

**Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division**

**Rules Governing Importation, Possession and Liberation of Certain Wild
Animals**

Document for discussion at public information sessions to be held at the following locations, dates, and times:

Marine Fisheries Headquarters	March 16, 2010, 7:00-9:00 pm
Connecticut Forest & Park Association	March 18, 2010, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Kellogg Environmental Center	March 24, 2010, 7:00- 9:00 pm

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Preface

The Connecticut General Assembly has authorized the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate regulations, under CGS section 26-55, to manage species of wild animals that when imported, introduced or liberated into the state or when possessed in the state pose a potential threat to humans, agricultural crops or established species of plants, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates. The Department is holding three working meetings to afford the public the opportunity to present their views, and make recommendations to address this issue. The staff of the Department's Wildlife Division will be available to present information and answer questions.

This working draft of regulations has been prepared to facilitate public discussion. Comments and suggestions are encouraged. Written comments may also be submitted and will be accepted through March 31, 2010.

The input from the three public information sessions, and written submissions, will guide the agency in formally proposing regulations that will then go through a formal public comment and public hearing process – as well as a vote of the General Assembly's Regulations Review Committee – before being adopted.

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division

Rules Governing Importation, Possession, and Liberation of Certain Wild Species

Summary of Document

Purpose: On July 8, 2009, Governor M. Jodi Rell signed Public Act 09-198, ‘An Act Banning the Possession of Potentially Dangerous Animals,’ into law, which, in part, amended section 26-55 of the Connecticut General Statutes (“CGS”). Upon the Act’s effective date of October 1, 2009, the foundation upon which existing regulations adopted pursuant to CGS section 26-55, pertaining to the importation, possession, and introduction into the state or liberation of certain wild species, changed. Consequently, the Commissioner finds it is necessary to amend the existing regulations.

CGS section 26-55 authorizes the Department, by regulation to: 1) prescribe the numbers of wild animals of certain species which may be imported, possessed, introduced into the state or liberated therein; 2) exempt certain species or groups of live fish from the permit requirements; 3) determine which species of wild animals must meet permit requirements; 4) totally prohibit the importation, possession, introduction into the state or liberation therein of certain species which the commissioner has determined may be a potential threat to humans, agricultural crops or established species of plants, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates; and 5) exempt from permit requirements organizations or institutions where wild animals are held in strict confinement.

In this document, wild animals are divided into four categories.

“Category One Wild Animal” includes the importation or possession of any wild animal that:

- Is a state or federally listed endangered, threatened, or of concern species; or, http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323486&depNav_GID=1628
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>
- Is globally endangered, threatened, or of special concern. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

“Category Two Wild Animal” includes the importation or possession of any wild animal, or hybrid thereof, that:

- Inherently, due to its physical characteristics of size, strength, behavior, and, in some cases, venomous nature, poses a threat to human safety.

“Category Three Wild Animal” includes the importation or possession of any wild animal, or hybrid thereof, that:

- Except otherwise identified as a category one wild animal or a category two wild animal, poses a threat to agricultural crops or established species of plants, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates due to the animal's ability to adapt to Connecticut climate and thereby conflicting or competing with native species; or,
- A species listed as injurious wildlife in 50 CFR 16.11-16.15
http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50cfr16_main_02.tpl.

“Category Four Wild Animal” includes the importation of any wild animal, or hybrid thereof, that:

- Except otherwise identified as a category one wild animal, category two wild animal, or category three wild animal poses a threat to agricultural crops or established species of plants, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates due to disease transmission or diminution of genetic integrity.

Exempt persons and organizations: Persons and organizations that are exempted from importation and possession prohibitions established in CGS Section 26-40a. Qualified exhibitors, circuses, and educational institutions have also been added to the exemption list. Although CGS Section 26-40a provides that persons or organizations licensed or registered with United States Department of Agriculture license may possess certain dangerous animals, the provisions of CGS Section 26-55 authorize the Commissioner to expand prohibitions by regulation.

Native species: The document imposes a restriction on the importation of certain species that are native to Connecticut. This prohibition protects our native species from disease transmission and genetic diminution. The document does not prohibit someone from possessing a native species that may be taken from the wild. However, any such taking continues to be regulated under other statutes and regulations.

