



# Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

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Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Land, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) has reviewed the Interim Final Rule titled "Control of Communicable Diseases; Restrictions on African Rodents, Prairie Dogs, and Certain Other Animals" as published in the Federal Register, November 4, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 213), pages 62353-62369.

NGPC applauds the efforts undertaken by FDA and CDC in controlling the accidental introduction of animal diseases into the United States represented by this Interim Final Rule. The role that the movement of wild species plays in the introduction and spread of diseases that may impact wildlife, livestock and/or humans is poorly understood at best and we must err on the side of caution. The inclusion of provisions for the transport of prairie dogs for scientific purposes and establishment or supplementation of populations will continue to provide a method to reestablish this species or species that require the prairie dog for all or part of its life cycle. We strongly support these provisions.

We would like to submit one specific recommendation:

In Section 1240.63: We recommend a section be added that requires a permanent identification number be placed on any prohibited animal that FDA and/or CDC issues a permit for. This will allow the quick tracing of any animal that may later prove to have been exposed to a disease or an animal that has a disease. This section should also require that persons receiving a permit to move prohibited animals maintain records for a period of 5 years from the date of marking.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this rule and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bruce Morrison of my staff at 402-471-5430 or [morrison@ngpc.state.ne.us](mailto:morrison@ngpc.state.ne.us)

Sincerely,

Rex Amack, Director  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

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