

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2009

TO: Personal Pet Owners and Interested Persons

FROM: Colonel Julie Jones
Director, Division of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Personal Possession of Class III Wildlife

Permits are not required to keep the following species for personal use: unprotected and non-venomous reptiles and amphibians (except the “Reptiles of Concern” which include Burmese python, amethystine python, reticulated python, African rock python, green anaconda and Nile monitor), gerbils, hedgehogs, honey possums, sugar gliders, brush-tailed possums, shell parakeets, rats and mice, canaries, moles, shrews, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, ferrets (domestic and European), lovebirds, guinea pigs, cockatiels, hamsters, parrots (psittacine birds), finches, myna birds, toucans, doves (ringed, diamond, and ruddy), button quail, prairie dogs, and chinchillas.

All wildlife not exempted above, except those listed as Class I or II, are called Class III wildlife.

Individuals wishing to possess Class III wildlife for personal use must first obtain a no-cost personal pet permit (on our web site at www.MyFWC.com/permits) issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Examples of Class III wildlife include, but are not limited to, small monkeys, raccoons, opossums, skunks, lemurs, and wallabies. It is unlawful to buy, sell, or transfer wildlife to or from any unpermitted entity in Florida. Therefore, all permits must be approved and issued prior to acquisition of the animal. Wildlife dealers and personal pet permittees must maintain documentation of the source and supplier of their wildlife.

To become eligible to keep Class III wildlife for personal use a person must:

- a) Be 16 years of age or older. Must satisfactorily complete a questionnaire that assesses the applicant’s knowledge of general husbandry, nutritional and behavioral characteristics of the animal for which the permit is requested. Must provide a Critical Incident/Disaster Plan on form FWCDLE_619 (on our web site at www.MyFWC.com/permits) and shall document in writing a course of action to be taken in preparation for disasters or critical incidents. Part A is to be submitted at time of application. Part B remains at your facility and is to be made available for inspection.
- b) Be able to provide satisfactory caging facilities as required in the Standard Caging Requirements, Rules 68A-6.003(2)(e) and 68A-6.004, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), within 30 days of notification of tentative approval for a permit.

- c) Ensure that the conditions under which the wildlife will be held shall not constitute a threat to the public or to the animal.

Applicants for permits to possess **capuchin, spider** or **woolly monkeys** for personal use must demonstrate no less than one (1) year of substantial practical experience (to consist of no less than 1,000 hours) in the care, feeding, handling, and husbandry of primates, in accordance with the criteria established in 68A-6.0022(5)(d)1.-4., F.A.C. As an alternative, the applicant may take a written examination. The successful completion of a written examination for a particular species or family, administered by the Division of Law Enforcement, together with the documentation of not less than 100 hours of substantial practical experience with documentation and compliance procedures as noted in Rule 68A-6.0022(5)(d)1.-4., F.A.C., in the care, feeding, handling and husbandry of the species or family for which the permit is sought may be substituted for the one-year/1,000 hour requirement. Exams are administered at any of the FWC Regional Service Centers. Applicants scoring at least 80 percent correct on the examination shall be deemed as meeting the examination requirement for the particular species or family.

Wildlife kept for personal use must be kept under sanitary conditions and fed a nutritious diet. This includes: providing clean drinking water daily, providing food of a type and quantity that meets the nutritional requirements for the species, daily removal of fecal and food wastes, and cleaning of the enclosure.

All wildlife maintained in a cage or other enclosure must meet or exceed the dimensions outlined for that species in the Standard Caging Requirements pursuant to 68A-6.004, F.A.C. Some of the more popular pets and their caging requirements are:

- Raccoons:** For one or two animals, a cage 6 feet by 8 feet by 6 feet high, with a perching area and nest box, and a physical stimulation or manipulation device.
- Skunks:** For one or two animals, a cage 5 feet by 4 feet by 3 feet high, equipped with chewing item, and a physical stimulation or manipulation device.
- Marmosets and Tamarins:** For one or two animals, a cage 3 feet by 3 feet by 4 feet high, with a perching area, climbing apparatus, nest box, and a physical stimulation or manipulation device.
- Capuchin monkeys:** For one or two animals, a cage 6 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet high, with a perching area,

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shelter, climbing apparatus, and a physical stimulation or manipulation device.

American opossums: For one or two animals, a cage or enclosure 4 feet by 4 feet by 6 feet high, with a perching area, nest box, and horizontal climbing apparatus.

For other species, or questions regarding the personal possession of wildlife, visit our website at www.MyFWC.com.

We appreciate your interest in personal possession of class III wildlife. If we can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to write or call this office (850) 488-6253.

Revised 3.09

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