

Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703-358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703-358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For

each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application <i>Federal Register</i> notice	Permit issuance date
003005 .....	Louisiana State University LSU Museum of Natural Science.	74 FR 47821; September 17, 2009 ...	December 3, 2009
217648 .....	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .....	74 FR 37240, July 28, 2009 .....	December 8, 2009
222610 .....	Atlanta-Fulton County Zoo .....	74 FR 46222, September 8, 2009 .....	December 17, 2009
225871 .....	Lorenzo J. Ferraro .....	74 FR 49017; September 25, 2009 ...	November 16, 2009
228690 .....	Jorge L. Medina .....	74 FR 58977; November 16, 2009 .....	January 6, 2010
229221 .....	James C. Faith .....	74 FR 55062; October 26, 2009 .....	November 27, 2009
230602 .....	Edward D. Pylman .....	74 FR 58977; November 16, 2009 .....	December 23, 2009
231522 .....	Robert B. Spencer .....	74 FR 58977; November 16, 2009 ...	December 17, 2009

#### MARINE MAMMALS

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application <i>Federal Register</i> notice	Permit issuance date
220876 .....	Alaska Department of Fish and Game .....	74 FR 46222; September 8, 2009 .....	December 22, 2009
227386 .....	David E. Clapham, M.D., PH.D, Department of Cardiology Children's Hospital.	74 FR 58977; November 16, 2009 ....	December 22, 2009

Dated: January 8, 2010.

**Brenda Tapia,**

*Program Analyst, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-S**

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-IA-2010-N005]

[96300-1671-0000-P5]

##### Receipt of Applications for Permit

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. The Endangered Species Act requires that we invite public comment on these permit applications.

**DATES:** Written data, comments or requests must be received by February 16, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with these

applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703-358-2281.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Division of Management Authority, telephone 703-358-2104.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Submit your written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications to the address shown in **ADDRESSES**.

Applicant: Brigham and Woman's Hospital, Boston, MA, PRT-232608

The applicant requests a permit to acquire from Coriell Institute, Camden,

NJ, in interstate commerce DNA and cell line samples from various threatened and endangered Primate species for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: The San Diego Zoological Society, San Diego, CA, PRT-236991

The applicant requests a permit to export three male and four female captive-born L'hoest's guenon (*Cercopithecus lhoesti*) to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK for the purpose of the enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Virginia Zoological Park, Norfolk, VA, PRT-237536

The applicant requests a permit to import two captive-born male Siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*) from the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Lympne, Hythe, Kent, UK for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: George Carden Circus Intl., Inc., Springfield, MO, PRT-080831

The applicant requests the re-issuance of permits to re-export and re-import two female Asian elephants (*Elephas*

*maximus*) that were born in the wild to worldwide locations for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education. The permit numbers and animals are: 080731, Jazz; 716917, Betty. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a three-year period and the import of any potential progeny born while overseas.

Dated: January 8, 2010.

**Brenda Tapia,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,  
Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 2010-720 Filed 1-14-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employee Benefits Security Administration

#### **Publication of Model Notices for Health Care Continuation Coverage Provided Pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and Other Health Care Continuation Coverage, as Required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), as Amended by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, Notice**

**AGENCY:** Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of the Availability of the Model Health Care Continuation Coverage Notices Required by ARRA, as amended.

**SUMMARY:** On December 19, 2009, President Obama signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-118), which extended the availability of the health care continuation coverage premium reduction provided for COBRA and other health care continuation coverage as required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5). ARRA, as amended, retained the requirement that the Secretary of Labor (the Secretary), in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, develop model notices. These models are for use by group health plans and other entities that, pursuant to ARRA, as amended, must provide notices of the availability of premium reductions and additional election periods for health care continuation coverage. This document announces the availability of the model health care continuation coverage notices required by ARRA, as amended.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kevin Horahan or Mark Connor, Office

of Health Plan Standards and Compliance Assistance, Employee Benefits Security Administration, (202) 693-8335. This is not a toll-free number.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) created the health care continuation coverage provisions of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Internal Revenue Code (Code), and the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act). These provisions are commonly referred to as the "COBRA continuation provisions," and the continuation coverage that they mandate is commonly referred to as "COBRA continuation coverage." Group health plans subject to the Federal COBRA continuation provisions are subject to ARRA's premium reduction provisions and notice requirements. The Federal COBRA continuation coverage provisions do not apply to group health plans sponsored by employers with fewer than 20 employees. Many States require health insurance issuers that provide group health insurance coverage to plans not subject to the COBRA continuation provisions to provide comparable continuation coverage. Such continuation coverage provided pursuant to State law is also subject to ARRA's premium reduction provisions and notice requirements.

##### **II. Description of the Model Notices**

###### *a. In General*

ARRA mandates the provision of certain notices. Each of these notices must include: a prominent description of the availability of the premium reduction, including any conditions on the entitlement; a model form to request treatment as an "Assistance Eligible Individual";<sup>1</sup> the name, address, and telephone number of the plan administrator (and any other person with information about the premium reduction); a description of the obligation of individuals paying reduced premiums who become eligible for other coverage to notify the plan; and (if applicable) a description of the opportunity to switch coverage options.

The Department of Labor (the Department) created these model notices to cover an array of situations in order to deal with the complexity of the various scenarios facing dislocated

<sup>1</sup> In general, an "Assistance Eligible Individual" is an individual who has experienced an involuntary termination of employment that is a COBRA "qualifying event" at any time from September 1, 2008 through February 28, 2010 if he or she elects such COBRA coverage.

workers and their families. In an effort to ensure that the notices include all of the information required under ARRA, as amended, while minimizing the burden imposed on group health plans and issuers, the Department has created several packages. As with those developed by the Department originally under ARRA, each of the new packages is designed for a particular group of qualified beneficiaries, and contains all of the information needed to satisfy the content requirements for ARRA's amended notice provisions. The packages include the following disclosures:

- A summary of ARRA's premium reduction provisions.
- A form to request the premium reduction.
- A form for plans (or issuers) that permit qualified beneficiaries to switch coverage options to use to satisfy ARRA's requirement to give notice of this option.
- A form for an individual to use to satisfy ARRA's requirement to notify the plan (or issuer) that the individual is eligible for other group health plan coverage or Medicare.
- COBRA election forms and information, as appropriate.

###### *b. General Notice*

The amended General Notice is required to be sent by plans that are subject to the COBRA continuation provisions under Federal law.<sup>2</sup> It must include the information described above and be provided to ALL qualified beneficiaries, not just covered employees, who experience a qualifying event through February 28, 2010.<sup>3</sup>

The Department has updated the earlier version of this model notice so that it includes all of the information related to the premium reduction and

<sup>2</sup> Under ARRA, as amended, the Secretary generally is responsible for developing all of the model notices with the exception of model notices relating to Temporary Continuation Coverage under 5 U.S.C. 8905a, which is the responsibility of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In developing the original ARRA model notices, the Department was required to, and did, consult with the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, OPM, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and plan administrators and other entities responsible for providing COBRA continuation coverage. This set of models is an update of the originals and was created in consultation with staff at the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services.

<sup>3</sup> In the event of a qualifying event that occurs prior to the 2010 DOD Act's December 19, 2009 date of enactment, this notice need not be provided to the extent that proper notice has already been provided. However, in cases where the qualifying event was a termination of employment, the Premium Assistance Extension Notice may be used to satisfy the statutory requirement to notify individuals of their new rights under ARRA, as amended.