

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT,
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF
EXOTIC WILD ANIMALS**



Effective April 2010

AUTHORITY: These regulations are authorized pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-17.1-2(19) and Chapter 4-18 as amended, and have been promulgated pursuant to the procedures set forth in the R.I. Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35.

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RULE 1. PURPOSE:

1. To permit importation and possession within Rhode Island of those exotic animals that are free of diseases that pose a threat to humans, livestock and other domesticated animals, and native wildlife.
2. To allow importation/possession by only those persons who can demonstrate that they have adequate facilities and adequate knowledge of animal health and husbandry to ensure both public safety as well as the health and well-being of the imported/possessed exotic animal.
3. To ensure that endangered and threatened species are not imported/possessed in Rhode Island without a permit.

RULE 2. AUTHORITY:

These Rules and Regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Section 4-18-9, and in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3. APPLICATION:

The terms and provisions of these Rules and Regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purpose of state law, goals, and policies.

RULE 4. DEFINITIONS:

Wherever used in these Rules and Regulations the following terms should be construed as follows:

1. **Department** shall mean the Department of Environmental Management
2. **Director** shall mean the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, or his/her duly authorized agent or agents.
3. **Domestic animal** shall mean any animal, which through extremely long association with humans, have been bred to a degree that has resulted in genetic changes affecting the temperament, color, conformation, or other

attributes of the species to an extent that makes them unique and distinguishable from wild individuals of their species. Such animals may include but are not limited to:

Domestic Dog (*Canis familiaris*) excluding hybrids with wild canids

Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*) excluding hybrids with wild felines

Domestic Equines (*Equus caballus*, *Equus asinus*) including hybrids thereof

Domestic Cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*)

Domestic Swine (*Sus scrofa domestica*)

Domestic Sheep (*Ovis aries*)

Domestic Goat (*Capra hircus*)

Llama (*Lama glama*)

Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)

Dromedary (*Camelus dromedarius*)

Domestic Water Buffalo (*Bubalis bubalis*)

Domestic Yak (*Bos grunniens*)

Domestic Hamster derived from and including the golden hamster (*Mesocricetus auratus*)

Mongolian Gerbil (*Meriones unguiculatus*)

Laboratory Rat, including breeds, varieties, and strains derived from the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Laboratory Mouse, including breeds, varieties, and strains derived from the house mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Guinea Pig (*Cavia porcellus*)

Domestic Rabbit, including breeds, varieties, and strains derived from the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) but not including the European rabbit *ferae naturae* and not including the so-called "San Juan" rabbit.

Domestic Geese derived from the greylag goose (*Anser anser*), including, but not restricted to, Emden goose, Gray African goose, Pilgrim goose, Sebastopol goose, and Toulouse goose, derived from the swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), including, but not restricted to, the African goose and the Chinese goose, derived from the Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*).

Domestic Ducks derived from the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), including, but not restricted to, Aylesbury duck, Blue Swedish duck, Buff duck, Cayuga duck, Crested White duck, English call duck, Indian runner duck, Pekin duck, and Roen duck, derived from the Muscovy duck (*Cairina moschata*).

Common Coturnix (*Coturnix coturnix* or *C. japonica*).

Domestic Chicken (*Gallus "domesticus"*) derived from the red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*).

Peafowl (blue peafowl) (*Pavo cristatus*).

Domestic Guinea fowl derived from the helmet guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*).

Domestic Turkey derived from the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

and including breeds and varieties recognized by the American Poultry Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but not including the wild turkey (*Ferae naturae*) and captive or captive-bred individuals thereof and not including the pen-raised or game-farm non-standard variety "Wild Turkey".

Common Pigeon (rock dove) derived from the blue rock pigeon (*Columba livia*).

