

US even has rules on E.T.s

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What if E.T. really showed up?

And what if a boy named Elliott found him, gave him shelter and, along with some friends, absconded with the extraterrestrial creature and engineered his escape from earth?

For one thing, a US government agency would be ready to slap Elliott with a \$5000 fine and a one-year prison term for leaving a quarantine area without permission.

Then, all of Elliott's classmates could be quarantined too.

NASA regulations provide for the detention, examination and decontamination of people and things that have come in direct or indirect contact with any person, thing, "animal or other form of life or matter" that has "touched directly or come within the atmospheric envelope of any other celestial body."

These are among the rules that NASA has had in the Code of Federal Regulations since 1969. The regulations, 14 C.F.R. 1211, were issued four days before men first stepped on the moon, and were followed for the first few lunar missions.

Although the rules specifically refer to NASA missions, IN THIS CORNER, Page 12

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CR: *Obscure Information*

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Neil Hosenball, NASA's general counsel, confirms that they can be applied to space missions not originating from earth. Hosenball is unaware of any contingency plans by NASA to handle extraterrestrial vehicles or personnel, but Steven Spielberg created an unofficial scenario for invoking the regulations with his movie "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial."

In "E.T.," the extraterrestrial being and the family that sheltered it were detained in their

house, which was subsequently encased in a bubble structure and surrounded by armed guards. E.T. and Elliott, his first human friend, were subjected to medical procedures without their consent. All this would have been in accordance with the NASA regulations (although not necessarily with the US Constitution).

The regulations also stipulate that anyone quarantined shall at the earliest practicable time be given "a reasonable opportunity to communicate by telephone with legal counsel or other persons of his choice." This provision might be construed to allow E.T. to phone home.