

4 ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
John Thurston
500 Woodlane, Suite 026
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094
(501) 682-5070
www.sos.arkansas.gov



Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person April Soman

Contact E-mail April.Soman@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

Name of Rule 26.26 Aquatic Wildlife Pet Restrictions

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing August 16, 17, 18, 2020 and Sept. 13, 14, 15, 2020

Final Date for Public Comment October 15, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205, 9:00 a.m.

26.26 AQUATIC WILDLIFE PET RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful to possess native aquatic wildlife as pets except as follows:
1. No more than **six (6) of each species** live individuals of native fish, crayfish, or snails may be possessed ~~amphibians, reptiles, and/or snails~~ per household ~~may be possessed alive;~~
 2. Must be taken by hand or by any method described in Code 32.04.; ~~and~~
 3. Game fish may only be taken in compliance with ~~all other~~ codes in Chapter 26.00.
 4. **Possession of aquatic turtles and salamanders in compliance with Captive Wildlife codes in Chapter 9.00**
- B. It **also** is unlawful to sell or purchase such wildlife or their progeny or to release them into waters other than those from which they were collected.
- C. **It is unlawful to possess** alligator snapping turtles, **Ozark Hellbenders hellbenders**, Ouachita streambed salamanders, troglodytic (cave-dwelling) species or **species state or federally listed as threatened or** endangered.

EXCEPTIONS:

- ~~A. It is unlawful to possess Alligator snapping turtles, Ozark Hellbenders hellbenders, Ouachita streambed salamanders, troglodytic (cave-dwelling) species or those animals defined as species state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. species. may not be taken.~~
- A. **Legally obtained baitfish** Fish are exempt from the **six (6) of each species individual pets** per household provision.
- B. Commercial fish may be taken only in compliance with Chapter 30.00.
- C. Collecting in compliance with a scientific collection permit or other special use permit issued by the Commission.
- D. Permitted fish farms in compliance with Chapter 35.00.
- E. Licensed commercial fishermen in compliance with Chapter 30.00.

PENALTY: Class 1