4. **Enclosure** shall mean any structure used to immediately restrict an animal or animals to a limited amount of space, such as a room, pen, run, cage, or compartment.
5. **Endangered Species** shall mean those species of animals designated as threatened or endangered according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This list is updated daily and can be referenced at the following URL: http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/SpeciesReport.do
6. **Exempt Exotic Animal** shall mean any animal that is neither listed as defined as a domestic animal or native wild animal, but for which there is no requirement to obtain an exotic animal possession permit. The list of exotic animals that are exempt from the requirement of obtaining an exotic animal possession permit is found under RULE 7 of these Rules and Regulations.
7. **Exotic Animal** shall mean any vertebrate or invertebrate other than those defined as domestic animals, native wildlife, or exempt exotic animals pursuant to RIGL 4-18-3
8. **Exotic Animal Possession Permit** shall mean a permit issued by the Department, Division of Agriculture, for possession of all exotic animals not listed as exempt.
9. **Federally Accredited Veterinarian** shall mean any veterinarian who holds a current license in good standing in any state and who is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture as having completed the necessary requirements for federal accreditation.
10. **Health Certificate** or **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection** shall mean an official form of the state of origin that states the animal(s)/bird(s) have been inspected and found free of contagious, infectious or communicable diseases , and contains the date of the veterinary inspection as well as the dates and results of all required tests, and describes the animal(s)/bird(s) by species, breed, age, sex, and any individual identification such as ear tags, tattoos, leg bands, microchip, or other means of individual identification, and contains the data for all required tests and vaccinations prior to entry into Rhode Island (including the name and address of the laboratory that performed the test), and has the complete name and address of the consignor and consignee, and contains the signature of the inspecting veterinarian as well as that of the official having jurisdiction over the disease of animals in the state of origin.
11. **Import Permit** shall mean a permit issued by the Department that will allow entry of an animal, domestic or otherwise, into the state of Rhode Island.

12. **Native Animal Possession Permit** shall be issued by the Department, Division of Fish and Wildlife as provided by Rhode Island General Law, Title 20, Chapters 20-1-18, 20-1-22, and 20-37-3. (see also Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Possession of Native Wildlife)
13. **Native Wildlife** shall mean animals occurring naturally, either presently or historically, within the boundaries of the State of Rhode Island.
14. **Nuisance Species** shall mean any animal which is not native but which has the potential upon release or escape into the wild to have a negative impact on native flora or fauna.
15. **Person** shall mean any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation or company including but not limited to educational and research institutions, zoological gardens, schools, colleges, universities, pet stores, animal care facilities, and laboratories who import, hold, sell, purchase, or possess any wild animal in accordance with sections 4-18-1 and 4-18-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws.
16. **Quarantine** shall refer to the types enclosures necessary to ensure that the exotic animal will not have any contact, either directly or through fomites, with any domestic animal, wild animal, or person, other than the person(s) charged with the immediate care of the animal.
17. **RIDEM** shall mean the Department of Environmental Management.
18. **USFWS** shall mean the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
19. **Veterinarian** shall mean an individual currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Rhode Island.

RULE 5: REQUIREMENTS

1. A permit to import into, receive, or possess in this state animals defined as exotic animals under section 4.7 herein, shall be restricted to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) approved zoos and research institutes or other USDA approved facilities as well as exhibitors and private persons seeking to import or possess an exotic animal for private ownership pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-18-3 and 4-18-6 of the Rhode Island General Law, 1956, as amended herein. Obtaining such permit does not preclude conformance with such other Federal, State, or Local requirements for licensure certification or permit which may be required.
2. No other person shall be allowed to import, receive, or possess any animals defined as exotic animals under section 4.7 herein, other than USDA/AAZPA approved zoos and research institutes, or as well as exhibitors and private persons seeking to import or possess an exotic animal.
3. The Director at his/her discretion may issue an exotic animal possession permit to import, receive, or possess exotic animals as defined in section

4.7. An exotic animal possession permit is not required for importation or possession of domestic animals as defined in section 4.3, or for importation or possession of exempt exotic animals as defined in section 4.6 and listed in Rule 7. Persons wishing to obtain a permit to import or possess native wildlife as defined in section 4.13 can do so through the Department, Division of Fish and Wildlife. Application for an exotic animal possession permit must include the following for each species.

