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**(S.D.)- Lawrence County Allows Sanctuary To Take In Bears**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 06/28/2013 02:56 PM

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) - Commissioners in Lawrence County are allowing Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary to exceed its suggested maximum of 10 bears on premises.

The exception is to accommodate five black bears that will be arriving from Ohio as part of a rescue operation. The Spearfish sanctuary already has nine bears on site.

Commissioner Terry Weisenberg voted to approve the request, but noted that no other bears could be added at the site until the population returns to below 10.

The three female and two male bears, one of which is neutered, have ages of between 9 to 12 years old. They are currently backyard pets, being kept in a 15 foot by 30 foot cage, which is unsuitable.