



## GN6 - Additional guidance for bird of prey keepers

You should read these additional guidance notes together with the general guidance notes for importers and exporters (**GN1**), and the general guidance notes for commercial use within the European Union (**GN2**).

These notes are for guidance only and are not a full statement of the law. If you need points of law to be explained, you should get independent legal advice.

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## 1. Types of controlled specimens

Apart from certain New World vultures, all birds of prey (and their hybrids) are included in Annex A or B of the EU CITES Regulations, and their import, export and commercial use is strictly controlled. A list of Annex A birds of prey can be found in Appendix 1 to this guidance note; copies of the full CITES Annexes can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the enquiries desk.

Controls apply to three species of New World vultures (*Cathartidae*). The Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monarchus*) and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) they are listed in Annex A and the King vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) is listed in Annex C. A self-completed import notification form must be presented to Customs when importing King vulture together with the (re-)export permit or certificate of origin from the Management Authority of the exporting country. A CITES permit will also be required to (re-)export it from the EU.

[Some birds of prey](#) listed on CITES and the EU CITES Regulations are also listed on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and need to be registered with us. Contact us for advice if you are unsure if this applies to your bird.

## 2. Importing and exporting birds of prey (see also GN1)

All species of birds of prey listed on Annexes A or B of the regulations must be issued with an import, export or (re-)export permit before they enter or leave the EU.

Certain birds of prey which cannot be imported if they are wild specimens originating in specified countries can be found in the [EU Suspension Regulations](#).

## 3. Commercial use of wild disabled birds

We will not normally issue Article 10 certificates to allow the commercial use of Annex A wild disabled birds of prey. We may make exceptions for breeding from which conservation benefits will accrue to the species concerned, or research or education aimed at the preservation or conservation of the species. We will also consider permitting the display of such birds to the public for commercial purposes where it includes an educational element aimed at informing people about the conservation threats to and needs of the species concerned, such as through the use of appropriately designed display boards or on-site talks and presentations. Transaction specific certificates may be issued in such cases.

We will not usually issue Article 10 certificates permitting the breeding of commonly captive bred species. For rarer species Transaction Specific Certificates (TSCs) may be issued to allow for display and breeding. If you are in any doubt about the species for which an Article 10 certificate may be considered to permit breeding you should contact AHVLA.

It is expected that applicants keeping any wild disabled birds will keep records on any bird unfit for release into the wild, including records of the attempts made to rehabilitate them. Recognising that all information may not be available for wild disabled birds held before this guidance note was published, as much as possible of the following documents and information should be enclosed with the correctly completed application form:

- a. Species, age (if known) and sex (if known).
- b. Any microchip or other form of identification, including as required under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA).
- c. Details of when and how you received the bird.

- d. Reasons for keeping the specimen and details of record keeping systems. If the applicant is an organisation, describe its nature, purpose, and the date of its establishment.
- e. Date and place where the bird was found, together with any relevant documentary evidence that it was legally obtained. This might include, for example, a licence to remove the bird from the wild, or evidence demonstrating the requirements of section 4(2) of the WCA have been met.
- f. Name and contact details of the finder of the bird, together with a statement, signed by the finder, that the intent of passing the bird to the current keeper was for it to be rehabilitated and released. You should obtain the finder's permission for you to provide their details.
- g. Nature of injuries / likely cause (if known).
- h. In the case of a bird that is unfit for release into the wild:
  - The age the bird was brought in, or a photo of the bird on arrival.
  - Records of the bird's treatment prior to a decision that it could not be released to the wild. This should include the date(s) and details of any examination and treatment by a vet.
  - A completed Veterinary Examination Certificate (see the [form on the AHVLA website](#)).
  - Details demonstrating that in rehabilitating the bird, efforts have been made to avoid the bird becoming imprinted, habituated, or rehabilitated in such a manner as to reduce the chances of successful release back into the wild. This should outline any accepted methods used to avoid the bird becoming unfit for release back into the wild, such as those in the Raptor Rescue's [Rehabilitation Code](#).

#### **Display to the public; education**

The following additional information should be enclosed with the application, providing details of the circumstances in which the bird will be kept, used, and displayed to the public, including for educational purposes aimed at the preservation or conservation of the species:

- i. A written description and/or photographs of the place(s) where the bird will be housed and displayed.
- j. Details of the proposed display of the specimen to the public. This should include details of how this is designed to inform and educate about the species and its preservation or conservation (e.g. through the use of display boards or talks).

#### **Use for breeding or propagation/ research**

The following additional information should be enclosed with the application, regarding the breeding or research project that the bird is to be used for:

- k. Details of the breeding or research project, including the main aims and objectives, (including how it is likely to benefit the conservation of the species), and how these are to be achieved.
- l. For a breeding project: details of other specimens within the breeding programme, details of any previous breeding success with the species, and an indication of what will happen to any future offspring.
- m. For a research project: detail any collaborating institutions or researchers, and where the results will be published or made publicly available.

#### 4. Article 10 certificates for offspring of wild specimens

The offspring of parents held in captivity for which breeding for commercial use is not specifically permitted will not usually be issued with an Article 10 certificate.

#### 5. Enquiries desk, application forms and complaints

If you have any questions or would like an application form, please contact the enquiries desk (see contact details below) or download them from the website.

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)  
UK CITES Management Authority  
Centre for International Trade, Bristol  
Floor 1, Zone 17  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6EB

Phone: 0117 372 8774

Fax: 0117 372 8206

E-mail: [wildlife.licensing@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wildlife.licensing@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/cites/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/cites/)

AHVLA has a formal complaints procedure which can be found at:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla/files/customer-service-standards.pdf>



Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government  
[www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla](http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla)

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