- a) The number, sex, age, and true scientific name and means of permanent individual identification of each individual animal
- b) The carrier and point of first arrival as well as the location where each animal will be kept within the state.
- c) The purpose for which the exotic animal will be imported and possessed
- d) The full name and complete address of the consignee and consignor
- e) A “health certificate” (certificate of veterinary inspection) issued by a federally accredited veterinarian licensed in the state of origin of the exotic animal. The health certificate is to include the results and dates of any testing that was determined necessary by the Director prior to entry into the state of Rhode Island. The health certificate must be as defined in section 4.10 herein.
- f) The location of where the animal(s) will be held in quarantine upon entry into the state of Rhode Island. This location and all enclosures must be inspected and approved prior to issuance of an exotic animal possession permit.
- g) The location of where the animal(s) will be permanently held after release from quarantine. This location and all enclosures must be inspected and approved prior to issuance of an exotic animal possession permit.
- h) The name and address of the veterinarian currently licensed in Rhode Island who will conduct the tests and examinations specified by the Department. A letter from a veterinarian currently licensed in Rhode Island stating that he/she will conduct any testing or examinations as will be required periodically by the Department
- i) Except for AAZPA certified facilities, any person desiring to import or possess an exotic animal shall also provide a detailed written description to the Department of the manner in which the animal(s)’ nutritional, housing, and exercise needs will be met. Approval of this document must be made prior to issuance of an exotic animal possession permit.
- j) Permit fee as specified by Rhode Island General Law 4-18-8
- k) Letter from the Department, Division of Fish and Wildlife, endorsed by the Chief of that division or his/her designee stating that the species is neither considered a native species nor a nuisance species as defined in this document.

RULE 6 ISSUANCE AND CONDITIONS

1. Issuance of exotic animal import permits may be made by the Department upon the following:
 - a) Receipt of written application providing all of the information enumerated in RULE 5 not less than seven (7) days preceding the probable day of shipment of the animal(s).
 - b) Completion of an inspection by the department of the quarantine and final enclosures as enumerated in RULE 5 and approval of those enclosures.
 - c) Payment of the necessary permit fee as required under Rhode Island General Law 4-18-8.
 - d) Determination that possession of the exotic species will not endanger the public health or the health of native wildlife or domestic animals to an extent greater than possession of domestic animals or exempt exotic animals would.
 - e) Approval of the probable point of first entry into the state of Rhode Island
 - f) Receipt and approval by the State Veterinarian of a Health Certificate signed and issued within thirty (30) days of the anticipated arrival of the exotic animal. Such Health Certificate must be issued by a Federally Accredited Veterinarian licensed in the state of origin of the exotic animal(s), be countersigned by the State Veterinarian of the state of origin, and be accompanied by any test records determined to be necessary by the Department. The Health Certificate must state that the animals are free from signs of infectious, contagious, and zoonotic diseases in addition to the specific required tests.
2. The permit may, at the discretion of the Director, list specific conditions that must be met and maintained prior to issuance of an exotic animal possession permit.
3. The exotic animal possession permit is not transferable to another person or location without the expressed written permission to do so from the Director.
4. Any person in possession of an exotic animal possession permit must maintain possession of the animal(s) identified on that permit at the location specified on that permit, and the enclosures that were inspected prior to issuance of that permit.
5. Any modification of the enclosure must be inspected and approved before the permitted animal(s) are allowed to be housed within.
6. Any exotic animal as permitted shall not be used for breeding purposes without prior approval by the Department. If approval is granted, limits may be imposed as to the number of exotic animals allowed per location, enclosure, or person as in RULE 6 section 2.
7. The possessor of any permitted exotic animal must notify the Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the death of that animal, and immediately upon the escape of that animal.

