



FACT SHEET:
Possession of Venomous Reptiles
May 2021

What does AGFC consider wildlife?

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) 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.

Do I need a permit to possess a Venomous Reptile in Arkansas?

YES. A person must obtain a Venomous Reptile Possession Permit (VRP) (AGFC Code 09.17 - Venomous Reptile Possession Permit Required) to possess any medically significant venomous reptile, whether native or non-native to Arkansas.

NO. A VRP is not required to possess up to six (6) individuals per household of native venomous snakes legally captured from the wild in Arkansas in accordance with AGFC Code 09.14 (Native Wildlife Pets Restricted). While no permit is required, snakes kept under this Code must be kept in accordance with the caging, facility and transport requirements that apply to VRPs as found in AGFC Code Addendum F1.08 (Venomous Reptile Possession Permit Requirements), Sections C and F.

What kind of permit do I need?

A VRP is required to possess all medically significant venomous reptiles listed in AGFC Code Addendum R1.02., with the exception of possession of 6 or fewer native venomous species in accordance with AGFC Code 09.14. Persons wanting to breed or sell venomous reptiles must have a valid Commission Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit, or may sell up to 20 per year so long as the sales are registered with AGFC.

For more complete information please consult AGFC Codes 09.10, 09.14, and 09.17 and Addendum F1.08.

When do I need to get a VRP?

A VRP must be obtained to possess any medically significant reptile, whether native or non-native to Arkansas prior to obtaining or purchasing the reptile(s).

Persons who have submitted a permit application on or before **July 1, 2021**, may continue to possess existing stock while the application is being processed.

What are the terms of a VRP?

- The permit costs \$75 and is good for 1 year. Permits expire every June 30th.
- Applications can be obtained from AGFC.COM, on the Captive Wildlife page, or by calling the Licensing Division at (501) 223-6300.
- The application must include all species of medically significant venomous reptiles that you possess.
- All facilities housing medically significant venomous reptiles must be inspected by an AGFC employee or agent prior to approval of the VRP.

What do I need to transport a venomous reptile species into Arkansas?

You must obtain a Wildlife Importation Permit (AGFC Code 09.10 - Wildlife Importation Permit Required) to import any medically significant venomous reptile species into Arkansas. Medically significant reptiles must be placed in secure ventilated escape-proof containers for transport (AGFC Addendum F1.08, Section F) and containers should be clearly labeled "Caution: Venomous Reptiles" and not left unattended.

Are there caging and facility requirements?

Requirements for facilities and caging are found in AGFC Code Addendum F1.08, Section C. All VRP permittees must provide secure housing of all medically significant venomous reptiles.

What kind of records do I need to have?

After July 1, 2021, stock shall only be obtained from an AGFC-permitted Wildlife/Breeder/Dealer or imported into Arkansas in accordance with a Wildlife Importation Permit. The permittee must retain records evidencing legal possession of all wildlife kept under the permit, including date of acquisition and place of origin. All records must be retained throughout the time the wildlife is possessed by the permittee or for 5 years, whichever is longer.