Domestic animals: The document, pursuant to the Commissioner's authority under CGS Section 26-55, only addresses wild animals. For clarity, a domestic animal is defined as any animal that has been domesticated by having undergone a process of selective breeding in captivity to a degree which has resulted in genetic changes affecting the temperament, color, conformation, or other attributes of the species to an extent that makes them unique and distinguishable from wild individuals of their species (i.e. domestic dogs, cats, pigs); the adaptation of an animal through successive breeding of five or more generations in captivity; and raised in a life intimately associated with and advantageous to humans. Wild animals raised in captivity (even over many generations) that have merely become trained but are still wild by nature are not domestic animals.

Outline

Section 1. (NEW) Sec. 26-55-5. Importation, Possession, and Introduction into the State or Liberation of Wild Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates

(a) Definitions

- (1) "Aquarium"
- (2) "Category One Wild Animal"
- (3) "Category Two Wild Animal"
- (4) "Category Three Wild Animal"
- (5) "Category Four Wild Animal"
- (6) "Circus"
- (7) "Domestic animal"
- (8) "Exhibitor"
- (9) "Hybrid"
- (10) "Import" or "importation"
- (11) "Laboratory"
- (12) "Licensed veterinarian"
- (13) "Municipal park"
- (14) "Museum"
- (15) "Nature center"
- (16) "Research facility"
- (17) "School"
- (18) "Wild animal"
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(b) Prohibitions and Exemptions

(c) Permits Required

(d) Permit Duration and Revocation

(e) Municipal Parks, Museums, and Nature Centers

(f) Exhibitors

(g) Notification Requirement

(h) Disease Reporting and Prevention

**Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division**

Recommendation: Proposal to Promulgate Regulations pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 26-55.

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding section 26-55-5 as follows:

Section 1. (NEW) Sec. 26-55-5. Importation, Possession and Introduction, or Liberation of Wild Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Invertebrates

(a) **Definitions.** As used in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) “Aquarium” means a facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;
- (2) “Category One Wild Animal” means any wild animal as follows:
 - (A) A species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes;
 - (B) A species listed as a threatened or endangered species by the federal government;
or,
 - (C) Species listed as “Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Extinct in the Wild” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, as may be amended from time to time.
- (3) “Category Two Wild Animal” means any wild animal, and any hybrid thereof, as follows:
 - (A) That is not a Category One Wild Animal; and
 - (B) That is, notwithstanding changes in taxonomic nomenclature:
 - (i) All members within the family Elephantidae (elephant);
 - (ii) All members within the order Primate (including, but not limited to, gorilla, chimpanzee, capuchin, macaque, lemur, and marmoset) except those primates imported or possessed before October 1, 2009 and that weigh less than 35 pounds at maturity;
 - (iii) All members within the family Felidae (including, but not limited to, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, ocelot, jaguarundi cat, puma, lynx and bobcat) except Bengal cats pursuant to CGS 26-40a;

- (iv) All members within the family Canidae (including, but not limited to, wolf and coyote);
 - (v) All members within the family Ursidae (including, but not limited to, black bear, grizzly bear and brown bear);
 - (vi) The wolverine (*Gulo gulo*);
 - (vii) All members within the genus *Hyaena* (hyena);
 - (viii) All members within the family Macropodidae (kangaroo, wallaby)
 - (ix) All members within the family Mephitidae (skunk);
 - (x) In the family Procyonidae: (raccoon);
 - (xi) All members within the family Suidae (including, but not limited to, wild boar and warthog);
 - (xii) All members within the family Hippopotamidae (hippopotamus);
 - (xiii) All members within the order Chiroptera (bats);
 - (xiv) All members within the family Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceros);
 - (xv) All members within the order Crocodylia (including, but not limited to, alligator, crocodile, and caiman);
 - (xvi) All members within the family Elapidae (including, but not limited to, cobras, coral snakes, mambas, sea snakes and sea kraits);
 - (xvii) All members within the family Viperidae (including, but not limited to, copperheads, rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, adders, vipers, pit vipers, and night adders);
 - (xviii) Northern African python (*Python sebae*), Southern African python (*Python natalensis*), reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*), amethystine python (In the genus *Morelia*);
 - (xix) Green or common anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*) and Bolivian anaconda (*Eunectes beniensis*);
 - (xx) All members within the genera *Boiga*, *Thelothornis*, *Enhydris*, *Dispholidus*, *Clelia*, *Rhabdophis*, *Hydrodynastes*, *Philodryas* and *Malpolon* (including, but not limited to, mangrove snakes, false cobras, cat-eyed snakes, false water snakes, African boomslang, and vine, twig, or bird snakes);
 - (xxi) All members within the family Helodermatidae (including, but not limited to, Gila monsters and beaded lizards); or
 - (xxii) Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*), water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), black-throated monitor (*Varanus a. ionidesi*), white-throated monitor (*Varanus a. albigularis*), crocodile monitor (*Varanus salvadorii*) and Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*);
- (4) “Category Three Wild Animal” means any wild animal, and any hybrid thereof, as follows:
- (A) That is not a Category One Wild Animal or Category Two Wild Animal; and
 - (B) That is:
 - (i) A species listed as injurious wildlife in 50 CFR 16.11-16.15; or