8. The exotic animal and the enclosure are subject to periodic inspection by representatives of the Department during normal business hours and without prior notice.
9. The Director may order immediate examination and testing of any permitted exotic animal(s) upon suspicion that the animal(s) may be harboring a disease that threatens public health or the health of domestic animals or native wildlife. Measures necessary to do so may include but not be limited to quarantine, seizure, euthanasia, and post-mortem examination.
10. Any person bitten, scratched or otherwise injured by an exotic animal must be immediately reported to the Animal Control Officer in the municipality where the animal is housed and to the State Veterinarian.
11. The release into the wild of any animal for which an exotic animal possession permit has been issued is prohibited whether or not such release was intentional or accidental.
12. Any animal imported with an exotic animal possession permit may, at the discretion of the Director, in accordance with RIGL 4-18-11, be required to undergo a period of quarantine. The terms of the quarantine will be established on a case-by-case basis.

RULE 7 EXEMPTIONS

1. List of Fish. All aquarium trade fish may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except endangered species. The Division of Fish and Wildlife may have additional regulations if the species of fish is considered to be native or nuisance. Possession of the following species requires an exotic animal possession permit:

1. Grass Carp or White Amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)
2. Piranha (*Pygocentrus* spp. and *Serrasalmus* spp.)
3. Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)
4. Walking Catfish (*Clarias* spp and all members of the family *Clariidae*)
5. Snakeheads (*Channidae* and *Parachannidae*)

2. List of Amphibians.

The RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife considers all exotic amphibians to be a potential nuisance, vector for disease, and a threat to native fauna. Therefore, possession of all exotic amphibians that are kept, housed, or maintained outdoors requires an exotic animal possession permit. All retail amphibian vendors must provide written notification to purchasers of this requirement and keep a log of all sales that include the following: 1) Name of purchaser, 2) Address of purchaser, 3) Date of purchase, 4) Purchaser's signature, and 5) Species purchased. Permits will be granted on a case-by-case basis only to those

applicants who will ensure that the animal(s) will be kept in a manner such that it has no possible means of escape into the wild. Refer to the RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife for additional regulations of native amphibian species.

3. List of Reptiles.

(a) Turtles: all exotic species of turtles may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit, except endangered species. Refer to The RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife for additional regulations of native turtle species. Possession of the following species requires an exotic animal possession permit:

1. Argentina or Chaco Tortoise (*Geochelone chilensis*).
2. Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and all other species in the genus *Gopherus*.
3. Pancake Tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*).

NOTE: the RI DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife Regulations prohibit Possession of Red Eared Slider turtles

(b) Snakes: All venomous snakes require an exotic animal possession permit. Refer to The RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife for additional regulations of native snake species. The following snakes may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except endangered species and the specific exceptions listed below:

1. All species of boas and pythons (family *Boidae*), may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except those species that are endangered, and except the Emerald Tree Boa (*Corallus caninus*), Green Tree Python (*Chondropython* spp.), African Rock Python (*Python sebae*), Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) and all species of Anaconda (*Eunectes* spp.).
2. Shield-tailed Snakes, Sunbeam Snakes, and others in the families *Uropeltidae* and

Xenopeltidae may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit.

3. Worm Snakes, Thread Snakes, and others in the families *Typhlopidae*, *Leptotyphlopidae*, and *Anomalepidae* may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit.

4. Snakes of the family *Colubridae*, as follows may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

Asian Rat Snakes (*Elaphe* spp. and *Ptyas* spp. and *Zaocys* spp.)

Bogetophis spp.

Brown and Redbelly Snakes (*Storeria* spp.)

Diadem Snakes (*Spalerosophis* spp.)

Garter and Ribbon Snakes (*Thamnophis* spp.)

Glossy Snakes (*Arizona* spp.)

Gopher and Pine Snakes (*Pituophis* spp.)

Green Snakes (*Opheodrys* spp.)

Ground Snakes (*Sonora* spp.)

House Snakes (*Boaedon [Lamprophis]* spp.)

Kingsnakes and Milk Snakes (*Lampropeltis* spp.)

North American Rat Snakes (*Elaphe* spp.) except the Black Rat Snake (*E.o. obsoleta* (other than albinistic and leucistic individuals) which requires a permit.

Pseudaspis spp.

