



# **FACT SHEET: Bringing Captive Wildlife Into Arkansas October 2007**

## **What does AGFC consider wildlife?**

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was given authority to control and manage wildlife resources of the state by Amendment 35 to the Arkansas Constitution in 1945.

The Commission has defined wildlife to include any wild bird, mammal, fish, reptile, amphibian or any other wild animals whether resident, migratory, or imported that lack a genetic distinction from members of the same species living in the wild. This does apply to "exotic" animals.

## **What do I need to do to bring captive wildlife into Arkansas?**

A Wildlife Importation Permit from the Commission is required to bring any wildlife into Arkansas. It is also necessary if you are bringing wildlife through Arkansas (For example, bringing wildlife from Oklahoma to Tennessee through Arkansas). A Importation Permit isn't necessary to move legally-owned captive wildlife within Arkansas (other regulations may apply).

A wildlife importation permit is not needed for the following wildlife species: Buffalo, Emu, Llama, Muscovy duck, European domestic ferret, Hamster, Guinea pig, Ringneck dove, Gerbils, common white mice and common white rats, Wolf/Dog hybrids, and box turtles kept as personal pets by individuals.

Please be aware that the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission also has regulations governing the importation of wildlife into Arkansas.

**Please refer to the Commission Captive Wildlife Regulations (Section 15) for complete information:**

<http://www.agfc.com/wildlife-conservation/captive.aspx>

## **What are the terms of a Wildlife Importation Permit?**

- \* The permit costs \$25 and is good for 1 year. All permits expire every June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Applications can be obtained from the Licensing Division by calling 501-223-6300.
- \* The application must include the species you wish to import and the state from which it is coming.
- \* After the permit is approved and before you bring the animals into Arkansas, they must be inspected by a veterinarian who will complete a Commission form certifying that they are healthy.
- \* After certification by a vet, you may bring the animals into Arkansas at any time until your permit expires. However, within 7 days of doing so you must return the veterinary certification to the Commission.
- \* If you want to bring in animals not approved on your original application, contact the Commission to obtain a revised permit.

## **What restrictions are there?**

The Commission will not issue Importation Permits to bring the following animals into Arkansas and it is illegal to bring them into the state under any circumstances:

- \* Any live member of the cervidae family, including, but not limited to white-tailed deer and elk.
- \* Raccoons.
- \* Bats.
- \* Skunks.
- \* Coyotes from certain states
- \* Gray and red from certain states.
- \* Rodents captured in the wild from certain states.
- \* All box turtles of the genus Terrapene.
- \* African lions, tigers, bears, and mountain lions.
- \* All live waterfowl.

There are some exceptions to the above restrictions relating to circuses, those with USDA Exhibition Permits, falconers, certain fish and turtles, retrieving bird dog field trials and trainers. Please contact the Commission for more information.