- (ii) A member within the genus *Cynomys*, except a wild animal imported and possessed before June 11, 2003 (prairie dog); or
 - (iii) In the family Anatidae (mute swan), except a captive-reared mute swan that shall be pinioned to prevent escape into the wild, and Muscovy ducks;
- (5) “Category Four Wild Animal” means any wild animal, and any hybrid thereof, as follows:
- (A) That is not a Category One Wild Animal, Category Two Wild Animal, or Category Three Wild Animal; and
 - (B) That is, notwithstanding any changes to taxonomic nomenclature:
 - (i) A member within the family Cervidae (including, but not limited to the, white-tailed deer, elk, red deer, and sika), except as allowed pursuant to section 3 of Public Act 09-198; or
 - (ii) A species native to Connecticut including:
 - (1) Southern Red-backed Vole *Clethrionomys gapperi*;
 - (2) Northern Flying Squirrel *Glaucomys sabrinus*;
 - (3) Southern Flying Squirrel *Glaucomys volans*;
 - (4) Woodland Vole *Microtus pinetorum*;
 - (5) Hairy-Tailed Mole *Parascalops breweri*;
 - (6) Deer Mouse *Peromyscus maniculatus*;
 - (7) Northern Water Shrew *Sorex palustris*;
 - (8) New England Cottontail *Sylvilagus transitionalis*;
 - (9) Meadow Jumping Mouse *Zapus hudsonius*;
 - (10) Short-tailed Weasel *Mustela erminea*;
 - (11) Long-tailed Weasel *Mustela frenata*;
 - (12) Mink *Mustela vison*;
 - (13) Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*;
 - (14) Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*;
 - (15) Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*;
 - (16) Green Heron *Butorides virescens*;
 - (17) Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*;
 - (18) Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*;
 - (19) Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*;
 - (20) Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*;
 - (21) Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*;
 - (22) Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*;
 - (23) Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*;
 - (24) Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*;
 - (25) Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*;

- (26) Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus*;
- (27) Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*;
- (28) Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*;
- (29) Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*;
- (30) Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*;
- (31) Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*;
- (32) Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*;
- (33) Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*;
- (34) Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*;
- (35) Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*;
- (36) Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*;
- (37) Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*;
- (38) Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*;
- (39) Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*;
- (40) Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*;
- (41) Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*;
- (42) Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*;
- (43) Eastern Screech Owl *Otus asio*;
- (44) Barred Owl *Strix varia*;
- (45) Sora *Porzana carolina*;
- (46) Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*;
- (47) Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*;
- (48) Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*;
- (49) Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*;
- (50) Sanderling *Calidris alba*;
- (51) Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*;
- (52) Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*;
- (53) American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*;
- (54) Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*;
- (55) Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*;
- (56) Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*;
- (57) Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*;
- (58) American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*;
- (59) Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*;
- (60) Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*;
- (61) Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*;
- (62) Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*;
- (63) Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*;
- (64) White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*;
- (65) Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*;
- (66) Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*;
- (67) Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*;
- (68) Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*;
- (69) Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*;
- (70) Veery *Catharus fuscescens*;
- (71) Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*;

