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DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2012 No.**

**The Animals (Scientific Procedures)  
Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012**

**Setting free and re-homing protected animals**

18. After section 17 insert—

**“17A Setting free and re-homing protected animals**

(1) A person who holds a licence under this Act must not set free a relevant protected animal, or permit any person acting on their behalf to do so, unless—

- (a) the Secretary of State has consented to the setting free of the animal; or
- (b) the animal is set free during the course of a series of regulated procedures.

(2) A person who holds a licence under this Act must not re-home a relevant protected animal, or permit any person acting on their behalf to do so, unless the Secretary of State has consented to the re-homing of the animal.

(3) The Secretary of State must not consent to the setting free or re-homing of a relevant protected animal unless satisfied—

- (a) that the animal’s state of health allows it to be set free or re-homed;
- (b) that the setting free or re-homing of the animal poses no danger to public health, animal health or the environment;
- (c) that there is an adequate scheme in place for ensuring the socialisation of the animal upon being set free or re-homed; and
- (d) that other appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the animal’s well-being upon being set free or re-homed.

(4) The Secretary of State must not consent to the setting free of a relevant protected animal which has been taken from the wild unless the Secretary of State is also satisfied that the animal has undergone a programme of rehabilitation or that it would be inappropriate for the animal to be required to undergo such a programme.

(5) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) “relevant protected animal” has the same meaning as in section 15A(11);
- (b) a reference to a person who holds a licence under this Act includes a reference to a person who held a licence under this Act which is no longer in force;
- (c) an animal is not to be treated as being “re-homed” if it is moved to live in a place which is for the time being specified in a section 2C licence.”