

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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December 8, 2009

Mark  
HowlColorado.org

Dear Mark:

Re: Your e-mail of Dec. 1 and the article by Maria Ferguson posted on EverythingWolf.com

Thank you for your interest in the fates of wolf pups orphaned during Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) predator control programs. My intent in writing this letter is to answer questions posed in your e-mail of December 1, 2009.

Our Zoo Policy guides where DWC places orphaned wildlife. That policy directs us to place Alaskan wildlife only at an AZA accredited zoo with a positive recommendation from its state regulator. In addition to submitting a completed Educational (Live Display) Permit Application (attached), we also require that a receiving facility hold a USDA Class C Exhibitors License and provide a copy of its most recent inspection report. Permit applications are available on our website at: <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=permits.wildlife>. DWC accepts full responsibility for the staff time associated with placing orphaned pups in a manner consistent with our May 2009 protocol (attached), other applicable policies, and regulations.

Our Zoo Policy was written in 1988 and is now under revision. When we seek to place orphaned wildlife at a zoo or similar facility, ensuring the welfare of those animals is our highest priority. The revision of our policy will include a review of organizations that provide accreditation or certification for zoos and like facilities and the role those certifications play in ensuring high standards of animal care. We hope to have a new policy in place by spring 2010. Until then, we recognize that differences between AZA accredited and certified facilities are primarily related to public access and education functions rather than standards of animal care. Therefore, until our new Zoo Policy is in place we will consider placing orphaned wolf pups at AZA certified facilities. AZA accredited zoos will continue to have priority because they offer greater public access and use the animals to educate and promote a conservation message. If you have additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Tom Schumacher

enclosures:

DWC Guidance on Wolf Pups  
DWC Educational (Live Display) Permit Application