- (72) Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*;
- (73) Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*;
- (74) Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*;
- (75) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*;
- (76) Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*;
- (77) Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*;
- (78) Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*;
- (79) Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*;
- (80) Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*;
- (81) Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*;
- (82) Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis*;
- (83) Eastern Wood-pewee *Contopus virens*;
- (84) Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*;
- (85) Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*;
- (86) Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*;
- (87) Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*;
- (88) Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*;
- (89) Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*;
- (90) Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*;
- (91) White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*;
- (92) Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius*;
- (93) Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*;
- (94) Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*;
- (95) Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*;
- (96) Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea*;
- (97) Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea*;
- (98) Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*;
- (99) Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*;
- (100) Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*;
- (101) Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*;
- (102) Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*;
- (103) Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina*;
- (104) Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*;
- (105) Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*;
- (106) Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*;
- (107) Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*;
- (108) American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*;
- (109) Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus*;
- (110) Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis*;
- (111) Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*;
- (112) Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*;
- (113) Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*;
- (114) Spotted Turtle *Clemmys guttata*;
- (115) Eastern Racer *Coluber constrictor*;
- (116) Diamond-backed Terrapin *Malaclemys terrapin*;
- (117) Smooth Green Snake *Opheodrys vernalis*;

- (118) Spotted Salamander *Ambystoma maculatum*;
 - (119) Marbled Salamander *Ambystoma opacum*;
 - (120) Fowler's Toad *Bufo fowleri*;
 - (121) Northern Dusky Salamander *Desmognathus fuscus*;
 - (122) Gray Treefrog *Hyla versicolor*;
 - (123) Eastern Newt *Notophthalmus viridescens*; or
 - (124) Wood Frog *Rana sylvatica*;
- (6) "Circus" means a travelling company of performers that includes a ringmaster, acrobats, clowns, musicians, and animals trained to perform for an audience or a facility operated in support thereof;
- (7) "Domestic animal" means any animal that has been domesticated by having undergone a process of selective breeding in captivity to a degree which has resulted in genetic changes affecting the temperament, color, conformation, or other attributes of the species to an extent that makes them unique and distinguishable from wild individuals of their species; the adaptation of an animal through successive breeding of five or more generations in captivity; and raised in a life intimately associated with and advantageous to humans. Wild animals raised in captivity, even over many generations, which have merely become trained but are still wild by nature are not domestic animals;
- (8) "Exhibitor" means a person or organization engaged in the showing, displaying or training of wild animals for the purpose of public viewing;
- (9) "Hybrid" means any animal or egg which results from the combining of gametes of a wild animal with another species;
- (10) "Import" or "importation" means bringing or causing wild animals or eggs of such wild animals to be transported into the state by any means;
- (11) "Laboratory" means "research facility" as defined in this section;
- (12) "Licensed veterinarian" means a veterinarian who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 384 of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- (13) "Municipal park" means a facility publicly owned and operated by a municipality, and is in the practice of displaying wild animals for public viewing;
- (14) "Museum" means an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of wild animals, exhibited for public viewing;
- (15) "Nature center" means "museum" as defined in this section;
- (16) "Research facility" means a facility maintained by scientific or educational institution with documented works that relate to branches of systemized knowledge categorized as

zoology, botany, ecology, wildlife management, fisheries management, medicine, and veterinary medicine, or such other skills and disciplines which shall require such use or uses;

- (17) "School" means an institution established pursuant to Title 10 of the Connecticut General Statutes;
- (18) "Wild animal" means any wild bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, and invertebrate that which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state, and is not otherwise a domestic animal; and
- (19) "Zoo" means a facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or the Zoological Association of America.

(b) Prohibitions and Exemptions.

- (1) No person shall import or possess any Category Two Wild Animal except for zoos, circuses, aquaria, laboratories, research facilities, or municipal parks.
- (2) No person shall import or possess any Category Three Wild Animal except for zoos, aquaria, circuses, laboratories, research facilities, municipal parks, museums, nature centers or exhibitors.
- (3) No person shall import any Category Four Wild Animals except for zoos, aquaria, circuses, laboratories, research facilities, municipal parks, museums, nature centers, exhibitors, or schools.
- (4) No person shall liberate any wild animal into the wild, except as provided for pursuant to CGS sections 26-40, 26-48, 26-48a, 26-49, 25-51, 26-52, 26-54, 26-56, 26-60 or 26-67e, or pursuant to subsection (c) of these regulations.

(c) Permits Required. No person shall import, possess, or liberate any Category One Wild Animal without a permit.

(d) Permit Duration and Revocation.

- (1) The duration of an importation or possession permit shall be for the life of the specific wild animal listed on the permit.
- (2) The commissioner may at any time revoke, in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, an importation or possession permit or an import of game birds permit for violating the terms of a permit or any statute or regulation governing importation or possession of wild animals.

