ARKANSAS REGISTER



Proposed Rule Cover Sheet

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Name of Department Legal Division
Agency or Division Name Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable
Previous Agency Name, If Applicable
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<u>at 10:00 a.m.</u>

F1.06 Mountain Lion Permit Requirements Reserved

A. Eligibility and Application Requirements:

- 1. A Mountain Lion Permit shall not be issued to any person until the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:
 - i. The applicant must be at least 18 years old and shall not have been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for, violating any federal, state or municipal law governing captive wildlife, illegal appropriation or commercialization of wildlife, or cruelty to animals within 5 years of the application date.
 - ii. The applicant shall provide to the Commission, in writing, proof from the county judge or sheriff and any municipal planning commission or board with jurisdiction, stating that the applicant's facility shall be in compliance with all local ordinances.
 - iii. The applicant shall submit a written application (available from the Commission) for each facility to be permitted.

2. The permit shall be denied if:

- i. The applicant fails to meet any of the issuance criteria set forth in this addendum chapter;
- ii. The applicant fails to disclose material information required, or makes false statements as to any material fact in connection with the application, or supplies false information or makes a false statement on the application;
- iii. The Commission finds, through further inquiry or investigation, the issuance of the permit may be potentially harmful to the wildlife resources of the State.

B. Facility and Caging Requirements:

1. Facilities containing mountain lions shall meet facility and caging requirements described in Addendum F1.03.

C. Reporting and Record Keeping:

- 1. Legible records of all wildlife acquisitions and dispositions, including births, deaths, slaughter, and transport, shall be kept throughout the time the wildlife is possessed or for five years, whichever is longer.
- 2. Records shall include evidence of legal possession of all wildlife kept under the permit, including licenses, bills of sale, bills of lading, receipts, invoices or other satisfactory evidence of ownership. Records shall include the date of acquisition, place of origin, and the name, address and telephone number of the person from whom the wildlife was acquired.
- 3. The Commission shall be notified within 72 hours of any change in the number of mountain lions kept within the facility.

D. Disease Testing and Control:

1. The Commission shall determine mechanisms and procedures for the control of diseases and parasites in captive mountain lions within Arkansas. Such mechanisms and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, examination, testing, quarantine and slaughter or destruction of

- animals that are, or in the opinion of the Commission may be, infected with a disease or parasite that may have significant detrimental effect on native wildlife, other captive wildlife, livestock or the public health of Arkansans.
- 2. Examinations, testing, quarantine and slaughter of captive wildlife shall be conducted at the expense of the owner.

E. Inspection:

- 1. Commission employees or agents may inspect the facility, all records associated with the activities relating to the permit, and any mountain lions kept under the authority of the permit at any reasonable hour.
- 2. Each permittee shall hold the mountain lion in a suitable pen and restrain it for inspection, at a reasonable time, when requested to do so by an employee or agent of the Commission.
- F. Permit Renewal, Transfer, Suspension, and Revocation:
 - 1. Permits may be revoked by this Agency for failure to comply with the terms of the permit or with the terms of this Addendum Chapter.
 - 2. Persons in violation of the terms of this permit, violation of the Commission Code, or upon conviction of associated regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shall be notified in writing of such violations and shall have 20 days to respond with just cause as to why their permit should not be suspended or revoked.
 - 3. If after 20 days just cause has not been given, the Commission may suspend or revoke any permit held by the violator and refuse to issue future permits. Additionally, criminal charges may be filed.
 - 4. Upon revocation, permit holders must legally remove all captive wildlife within the time designated in the revocation, not to exceed 60 days. Failure to do so shall result in the Commission taking action, per Commission policy, at the permit holder's expense.