

**From:** [D'Ambrosio, Julian \(MNRF\)](#)

**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 4:16 PM

**To:** [Carol Ricciuto](#)

**Cc:** [MIN Feedback \(MNRF\)](#); [Deputy Minister \(MNRF\)](#); [Barton, Jennifer \(MNRF\)](#); [Lafrance, Crystal \(MNRF\)](#); [Thornton, Ian \(MNRF\)](#); [Denyes, Geoffrey \(MNRF\)](#); [Bowler, Renee \(MNRF\)](#)

**Subject:** RE: PAWS inspection

Hi Carol,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with the ministry. I understand that having various agencies reviewing your operations has raised questions from you.

To help answer some of your questions, I've described the roles of each agency below as they relate to the work you do.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is the contact for your authorizations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. This includes your authorization to keep specially protected and game wildlife in Captivity and your Commercial Falconry Licence, both which expired Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This also includes your Wildlife Custodian Authorization which is currently valid until May 2026. I will continue to be your contact and provide advice and information to you regarding these authorizations. Your applications for those licences, as well as your Raptor Logbooks and Annual Specially Protected Raptor Reports, will continue to be sent to MNRF. If you require any information on the process to renew these authorizations or the activities these authorizations permit, please let me know.

The Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry ensures the conservation and responsible use of fish and wildlife resources in Ontario by administering the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and delivering the Fish and Wildlife program. We issue authorizations, such as the ones described above regarding wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife in captivity, and ensure the conditions of those authorizations are met. As part of those authorizations we regulate things such as the keeping, sale, purchase and transport of native wildlife and ensure that only people with appropriate reasons, qualifications and capability are permitted to keep wildlife in captivity. While the ministry is also concerned with the health and wellbeing of wildlife in captivity, it does not regulate animal welfare directly. Rather, MNRF works in cooperation with other agencies, such as Animal Welfare Services of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and requires holders of these authorizations to comply with the standards of care in the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS)*.

#### Role of Animal Welfare Services

Public safety and animal welfare are important considerations where wildlife is kept in captivity and are the mandate of Animal Welfare Services (AWS) within the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN). AWS enforces the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS)*. The PAWS Act and its regulations ensure that animals are protected and treated in a humane manner. Protections include setting out standards of care that apply to all animals covered under the act. The chief animal welfare inspector and

provincial animal welfare inspectors, provide enforcement across Ontario. The Ministry of the Solicitor General carries out inspections, responds to concerns, conducts investigations, as well as provides outreach and education on animal care best practices. You can find more information about the role of AWS at [Animal welfare | ontario.ca](#).

#### Role of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the federal agency dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy. They provide programs and services to mitigate risks associated with animal diseases, such as avian influenza, and to protect the health of Canada's animal resources. To protect human and animal health, the CFIA conducts inspections and has monitoring and testing programs in place to prevent and control the spread of diseases to the livestock and poultry sectors. The CFIA carries out programs related to animal health and production to guard against the entry of foreign animal diseases and to prevent the spread of certain domestic animal diseases. You can find out more about the role of the CFIA at [Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#) and in relation to avian influenza at [Status of ongoing avian influenza response by province - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#).

Ontarians are responsible to comply with all federal and provincial legislation. Our agencies aim to work cooperatively and communicate with each other to help Ontarians understand and comply with requirements.

I hope the above information is helpful. My supervisor (Ian Thornton) or I will follow up with you early next week via phone call to answer any questions you may have about the information shared here, and to confirm MNRF attendance during your up-coming inspection by SOLGEN.

Thank you,

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