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To ALL Pet Herpetofauna DEALERS & ALL category 2 & 3 and Pet Herpetofauna KEEPERS

Dear Licensee,

RE : Upgrade of Pet Herpetofauna Keeper's Licence to Category 4.

There has been considerable interest and also some confusion surrounding the upgrading of pet reptile and amphibian Keeping licenses to category 4.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) policy on the upgrading of pet herpetofauna Keeping licenses is as follows:-

- (a) Licensees must have kept category 3 pet herpetofauna for at least 12 months** *and*
(b) Licensees must have demonstrated full compliance of all licence conditions following the issue of the category 3 licence.

The former pre-requisite of owning category 3 herpetofauna for at least 12 months is to enable keeper's to gain experience in reptile and amphibian keeping before progressing to the more difficult to look after category 4 animals.

The latter pre-requisite of licence condition compliance is to ensure that licensees become familiar with Departmental requirements allowing them to keep reptiles and amphibians. Amongst these requirements is the need for licensees to complete quarterly return forms accurately and correctly, and also to ensure they are forwarded to this Department on time. Barring the very first quarterly return (which may have been received late &/or incorrectly filled out), Departmental policy will be that licensees must have submitted correctly completed returns on time for at least 3 successive quarterly periods.

Generally, DEC with respect to category 2 Keepers desiring to upgrade to category 4 is that firstly they will need to apply for an upgrade to a category 3 licence. Following the issue of a category 3 licence, applicants will then be subject to the pre-requisites at "(a)" and "(b)" above, before consideration can be given to them proceeding to category 4. Only persons aged 18 years and older may apply for categories 3 and 4.

The Department is willing to consider, on a case-by-case basis, the upgrade of some licensees from category 2 to 4. Following discussion of this topic at the most recent Pet Herpetofauna Consultative Committee meeting, a decision was arrived out that would allow some category 2 licensees to progress to category 4. Such people need to be 18 years of age or older, must have kept category 2 pet herpetofauna for at least two years and demonstrated full compliance of all licence conditions following the issue of the category 2 licence. Licensees meeting these requirements would then need to write to DEC, explaining the reasons why they wish to progress from category 2 to 4, bypassing category 3.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Coleman

for Keiran McNamara
DIRECTOR GENERAL
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