



FACT SHEET:

Keeping captive deer, elk, or other cervids in Arkansas

December 2007

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulates the private ownership of white-tailed deer, elk, and other cervids, including non-natives like sitka deer, fallow deer, red deer, axis deer, or mule deer. Some key provisions of these regulations can be found below, but for complete information please refer to Commission Code Section 15.

WHITE-TAILED DEER CAPTURED FROM THE WILD AND KEPT AS PETS

- * Up to 6 white-tailed deer (per household) may be captured by hand in the wild in Arkansas and kept as personal pets.
- * These animals may not be sold or distributed to any other person. They may not be released back into the wild. Fence size and height requirements apply.
- * These animals may not be taken from the state unless the owner is moving out-of-state, has permission from the state to which they are moving to bring them into that state, and has been issued a special permit to take them from Arkansas by the AGFC.
- * Male and female deer must be kept in separate pens unless the males have been neutered and the owner has documentation that this operation has been performed. They must not breed.

CAPTIVE-BORN WHITE-TAILED DEER AND ELK KEPT AS PETS

- * Individuals who have obtained captive born white-tailed deer or elk prior to June 30, 2005 may keep them as personal pets provided that they have proof of legal ownership and that they register with the Commission by June 30, 2008.

- * Fence size and height requirements apply.
- * These animals may not be kept confined with deer born in the wild in Arkansas.
- * Captive born deer, elk, or other cervid pets may not be allowed to breed.
- * Pet owners may not purchase or sell captive-born white-tailed deer, elk, or other cervids.

BREEDING OR SELLING CERVIDS

- * White-tailed deer, elk, or other cervids may only be sold or otherwise distributed with an AGFC Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permit. New permits for this activity will not be issued. Cervids may only be sold to buyers outside Arkansas, or those in Arkansas who already possess cervids kept in compliance with Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort permits. Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission regulations also apply to movement and sales of cervids within Arkansas.

HUNTING CAPTIVE CERVIDS

- * Individuals must possess a Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort permit if they wish to hunt white-tailed deer or elk for commercial purposes or if they wish to introduce captive-born, commercially obtained white-tailed deer or elk into an enclosure for hunting purposes. Permits for new facilities for this activity are not issued.
- * Individuals may enclose property with fences and hunt (non-commercially) white-tailed deer confined in them in accordance with applicable private land hunting regulations without a Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit. They may not purchase or release captive deer or elk inside these fenced areas.
- * Non-native wildlife, including exotic cervids such as sitka deer or fallow deer may not be hunted in enclosures or any captive situation.

INJURED NATIVE DEER OR ELK

Individuals who wish to provide care to injured or orphaned white-tailed deer or elk for eventual release back into the wild must obtain an AGFC Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO IMPORT DEER, ELK OR OTHER CERVIDS INTO ARKANSAS

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