

EXOTIC



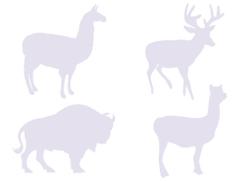
The general rule is that all animal products – meat, poultry, eggs, etc. – donated to an Emergency Food Organization (EFO) must meet the same standards as animal products sold in a retail store. There are a few exceptions to this rule for some lower risk foods. Donors and EFOs can take steps to help assure that a well-intended contribution can be safely delivered to people in need. This guide addresses donations for exotic animals: bison or buffalo, antelope, reindeer, water buffalo, alpaca and llamas.

Raising pronghorn antelope, deer and elk on a farm is unlawful in Washington (with some rare exceptions), however, retail establishments can import meat from out-of-state under certain conditions. If offered “farm-raised” game antelope, deer or elk, an EFO must verify the source of the meat to avoid being complicit in possible illegal activity.

A Food Processor License issued by WSDA is necessary for the slaughter and processing of exotic meats regardless of whether the meat is for sale or donation to an EFO. No wild game can be processed as an exotic meat.

To the right, you will see a step-by-step guide for donating Exotic Meat to an EFO. Please work with your Food Safety Contact at each step to ensure safe and wholesome donation.

EXOTIC Donations Guide



Slaughter/Processing

Donated exotic livestock must be slaughtered and processed in a facility licensed by WSDA for food processing. Visit our website for a list of WSDA licensed processors.

Labeling

Donated exotic game must be labeled. At a minimum, donated exotic meat must include: Product name; exotic meat identification; processor name; processor’s address; and any and all allergen information.

Handling

For your protection, follow these safe handling instructions:

- Keep refrigerated or frozen.
- Thaw in refrigerator or microwave.
- Keep raw meat separate from other foods.
- Wash working surfaces (including cutting boards), utensils and hands after touching raw meat or poultry.
- Cook thoroughly.
- Keep hot foods hot.
- Refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.

Transportation/Storage

Meat must be transported in a frozen or chilled container at a temperature of 35°F or lower. All meat must remain refrigerated or frozen. Refrigerated meat should be distributed or used within



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3-5 days, frozen meat may be kept in the freezer between 4-12 months.

A Note About the Good Samaritan Donation Act

RCW 69.80.031 offers food donors protection from criminal and civil liability. The act, however, is not a “get-out-of-jail-free” card relieving donors and EFOs of the duty of acting responsibly. The act requires that the donated food be “apparently wholesome.” Animal products can look just fine but still carry E. coli, salmonella or other disease. Therefore, verifying whether animal products are, in fact, “apparently wholesome” requires knowing whether the food has been handled in accordance with suitable food safety standards.

DOH: Department of Health

EFO: Emergency Food Organization
(food banks, food pantries, meal programs)

USDA: U.S. Department of Agriculture

WSDA: WA. Department of Agriculture

Exotics: Living animal

Meat: Slaughtered animal



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