



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Permit Application for Possession of Restricted Reptile and Amphibian Species

For assistance completing this form, please call 337-735-8676 or email LDWFHerps@wlf.la.gov. All restricted species must be registered with LDWF by **January 20, 2026**.

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

NOTE: Missing or incomplete information may delay application processing time.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Primary Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

Owner (if different from above): _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address:

Street City State Zip

Physical location where prohibited species will be held (if different from mailing address):

Street City State Zip

Would you like to help us reduce paper by choosing to receive your permit by email? Yes No

2. APPLICATION TYPE:

Please check all that apply:

- New application for restricted reptile/amphibian species
- Renewal application for restricted reptile/amphibian species
- Previous/current Restricted Snake Permit holder

I am in possession of a constrictor snake greater than 8 feet in length

I am in possession of any of the following; Boa constrictor(s), Reticulated Python(s), North African Python(s), South African Python(s), any species in the Genus *Eunectes* (Anacondas), Asian Water Monitor(s), Brown Basilisk(s), Gray's American Spiny-tailed Iguana(s), Northern Curly-tailed Lizard(s), and/or Peter's Rock Agama(s)

I am in possession of Venomous snake species belonging to the Families Viperidae (Vipers), Crotalidae (Pit Vipers), Elapidae (elapids), and/or Hydrophiidae (sea snakes) except for the venomous snake species listed as prohibited.

For Department Use Only
Permit Number: _____
Issue Date: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Date Received: _____
Inspection Date: _____

If you are requesting a permit to possess venomous snakes, please complete the following:

- 1) Description of any experience and work with venomous snakes (dates, location, and type of experience) [may be attached].

- 2) Provide the names and current phone numbers of two individuals who can verify your experience in working with venomous snakes [reference letters and/or copies of prior permits and employment records may be substituted and attached].

- 3) Attach documentation (transcripts) for college-level coursework in Zoology/Animal Biology or other pertinent coursework [if substituting for experience].

3. PERMIT AND CAGING REQUIREMENTS:

To engage in captive breeding activities and/or commercial sale of Restricted Snakes per LAC 76:XV.101.K.c (Reference attachment- Appendix A), a LDWF Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License is necessary. Include a copy of the Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License if applicable.

- I am engaging in captive breeding activities for Restricted Snakes as listed in Appendix A
Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License number: _____
Please list the species you are breeding and/or selling:

- I am engaging in captive breeding activities of Restricted Species as listed in Appendix B
Please list the species you are breeding and/or selling:

Minimum enclosure size for snakes are listed below:

- Snakes 8 feet in length and longer - the perimeter shall not be less than the length of the snake and the height of the enclosure shall not be less than twelve inches
- Snakes less than 8 feet in length - minimum size shall be relative to the length of the body and tail and shall be 1/2 that length on the longest side
- Enclosures must be secured with a locking mechanism or be in an enclosed room with a locking mechanism

Under the authority of Section K of LAC 76:XV.101, the applicant is hereby granted an exemption to possess restricted nonnative reptile and amphibians species as specified above if permit continues to be renewed.

The following conditions apply to this permit:

- Restricted reptile and amphibian species may be in possession only via a permit to be approved and monitored by the Department.
- Facilities that house restricted reptile and amphibian species shall be open to inspection prior to issuance of a permit, and at other times, if deemed necessary, to ensure compliance with the permit by Department personnel or other persons authorized by the Department to perform such inspections.
- Any person in possession of restricted reptiles and amphibians shall have until January 20, 2026 to register those restricted individuals in their possession with LDWF.
- Permits for registered restricted reptiles and amphibians shall expire on December 31, 2026 and must be renewed annually within 30 days of expiration.
- In the event of an escape of a restricted reptile or amphibian species, Department personnel shall be notified immediately via the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 24-hour hotline number (800.442.2511).
- All breeding activities for restricted reptiles and amphibians are prohibited unless approved and permitted by LDWF.

Appendix A
Restricted Snake Rules
LAC 76:XV.101

K. Nonnative Amphibians and Reptiles, and All Venomous Snakes

1. Restricted Snakes. The importation, private possession, selling, and/or purchasing of constrictor snakes in excess of eight feet, which is including but not limited to the following species: *Apodora papuana* (Papuan Python), *Liasis olivacea* (Olive Python), *Morelia spilota* (Carpet or Diamond Python), *Morelia kinghorni* (Scrub Python), *Morelia amethystina* (Amethystine Python), *Python natalensis* (Southern African Python), *Python sebae* (African Rock Python), *Python reticulatus* (Reticulated Python), any species of the genus *Boa* (Boa Constrictors), and any species of the genus *Eunectes* (Anacondas), and venomous snakes, as defined in Subparagraph K.1.a herein, (hereinafter "restricted snakes") obtained in any manner, shall only be allowed via permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries except for animals kept by certified zoos and aquariums, and other facilities as approved by the Department including universities, and accredited research centers, nature centers, animal sanctuaries, and scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined in the Animal Welfare Act as found in the United States Code Title 7, Chapter 54, 2132(e). **A Restricted Snake Permit is required for possession of large constrictor snakes listed within Appendix B, regardless of size in length.**

a. *Venomous Snakes*—any species under current taxonomic standing, recognized to belong to the Families Viperidae (Vipers), Crotalidae (Pit Vipers), Elapidae (elapids), and Hydrophiidae (sea snakes), except prohibited species.

