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Regulations on the care of specified animals

When people have dangerous animals in their possession that may harm people (i.e., "specified animals"), they must obtain permission from the prefectural governor or mayor of the designated city for each animal type and each animal facility. Furthermore, they must comply with the standards concerning the structure of animal facilities and keeping methods. If a dangerous animal were to escape somehow, it could cause significant harm to people and living environments. Thus, owners of specified animals must assume even more responsibility and display even greater attention to the proper handling of animals than ordinary animal owners.

Types of specified animals

Approximately 650 species of mammal, bird, and reptile are classified as specified animals. Among them are tigers, hawks, alligators, and vipers. It should be noted that animals whose care is regulated by the Invasive Alien Species Act* are not classified as specified animals.

*Act on Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems Caused by Invasive Alien Species

Standards that must be complied with

The following is an outline of the standards with which owners of specified animals must comply.

1. Items pertaining to the structure and size of animal facilities

- Care and keeping in "cage-shaped facilities, etc." that meet certain standards
- Maintenance of the structure and strength of the facilities capable of preventing escape

2. Items pertaining to the management of animal facilities

- Implementation of regular facility inspections
- Measures to prevent contact with third parties
- Display of signs indicating that specified animals are cared for

3. Items pertaining to the management of animals

- Prevention of rearing animals outside of appropriate facilities
- Individual identification measures using microchips
(leg bands are acceptable for birds)

Penal provisions

People who fail to comply with the required standards (inappropriate facility structure, management method, etc.) will have their permission to own specified animals rescinded. Furthermore, people who care for specified animals without permission or that move or change the structure of animal facilities without permission will be subject to imprisonment with work of not more than six months or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen.