



North
American
Nature
Photography
Association

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NANPA Truth in Captioning:

A Statement and Suggested Wording for Images

Statement:

As part of its mission, NANPA encourages and helps develop the highest standards of honesty, communication, and comprehensive captioning of nature photography. NANPA believes in photographers' creative freedom to make images as they wish. Yet, it also recognizes that images presented in educational and other documentary contexts are assumed by the public to be straightforward records of what the photographer captured on film. Communicating clearly, efficiently and fully about the making of nature images is thus linked to public trust and acceptance. Creators of images should be truthful in representing their work.

Suggested Wording:

NANPA offers the following categories to assist in maintaining the integrity and trust among nature photographers, photo users and the public. These suggested categories, words and abbreviations are not intended as laws or mandates; they are merely suggestions. Consistent use of them is entirely up to the individual's professional or informed choice. Such choices would include identifying organisms whose status is obvious, such as bacteria and domestic animals. In fulfilling its stated goals, NANPA realizes its responsibility and seeks to provide guidance consistent with truth and integrity for informed individual choice.

WILD

As "Wild," this term, or no wording to indicate otherwise, would identify any creature having the freedom to go anywhere and to disregard artificially set boundaries, with the exception of tracts established to protect the creature for its own sake, and where it lives in a natural state.

CAPTIVE

Abbreviated "Capt," this term applies to any living creature in a zoo, game farm, cage, net, trap, or in drugged or tethered conditions.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Abbreviated "Phil" or an actual situation: "Dbl. Exp.," "Digital Retouch," "Composite," etc., this indicates assembly of an image from two or more images or parts, or removal of significant parts, by computer, darkroom or other means. It may include addition or subtraction of elements, duplicating elements within an image, sandwiching different images and removing obstructions. This definition does not include removing scratches or dust, repairing damage to images, or making slight alterations that have traditionally been made by filters or in the printing process.