b. Permit Requirements. Possession of restricted snakes is prohibited, except as authorized via a Restricted Snake Permit by the Department. Restricted Snake Permits shall expire annually on the 31st day of December, and must be renewed within 30 days of the expiration date. Any individual who remains non-compliant after 30 days shall forfeit all restricted snakes to Department personnel, who may dispose of the snakes per Department policy.

i. Applicant must be at least 18 years old at the time of application.

ii. Any person requesting a permit to allow importation and/or private possession of venomous snakes shall demonstrate no less than one year of substantial, practical experience (to consist of no less than 500 hours) in the care, feeding, handling, and/or husbandry of the species for which the permit is sought, or other species within the same zoological family, which are substantially similar in size, characteristics, care, and nutritional requirements to the species for which the permit is sought.

iii. For the purpose of demonstrating compliance, applicants shall submit documentation of such required experience, including a detailed description of the experience acquired, the dates and time frames the experience was obtained and the specific location(s)

where it was acquired, and references of no less than two individuals having personal knowledge of the stated experience. Additional documentation may include records of prior permits for the keeping of venomous reptiles, employment records, or any other competent documentation of the required experience.

iv. Documented educational experience in zoology or other relevant biological sciences obtained at the college or technical school level or above may substitute for up to 250 hours of the required experience. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall be responsible for judgment of the adequacy of the documentation.

v. Notification of relocation of facilities shall be made within 30 days of a move, and permittee shall be allowed to keep the animals in the same setup(s) until the inspection of the facility and/or room and cages within which the animals are to be kept at the new location can be undertaken by Department personnel.

vi. In the event of an escape where a constrictor snake in excess of eight feet or a venomous snake escapes its cage and its secure containment room, and becomes outside the control of the permit holder and/or owner, notification shall immediately be made to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 24-hour hotline number (800-442-2511).

vii. Secure escape proof containers shall be required when transporting restricted snakes.

viii. Restricted snakes shall be kept in secure, escape proof enclosures with doors that lock. Said enclosures shall be kept in a secure, escape proof room or outbuilding that is securely locked to prevent escape or unauthorized intrusion and when restricted snakes are being fed, the cages are being cleaned, or otherwise worked by the person trained and experienced in proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained. Enclosures constructed below ground level shall be equipped with barriers to prevent visitors from falling into such enclosures. The possession of restricted snakes in any manner not in accordance with this Section is prohibited.

ix. Facilities that house constrictor snakes in excess of eight feet or venomous snakes in private possession shall be open to inspection prior to issuance of a permit and at other times deemed necessary to ensure permit compliance by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel or other persons authorized by the Department to perform such inspections.

c. License Requirements. A Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License is required for purchasing or acquiring restricted snakes, as defined under Paragraph K.1 herein, from within or outside the state, for sale or resale, or possessing restricted snakes for propagation for sale in accordance with R.S. 56:632.5.

Appendix B

The following restricted nonnative species may be in possession only via permit to be approved and monitored by the Department. Individuals in possession of the species listed below shall have until January 20, 2026 to register those animals with the Department and acquire a permit. Permits will be renewed annually. In the event of an escape of a restricted nonnative reptile or amphibian species, Department personnel shall be notified immediately via the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 24-hour hotline number (800-442-2511).

- i. Boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*)
- ii. Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*)
- iii. African Rock Python (*Python sebae*)
- iv. Southern African Python (*Python natalensis*)
- v. All species in the Genus *Eunectes* (Anacondas)
- vi. Asian Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*)
- vii. Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*)
- viii. Gray's American Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*)
- ix. Northern Curly-tailed Lizard (*Leiocephalus carinatus armouri*)
- x. Peter's Rock Agama (*Agama picticauda*)

Appendix C
Hold Harmless Agreement

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries:

“I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold the State of Louisiana and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, its employees and assigns, harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, expenses and liability arising out of injury or death to any person or the damage, loss or destruction of any property that may occur or in any way grow out of the activities allowed under this permit, including that alleged to result from the negligence of the state, the Department, its employees or assigns. I understand that by applying for and accepting a permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity that would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all local, State, and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations including those that relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, canceled, or revoked at any time by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and I agree to immediately surrender the permit upon such demand. I understand that my failure to fully and completely comply with the laws, regulations, terms, and conditions referred to herein could result in the immediate suspension, cancellation, or revocation of this and other permits issued to me by the Department and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my actions. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege that is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate fully and completely with the Department or its employees can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein.”

Signature

Date