



# ***FACT SHEET: Bringing Captive Wildlife Into Arkansas March 2021***

## **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. 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 certain species of wildlife into Arkansas and is also necessary if you are bringing wildlife through Arkansas (For example, bringing wildlife from Oklahoma to Tennessee through Arkansas). An Importation Permit isn't necessary to move legally-owned captive wildlife within Arkansas (other regulations may apply). Please be aware that the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission also has regulations that apply to importation of some species of wildlife into Arkansas.

## **What species of wildlife do not require an Importation Permit? (Unrestricted species)**

A Wildlife Importation Permit is not needed to bring many species of wildlife into or through Arkansas. See Code Addendum R1.01 for the current official list.

**For more complete information  
please consult Commission  
Code 9.00**

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

- \* The permit costs \$50 and is good for 1 year. 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 Certificate of Veterinary Inspection 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 inspection form 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 species of wildlife require an Importation Permit? (Permitted species)**

The following is a partial list of wildlife for which an Importation Permit is required to import into Arkansas. See Code Addendum R1.02 for the current complete list.

- \* Any species of wildlife native to Arkansas that is not listed in Addendums R1.01 as unrestricted or Addendum R1.03 as prohibited
- \* Northern bobwhite
- \* Ring-necked pheasant
- \* Chukar
- \* Zebra
- \* Ostriches
- \* Monk parakeet
- \* Red-necked wallaby
- \* African Dwarf Aquatic Frog
- \* Horned Frog/Pacman Frog
- \* African bullfrogs
- \* Moccasins (Genus *Agkistrodon*)
- \* Pygmy rattlesnakes (Genus *Sistrurus*)
- \* Rattlesnakes (Genus *Crotalus*)
- \* Tamarin monkeys
- \* Black-tufted and Geoffroy's marmosets

- \* Capuchin monkeys
- \* Upon request the Commission may issue permits for species not listed above after an evaluation.
- \* Other species as listed in Code Addendum R1.02

Please see Code Addendum R1.02 for the current complete list.

### **What species of wildlife may not be imported into Arkansas? (Prohibited species)**

The Commission will not issue Importation Permits to bring animals listed in Code Addendum R.03 into Arkansas and it is illegal to bring them into the state.

The following is a **partial** list of such prohibited species. See Code Addendum R1.03 for the current complete list. :

- \* 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 fox from certain states
- \* Rodents captured in the wild from certain states
- \* Box turtles
- \* African lions, tigers, bears, and mountain lions
- \* All live waterfowl
- \* Apes, baboons, and macaques
- \* Blackbuck antelope
- \* Black-tailed prairie dogs
- \* Capybara
- \* Warthog
- \* Newts, fire salamanders
- \* Large Asian & African Pythons: Reticulated, Burmese & Rock Pythons
- \* Other species listed in Code Addendum R1.03

See Code Addendum R1.03 for the current official list. 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, and temporary importation of apes, baboons, and macaques and other factors. Please contact the Commission for more information.

### **What do I do if the species I wish to import is not listed as unrestricted, permitted, or prohibited?**

Any species not listed in Addendum R1.01 as unrestricted or Addendum R1.02 as permitted is by default prohibited from importation. However, you may submit an application for an Importation Permit for these species and the Commission will conduct an evaluation of the risks relating to this species and may decide that a permit can be issued.