(e) Museums and Nature Centers. To be recognized as a museum or nature center the following shall be regarded as a minimum for any such organization:

- (1) For purposes of importing or possessing mammals, holds an exhibitor's license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, and a copy of the last inspection report signed and dated by the United States Department of Agriculture;
 - (2) Holds municipal, state, or federal permits or licenses which may be required to possess wild animals;
 - (3) Complies with all applicable laws of the municipality in which the housing facility is located;
 - (4) Has regularly scheduled hours open to the public consisting of a minimum of 5, five-hour days a week for 10 months within a calendar year.
 - (5) Maintains the wild animal under conditions that give the owner or keeper exclusive control over them at all times as to prevent escape of such wild animals. In no instance shall such animals be accessible to handling by the general public;
 - (6) Housing facility is consistent with the design standards as established pursuant to the United States Animal Welfare Act and compliant with state and local health and building codes;
 - (7) Liability insurance of a least \$1 million;
 - (8) An established plan for the recapture or destruction of any such wild animal in the event of escape;
 - (9) An established plan for the maintenance or disposition of all wild animals in case of the owner or keeper's absence, illness, or death;
 - (10) Maintains complete and accurate records for each wild animal in their possession that identifies:
 - (A) The species, sex, age, and lineage of each wild animal;
 - (B) Date of birth and acquisition;
 - (C) If applicable, the name and address of any person who has previously possessed the wild animal and date of transfer; and
 - (D) The date of the death, loss or transfer to another person of each wild animal; and
 - (11) The records required in this section shall be maintained in chronological order, retained for a minimum of five years after the date of death, loss, or transfer of any wild animal and shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time upon request of the commissioner or their designee.
- (f) Exhibitors. To be recognized as a exhibitor the following shall be regarded as a minimum for any such person or organization:

- (1) For purposes of importing or possessing mammals, holds an exhibitor's license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, and a copy of the last inspection report signed and dated by the United States Department of Agriculture;
 - (2) Holds municipal, state, or federal permits or licenses which may be required to possess wild animals;
 - (3) Complies with all applicable laws of the municipality in which the housing facility is located;
 - (4) Provides programs or exhibits open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis;
 - (5) Maintains the wild animal under conditions that give the owner or keeper exclusive control over them at all times as to prevent escape of such wild animals. In no instance shall such animals be accessible to handling by the general public;
 - (6) Housing facility consistent with the design standards as established pursuant to the United States Animal Welfare Act and compliant with state and local health and building codes.
 - (7) An established plan for the recapture or destruction of any such wild animal in the event of escape;
 - (8) An established plan for the maintenance or disposition of all wild animals in case of the owner or keeper's absence, illness, or death;
 - (9) Has a minimum of 300 hours of training annually for two consecutive years within the past five years in the practice of the animal husbandry of the species to be possessed.
 - (10) Has not been convicted of violating wild animal laws or regulations of any state, the federal government or other country.
 - (11) Maintains complete and accurate records for each wild animal in their possession that identifies:
 - (A) The species, sex, age, and lineage of each wild animal;
 - (B) Date of birth and acquisition;
 - (C) If applicable, the name and address of any person who has previously possessed the wild animal and date of transfer; and
 - (D) The date of the death, loss or transfer to another person of each wild animal; and
 - (12) The records required in this section shall be maintained in chronological order, retained for a minimum of five years after the date of death, loss, or transfer of any wild animal and shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time upon request of the commissioner or their designee.
- (g) Notification Requirement. Any person possessing a Category One or Two Wild Animal who loses said wild animal through escape or release shall notify the department no later than twenty-four hours.

(h) Disease Reporting and Prevention. Any person possessing a wild animal with symptoms of pathological distress within six weeks of importation shall file a report with the Commissioner, on a form so provided, within 24 hours of recognition of the problem. The Commissioner may require, for a period of time as determined by the Commissioner, that any wild animal imported into the State showing signs of sickness or disease shall be kept in quarantine.

Any wild animal that shows signs of sickness or disease within the quarantine period after being imported shall be immediately taken to a licensed veterinarian, or, if the animal is dead, brought to an animal disease laboratory, or such other laboratory as shall be determined by the Commissioner, for examination. A request shall be made that a copy of the laboratory's findings be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture.

Sec. 2. Section 26-55-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is repealed.