

Captive Wildlife Regulations Revision Summary

Date: January 16, 2019

Title: Captive Wildlife Regulations Revision

Explanation:

The Fisheries and Wildlife Management Divisions will present proposed captive wildlife regulation revisions for Commission review and consideration. The proposed regulation revisions will be presented for Commission approval at its February 2019 meeting. These proposed regulations were developed by the Captive Wildlife Committee (consisting of representatives from the Enforcement, Fisheries, Legal, Research and Wildlife Management Divisions).

Following the Commission's October 2018 meeting, the Captive Wildlife Committee reviewed and considered public comment. The following changes have been incorporated into the captive wildlife regulation revisions that were presented to the Commission at its October 2018 meeting:

- extend the grace period for persons to submit applications for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer and Venomous Reptile Possession Permits from January 1, 2020 to July 1, 2020,
- remove the proposal to further limit the number of individual frogs, salamanders and aquatic turtle that can be collected from the wild,
- increase from six to 20 wildlife specimens that can be sold per calendar year that were legally acquired (purchased from a licensed Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or imported with a valid Wildlife Importation Permit) provided each sale or transfer is registered with the Commission and clarify that this provision only applies to species on the Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List,
- create permit requirements for the existing Scientific Collection Permit and add an exception for collection of federally listed species,
- create a Conservation Education Permit and associated permit requirements to allow persons to possess more than six native wildlife specimens captured from the wild in Arkansas for the purpose of conducting conservation education programs,
- clarify language on the importation of waterfowl (no substantive change),
- add African sideneck turtle, bearded dragon, water dragon, ball python, blood python, corn snake, various geckos (crested, fattail, gargoyle, leopard and tokay) and veiled chameleon to the unrestricted species list,
- add African dwarf aquatic frog, horned frog (Pacman Frog), boa constrictor, moccasins, and rattlesnakes to the permitted species list, and
- add language to allow Wildlife Breeder/Dealers permitted before February 20, 2019, to continue to breed species (e.g., blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs) proposed for the Captive Wildlife Prohibited List and sale them to only existing permit holders or out of state. No new permits would be issued for blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs.

The proposed captive wildlife regulations, to include the changes outlined above, are as follow,

- create a Venomous Reptile Possession Permit (\$75.00) and associated requirements;
- establish a grace period of July 1, 2020, for persons to submit applications for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer and Venomous Reptile Possession Permits;
- exempt terrestrial invertebrate species (not otherwise prohibited) from captive wildlife regulation requirements;
- move the unrestricted and prohibited species list to new addendums,
- add sugar glider, long-tailed chinchilla, four-toed hedgehog, and Bactrian and Dromedary Camels, African sideneck turtle, bearded dragon, water dragon, ball python, blood python, corn snake, various geckos (crested, fattail, gargoyle, leopard and tokay) and veiled chameleon to the unrestricted species list based on Commission staff evaluations that they are not inherently dangerous and pose no significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, agriculture, and can be safely confined in a humane manner;
- add blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs to the prohibited species list based on evaluations by Commission staff that determined these species to be high risk for threats to native wildlife due to their potential to become established in Arkansas and parasites and/or pathogens they are known to carry;
- add language to allow Wildlife Breeder/Dealers permitted before February 20, 2019, to continue to breed species (e.g., blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs) added to the Captive Wildlife Prohibited List and sale them to only existing permit holders or out of state (No new permits would be issued for blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs);
- create a Permitted Species Captive Wildlife Species List as a list of species for which permits may be issued for the breeding, sale and importation. This list will be composed of species that upon review could pose a moderate but manageable risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, or agriculture such that they warrant further restriction or oversight;
- add Red-necked (Bennet's) wallaby, African dwarf aquatic frog, horned frog (Pacman Frog), boa constrictor, moccasins, and rattlesnakes to the permitted species list;
- add an exception to allow sell or transfer of up to 20 wildlife specimens on the permitted species list without a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit and establish a registration process;
- authorize permit approval or denial for species not on the permitted or prohibited lists after evaluation by staff to determine if the species poses a significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, or agriculture, or cannot be safely confined in a humane manner;
- allow persons to return legally acquired captive wildlife originating in Arkansas that has been out of state for less than 30 days;
- add venomous reptile caging and handling requirements for native wildlife pets;
- extend reasons for denial of Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits for human health and safety, agriculture, or humane confinement of the possessed wildlife;
- change Wildlife Breeder/Dealer requirements from monthly to quarterly and add a reporting requirement for captive wildlife that has been out of state for less than 30 days;
- add a 24 hour reporting requirement for escaped captive wildlife;
- create permit requirements for the existing Scientific Collection Permit and add an exception for collection of federally listed species; and
- create a Conservation Education Permit and associated permit requirements to allow persons to possess more than six native wildlife specimens captured from the wild in Arkansas for the purpose of conducting conservation education programs.