

Amendment to the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law

● Contents of the current procedures

○ Procedures for domestic wildlife

Any person who captures wildlife must obtain the approval and the license for capture of the prefectural governor. Also, any person who raises, transfers and takes over captured wildlife shall register to the prefectural governor and be issued a registration, in case of wild birds, ring which is fitted to their legs. And when transferring registered wildlife, it is required to take over it with a registration.

The said procedures are aimed at:

1. Checking and ensuring that the registered wildlife be properly raised in accordance with the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law.
2. Strengthening control against illegal domestic capture.

○ Procedures for imported wildlife

In importation of any wildlife designated under the relevant ministerial ordinance (bird: 23 species, mammal: 10 species) from any country and region with statutory system of legal capturing certification and/or export licensing (16 countries and regions under the relevant ministerial ordinance), presentation of certificates/licenses is required. However, importation without the said certificates/licenses is possible, from any country and region which does not have such system.

● Problems with the current system and the procedures to be added this time

In recent years, the case of raising illegally hunted domestic wildlife, falsely reporting that it was legally imported, is frequently taking place. Under the current system, however, it is very difficult to conduct proper and effective control over such illegal capturing, raising and transferring, which are apparently in contravention of the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law, because there is no effective means to detect and identify such illegalities.

To effectively address the problems, in addition to the current procedures, the new procedure will be introduced that marker, such as bird ring etc., is granted to the legally imported wildlife for its easier identification, with a view to strengthening the control over the illegal activities and promoting protection of the domestic wildlife. The wildlife, whose illegal distribution has occurred, to which the procedure is applied will be designated by Minister of the Environment.