the department to operate under those requirements for a period of 6 months **AFTER** the effective date of the new regulations (e.g., for an effective date of May 1, 2025, the transition period will end November 1, 2025). Thereafter, a permittee, their sub-permittee, designee, authorized person, and qualified handler shall comply with the requirements. A permittee, their sub-permittee, designee, authorized person, and qualified handler may house rehabilitation animals in enclosures that do not meet all requirements only if a variance has been approved by the department pursuant to subsection 679.4(c).

Variances to Enclosure Requirements. A permittee, their sub-permittee, or designee a request for variance of any enclosure construction required in the regulations or the DFW 679 Manual. The request must contain the category of variance (e.g., minimum size, maximum number of animals, seasonal or emergency maximum number of animals, etc.), type of variance (e.g., new construction, existing construction etc.), and the reason for request (e.g., undue hardship, financial burden etc.). The department will review the written request and either approve or deny the variance request in writing to the requestor within 15 calendar days.

Note: The transitional period and variances relate to the requirements for enclosures, and enrichment. Regulations about (including but not limited to) the transportation and confinement of wildlife (see 679.2), humane care standards (see 679.5), and the release of rehabilitation animals to the wild (see 679.6) will need to be complied with upon the effective date of the new regulations.

2. WILL I NEED TO RENEW MY PERMIT WHEN THE NEW REGULATIONS GO INTO EFFECT?

The new regulations will not impact the date of expiration of a current 679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation permit. The permits will remain valid for the three years since issuance. However, CDFW will need some additional information about existing facilities (such as information about sub-permittees and authorized persons) in order to migrate the existing MOU into the license database.