



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FISH AND WILDLIFE
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Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

January 29, 2024

Dennis Ferreira
SeaQuest Woodbridge, LLC
250 Woodbridge Center Dr.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Dear Mr. Ferreira,

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Wildlife Permits Unit has been made aware that your facility recently experienced a mycobacteria outbreak in your facility. We understand that the NJ State Public Health Veterinarian is aware of this situation and has provided you with public health resources for preventing zoonotic disease transmission in aquarium settings. This letter is regarding the regulated exotic and nongame wildlife at your facility.

The mycobacteria in question caused an infection in turtles commonly known as "shell rot." These mycobacteria are very contagious and deadly, and if not treated properly, they can infect other animals, including fish, birds, and mammals. Therefore, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife strongly urges you to place a temporary hiatus on all public interactions with all regulated wildlife at your facility to last 120 days from the date of this letter, to end May 28, 2024. You should also adhere to the instructions the NJ Department of Health has provided you.

Poor husbandry is one of the main causes of shell rot and other infections. Because you are permitted to allow guests to interact with various reptile species, this hiatus will significantly help to prevent the spread of infection to the other animals in your facility and under your care. In addition to the hiatus, you must thoroughly clean and disinfect all enclosures of regulated wildlife and provide weekly water samples to the Wildlife Permits Unit for the duration of this hiatus of the turtles' aquatic habitats. These results can be emailed to NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov. These reports will provide proof that the aquatic turtle enclosures are clean and free of infectious diseases.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at the email address or phone number listed above.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Lisa Barno
Assistant Director,
NJDEP Fish & Wildlife