

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 21, 2019, 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, February 20, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the same location, and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Items on the agenda for the February 21, 2019, meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the January 17, 2019, 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:

Captive Wildlife Regulations – Amend existing, and adopt new, regulations for captive wildlife 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);
- Provide exception for collection under a Scientific Collection Permit for certain species designated as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act;
- Provide exception for possession of certain terrestrial invertebrate species not otherwise prohibited by federal or state regulations;
- Replace in multiple codes “American Zoo and Aquarium Association” with its new name – “Association of Zoos and Aquariums”;
- Include “other aquatic wildlife” and Approved Aquaculture Species List as exceptions in existing code for Possession of Certain Wildlife in Captivity Prohibited;
- Modify existing code for Possession of Non-Native Wildlife in Captivity Restricted to allow females 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 July 1, 2020, native and non-native medically significant venomous reptiles must be kept in accordance with a Venomous Reptile Possession Permit;
- Clarify existing code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required to indicate no Wildlife Importation Permit is necessary for wildlife listed in new Addendum R1.01 (Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List) and no Wildlife

Importation Permit will be issued for wildlife listed in new Addendum R1.03 (Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List);

- Include exception allowing Arkansas residents to sell or transfer up to 20 individual wildlife specimens listed in Addendum R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List) per calendar year that were acquired from a permitted Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or imported with a valid Wildlife Importation Permit provided each sale or transfer is registered with the Commission;
- Provide that Wildlife Breeder/Dealers permitted before February 20, 2019, may continue to breed certain species (e.g., blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs) proposed for the Captive Wildlife Prohibited List and sell them to only existing permit holders or out of state. No new permits shall be issued for blackbuck antelope and black-tailed prairie dogs;
- Amend existing code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required to authorize denial or approval of an application for a species not listed in R1.01, R1.02 or R1.03 after an evaluation by Commission staff determines whether 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;
- Include exception in existing code for Wildlife Importation Permit Required to not require a Wildlife Importation Permit 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 delete U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Injurious Species List from existing code;
- Clarify in code for Native Wildlife Pets Restricted that regulated native wildlife captured from the wild in Arkansas may be possessed as personal pets in compliance with specific listed restrictions;
- Provide venomous reptile caging and handling requirements in existing code for Native Wildlife Pets Restricted;
- Adopt new code to require that persons possessing any medically significant venomous reptile after July 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;
- Clarify existing code to provide that native wildlife captured in Arkansas may be possessed as personal pets with no more than 6 per household;
- Provide for Venomous Reptile Possession Permit in existing addendum for Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Costs and Expiration Dates and establish permit cost of \$75.00 per facility annually;
- Provide additional reasons for denial of a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit to include human health and safety, agriculture, or humane confinement of the possessed wildlife;

- Clarify existing code for Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit that authorizes denial of a permit for large carnivores, mountain lions, or any member of the Cervidae family, and provide 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 Addenda 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 Addenda R1.01 (Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List) or R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List);
- Revise 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 for persons to submit a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit application until July 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 that the Commission must be notified within 24 hours of the escape of any animals from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer facility; and add a requirement that medically significant venomous reptiles must be kept in accordance with new Addendum F1.08 (Venomous Reptile Possession Permit Requirements);
- Adopt Venomous Reptile Possession Permit requirements in new Addendum F1.08;
- Adopt Scientific Collection Permit requirements in a new Addendum F1.09;
- Adopt Conservation Education Permit requirements in a new Addendum F1.10 to allow persons to possess more than 6 native wildlife specimens captured from the wild in Arkansas for the purpose of conducting conservation education programs; and
- Adopt new Addendum R1.02 (Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List) as a list of species for which permits may be issued for breeding, sale and importation.

General Regulations – Amend existing regulations to adopt a new definition for “Conservation Card”, which the Commission intends to make available to link to a person’s Commission-issued licenses, permits, stamps, and education certificates, and to designate acceptable forms of proof of possession, including: (1) a physical or electronic copy of a Commission-issued license, permit, stamp, or education certificate; and (2) a Commission-issued Conservation Card that is linked to the required license, permit, stamp, or education certificate.

Conservation License Plate Policy & Procedure – Adopt amendments to existing Conservation License Plate Policy & Procedure governing the use of Conservation License Plate funds for: (1) sponsoring college scholarships for students studying in conservation-related fields; (2) funding public land purchases; and (3) providing conservation education programs. The amendments include updating of information about current conservation education programs eligible for CLP funds, and expansion of availability of funds for conservation education scholarships, including for Arkansas students attending out-of-state universities.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the February 21, 2019, 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 February 11, 2019. 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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