



## **FACT SHEET:**

# **Captive Primate Laws and Regulations**

### **October 2020**

#### **Authority**

Amendment 35 to the Arkansas Constitution grants authority to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to regulate the “the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of birds, fish, game and wildlife resources of the State”. The Commission has defined wildlife to include both native and non-native species and which would include “exotic” animals such as primates.

The Arkansas Legislature has also passed a law regulating primates in Arkansas in Title 20 Chapter 19 Subchapter 601-610.

#### **Pets**

Primates, including apes, baboons, and macaques, owned prior to August 16, 2013 must have been registered with the county sheriff. After this date, acquisition of new apes, baboons, and macaques as pets is prohibited. Other primates obtained after this date must be registered with the county sheriff within 30 days of acquisition.

#### **Importation**

A Commission Importation Permit is required to bring any primate into Arkansas. Importation Permits for apes, baboons, and macaques are only issued in limited circumstances involving zoos, research facilities, wildlife sanctuaries, circuses, or bringing the animal(s) into or through the state for 10 days or less.

Primates (other than apes, baboons, and macaques) that the Commission will issue Importation Permits for are listed in Commission Code Addendum R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List). If you wish to import a species not on this list, submit a Commission Wildlife Importation Permit application and the Commission may issue a permit should a thorough review of the species find that it poses an acceptable risk to native wildlife and ecosystems and humans. Such reviews may take a considerable period of time.

#### **Caging and Care Requirements**

A person possessing a primate shall comply with minimum standards of care and maintain the primate in an enclosure that meets or exceeds the minimum standards set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2013, for each species of primate.

#### **Breeding and Selling Primates**

Breeding, selling, or distribution of primates is prohibited in Arkansas.

#### **Miscellaneous Laws**

It is unlawful for a person to allow a member of the public to come into direct contact with a primate except it does not apply to a registered primate owner, the family of a registered primate owner, or an invited guest of a registered primate owner.

If a primate potentially exposes a human to rabies or another zoonotic disease by penetration or abrasion of the skin (bite or scratch), the owner of the primate shall report this to the Arkansas Department of Health Public Health Veterinarian at (501) 280-4136 within 24 hours.

It is unlawful for a person to tether a primate outdoors, such as on a leash or chain, or to allow a primate to run at-large.

If a primate escapes or is released, the owner of the primate immediately shall contact a law enforcement officer in the county in which the primate is kept and the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission at (800) 482-9262 to report the loss, escape, or release. The owner of a primate that escapes or is released is liable for all expenses associated with efforts to recapture the primate.

The owner of a registered primate shall notify the county sheriff's office of any changes in the information provided on the registration form, including the death or transfer of the primate.

It is unlawful to keep a primate in a manner that threatens animal welfare or public safety.