



FACT SHEET: CAPTIVE LARGE CARNIVORES AND MOUNTAIN LIONS IN ARKANSAS

July 2020

African Lions, Tigers, and Bears

Act 2226 was approved by the Arkansas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Huckabee in the spring of 2005. This law regulates the keeping of African Lions (*Panthera leo*), Tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and all species of bears and any hybrid of these species. Some provisions of this law are:

- * Anyone possessing these species (except American Zoo and Aquarium Association accredited institutions, nonprofit humane societies, veterinary hospitals or clinics, those with USDA Wildlife Exhibition permits, or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits) must have obtained a possession permit from their county sheriff prior to February 8, 2006. New permits will not be issued.
- * Owners of these animals must have facilities that meet American Zoo and Aquarium Association standards and provide information about the facility, veterinary care, and emergency plans to the sheriff when applying for the permit.
- * African Lions, tigers, and bears must have been spayed or neutered before a permit was issued unless a veterinarian confirmed that this would endanger the animal.
- * A fee of \$250 per animal per year will be paid to the sheriff for the permit.
- * Owners must have at least \$100,000 in liability insurance for damage to property and

for death or bodily injury to a person caused by the animals.

- * Other rules apply. Please consult your county sheriff for additional information on applying for this permit.
- * Anyone wishing to breed, sell, or distribute African Lions, Tigers, or bears must have obtained a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. New permits are not available.

Mountain Lions (Cougars/Pumas/Panthers)

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulates possession of mountain lions (*Felis concolor*).

Any person owning a mountain lion must have an AGFC Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permit. New permits are not available.

Importing Large Carnivores into Arkansas

It is illegal to bring African lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, jaguars, bears, or mountain lions into Arkansas. The only exception is for those with a USDA Wildlife Exhibition Permit for large carnivores and mountain lions who possess a current Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Importation Permit.

**Please refer to Commission
captive wildlife regulations
(Code Section 9 and
Addendum F1) for complete
information**