

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 18, 2018, at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. At that time, regulations and business pertaining to the operation of the Game and Fish Commission and other fiscal and administrative matters will be considered and acted upon, and all interested persons are invited to attend. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held throughout the day on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the same location, and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Items on the agenda for the October 18, 2018, meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the September 20, 2018, Commission Meeting, plus consideration of various Hunting and Fishing Regulations and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including but not limited to:

Fishing Regulations – Amend Policies on Land Use Around AGFC Lakes to change the fee and term for existing permits for private boathouses, fishing piers, and irrigation activities on AGFC-owned lakes. Currently, permits have a one-year term only and \$10 annual fee. The recommended change is for these permits to have a three-year term with a \$30 fee (which still amounts to \$10 per year).

Captive Wildlife Regulations – Amend existing and adopt new captive wildlife regulations including, but not limited to:

- Clarify definition of “Wildlife” by removing duplicative reference related to genetics and language regarding aquatic wildlife;
- Adopt definition for “Medically Significant Venomous Reptile Species” which includes native and exotic species;
- Move list of non-native wildlife species exempt from many Commission captive wildlife regulations from existing Code to new Addendum R1.01 (Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List);
- Add exception in multiple Codes to exempt terrestrial invertebrate species not otherwise prohibited by law from Wildlife Importation, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, and possession requirements until further study warrants a change in this exemption;
- Replace in multiple Codes “American Zoo and Aquarium Association” with its new name – “Association of Zoos and Aquariums”;
- Add “other aquatic wildlife” and Addendum for Approved Aquaculture Species List to exception in existing Code for Possession of Certain Wildlife in Captivity Prohibited to add other species exempt from this Code;
- Modify existing Code for Possession of Non-Native Wildlife in Captivity Restricted to allow all female wildlife to be kept in the same enclosure with males of the same wildlife species provided either all males or all females have been neutered;

- Require that after January 1, 2020, native and non-native medically significant venomous reptiles must be kept in accordance with a Venomous Reptile Possession Permit;
- Add exception to existing Code for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit Required that would allow persons to sell or transfer up to 6 individual wildlife specimens per calendar year that were legally acquired if each sale or transfer is registered with the Commission;
- Add language to existing Code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required that no Wildlife Importation Permit is necessary for wildlife listed in new Addendum R1.01 and no Wildlife Importation Permit will be issued for wildlife listed in new Addendum R1.03;
- Amend existing Code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required to authorize denial of an application for a species not listed in R1.01, R1.02 or R1.03 if an evaluation by Commission staff determines the species poses a significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, or agriculture, or cannot be safely confined in a humane manner;
- Add exception to existing Code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required so that a Wildlife Importation Permit is not required for a resident to return legally owned wildlife originating in Arkansas that has been out of the state for less than 30 days;
- Move list of species that may not be imported into the state from existing Code and Addendum to new Addendum R1.03 (Prohibited Captive Wildlife List), and also delete U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Injurious Species List from existing Code;
- Clarify in Code for Native Wildlife Pets Restricted that native wildlife regulated in this Code and captured from the wild in Arkansas may be possessed as personal pets in compliance with specific listed restrictions;
- Add venomous reptile caging and handling requirements in existing Code for Native Wildlife Pets Restricted, which applies to wildlife pets;
- Add new Code to require that anyone possessing any medically significant venomous reptile after January 1, 2020, whether native or non-native to Arkansas, must obtain a Venomous Reptile Permit and comply with all permit requirements;
- Add exception to existing Code for Aquatic Pet Restrictions to manage frogs, salamanders and aquatic turtle pets in compliance with Native Wildlife Pets restrictions;
- Limit wildlife specimens to 6 per household;
- Add Venomous Reptile Possession Permit to existing Addendum for Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Costs and Expiration Dates and establish a cost of \$75.00 per facility annually. Permits would expire on June 30 of each year;
- Expand reasons for denial of Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits to include human health and safety, agriculture, or humane confinement of the possessed wildlife;
- Revise language in existing Code for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permits authorizing denial of permits for large carnivores, mountain lions, or any member of the Cervidae family;

- Clarify that a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit will be denied if the applicant is seeking to permit a facility for a species listed in new Addendum R1.03 (Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List);
- Authorize issuance of a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit for a species not listed in new Addendum R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List) or R1.03 (Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List) if an evaluation by Commission staff determines the species does not pose a significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, or agriculture and can be safely confined in a humane manner. Species for which a permit is issued may be proposed to the Commission, during the next regular regulations cycle, for inclusion in new Addendum R1.01 (Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List) or R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List);
- Modify existing Addendum for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit Requirements to change reporting requirements from monthly to quarterly for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permittees, establish a schedule for reporting and add a requirement for reporting of returned legally-owned wildlife originating in Arkansas that has been out of the state for less than 30 days;
- Allow persons to submit a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit application until January 1, 2020, to permit stock not obtained from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer within Arkansas or in accordance with an Importation Permit as is currently required;
- Add reporting requirement in existing Addendum for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit Requirements that the Commission shall be notified within 24 hours of the escape of any animals from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer facility;
- Add a requirement in existing Addendum for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit Requirements that medically significant venomous reptiles must be kept in accordance with new Addendum F1.08 (Venomous Reptile Possession Permit Requirements);
- Establish Venomous Reptile Possession Permit requirements in new Addendum F1.08; and
- Adopt new Addendum R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List) as a list of species for which permits may be issued for the breeding, sale and importation.

Aquatic Turtle Regulations – Consider adopting petition from third parties requesting amendments to certain regulations, and repeal of others, in AGFC Code Chapter 34.00–Aquatic Turtle Regulations to prohibit commercial harvesting of all aquatic turtles in the state, to become effective immediately.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the October 20, 2018, meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing to this office on or before October 10, 2018. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office, at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

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