



# State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management



Home Programs Topics Maps Pubs/Regs News Events Search Help Contact Us

[Home](#) > [Programs](#) > [Bureau of Natural Resources](#) > [Division of Agriculture](#) > Proposed Exotic Animal Rules and Regs

[Notice, Draft Rules, Summary, Fiscal Note and RegFlex Memo](#)

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**Department of Environmental Management**

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF EXOTIC WILD ANIMALS AND PUBLIC HEARING

The Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is proposing adoption of the "***Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Possession of Exotic Wild Animals***" and gives notice of intent to hold a public hearing to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments orally and/or in writing on the regulations.

The public hearing will be held on **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:00 AM** in Room 300 of DEM's [Main Office](#) at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. The Department of Environmental Management building is accessible to those with disabilities. A recording of the hearing will be made and the DEM will provide interpreter services for the hearing impaired, provided such a request is made at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling (401) 222-6800 or dialing 711 (RI Relay).

The proposed regulations provide updates and clarification to existing regulations as described below. Most significantly these regulations allow for the establishment of three categories of animals, domestic animals, exempt exotic animals, and exotic animals. Animals classified as domestic or exempt exotic do not require a possession permit for ownership. Animals classified as exotic require a possession permit for ownership. All animals that do not appear on either the list of domestic animals or the list of exempt exotic animals require a possession permit by default. These regulations also provide some realignment of species between various lists.

An [electronic copy of the proposed regulations](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/wanimlpn.htm) is available on the DEM website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/wanimlpn.htm>.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations:

DEM has considered alternative approaches to the proposed regulations and has determined that there is no alternative approach among the alternatives considered that would be as effective and less burdensome. DEM has determined that the proposed regulations do not overlap/duplicate any other State regulations. DEM has determined that the proposed regulations will not result in a significant adverse economic impact on small businesses or any city or town.

DEM encourages the submission of written comments on the proposed regulations and above determinations prior to the date of the public hearing. All written comments should be sent to the Division of Agriculture (room 370), 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI, 02908 or by email to [scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov](mailto:scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov) no later than 12:00 PM on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Signed this sixteenth day of February 2010.

Ken Ayars, Chief  
Division of Agriculture

Section	Description of Change
<b>Amendment of Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Possession of Wild Animals</b>	
Title	The title of the regulations will be amended to include the adjective "Exotic" to qualify wild animals and delineate them from "Native" wild animals, which are regulated under the DEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife.
Entire document	The entire document has been reviewed with the intention of clarifying which animal may be owned without a permit and for which animals a permit is required. Existing regulations did not sufficiently address this as many animals were not clearly categorized as being exempt or in need of a permit.
Entire document	The categorization of various animal species has been done to encompass animals that are considered a nuisance or invasive species as well as those that are considered a public or animal health threat.
Rule 7	Creates a list of exempt exotic animals for which no permit is required. This list did not exist in the previous version of this document.
<b>Other significant changes from current regulations</b>	
Rule 7.2	Categorizes all amphibians as nuisance/invasive. This categorization was influenced by the Division of Fish and Wildlife biologists who feel that amphibians common in pet store trade would have the potential to decimate native amphibians due to their invasive tendencies and the fact that they often carry diseases.
Rule 4.6(k)	Requires that the applicant provide a letter from the DEM/Division of Fish & Wildlife stating that the animal for which the permit is sought, does not represent a threat to native species and is not considered endangered or restricted on the federal level.

For General Information 222-6800 • After Hours Emergencies 222-3070 • [Disclaimer](#)

rev. 2/23/10