Pseustes spp.

Texas Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais erebennus*)

Tropical Rat Snakes (*Spilotes* spp.)

Water Snakes (*Nerodia [Natrix]* spp.)

Western Hognose Snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)

(c) Lizards: Possession of all chameleons (*Chameontidae*), the Gila Monster and Beaded Lizard (*Heloderatidae*), and all Monitors (*Varanidae*) requires an exotic animal possession permit. The following lizards may be kept without a permit except for endangered species. The Division of Fish and Wildlife may have additional

regulations if the species of lizard is considered native or nuisance.

1. All Skinks (*Scincidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except for the following:

Florida Sand Skinks (*Neoseps* spp.)

Solomon Island Ground Skink (*Tribolonotus* spp.)

2. The following Girdle-tailed Lizards (*Cordylidae*) may be kept without a permit:

False Club-tailed Lizards (*Pseudocordylus* spp.)

Girdle-tailed Lizards (*Cordylus* spp.)

Plated Lizards (*Gerrhosaurus* spp.)

Rock Lizards (*Platysaurus* spp.)

Zonosaurus spp.

3. All Teiids (*Teiidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except for the following:

Brown Water Teiids (*Neusticurus* spp.)

Dicrodon spp.

Earless Teiids (*Bachia* spp.)

Rough Teiids (*Echinosaura* spp.)

Snake Teiids (*Ophiognomon* spp.)

Spectacled Teiids (*Gymnophthalmus* spp.)

Worm Teiids (*Scolacosaurus* spp.)

4. The following Lacertid Lizards (*Lacertidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

Acanthodactylus spp.

Gallotia spp.

Lacerta spp.

Podarcis spp.

Psammodromus spp.

5. The following Lateral-fold Lizards (*Anguinae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

Alligator Lizards (*Gerrhonotus* spp.)

Glass Lizards (*Ophisaurus* spp.)

Slowworm (*Anguis* spp.)

6. All Gekkos (*Gekkonidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit except the Big Bend Gekko (*Coleonyx reticulatus*).

7. The following Iguanid Lizards (*Iguanidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

Basilisks (*Basiliscus* spp.)

Collared and Leopard Lizards (*Crotaphytus* spp.)

Common or Green Iguanas (*Iguana* i. *iguana*)

False or Spring-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaurus* spp.)

Liolaemus spp.

New World Chameleons (*Anolis* spp. and *Ctenotus* spp.)

Spiny Lizards (*Sceloporus* spp.)

Tree and Bush Lizards (*Urosaurus* spp.)

Uranoscodon spp.

Zebra-tailed Lizards (*Callisaurus* spp.)

8. The following Agamid Lizards (*Agamidae*) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

Amphibolorus spp.

Calotes spp.

Hydrosaurus spp.

Pogona spp.

Water Dragon (*Physignathus* spp.)

9. Night Lizards (*Xantusidae*): All Night Lizards (*Xantusia* spp.) may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit, except for the Utah Night Lizard (*Xantusia virgilis utahensis*).

4. List of Birds.

(a) Possession of the following groups of birds is prohibited without a permit issued by the USFWS and if the bird is considered native, a permit issued by RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife:

1. Endangered species of birds.
2. Migratory birds listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, 50 CFR 10.13. (Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

NOTE: RI DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife Regulations prohibits the possession of mute swans or their eggs.

(b) The following birds or groups of birds may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

1. Blue or Button Quail (*Coturnix chinensis*)
2. *Columbidae* (pigeons and doves)
3. *Estrildidae* (Waxbills and allies)
4. *Fringillidae* (Finches and allies)
5. *Ploceidae* (Weaver Finches except the Red-billed, Black-fronted, and Sudan Diochs, which require a permit)
6. *Psittacidae* (parrots and their allies) except for *Myiopsitta monachus* Monk Parakeet, which requires a permit
7. *Ramphastidae* (Toucans, Aracaris, and Toucanets)
8. *Sturnidae* (Starlings and Mynahs, except the Rose-colored Starling (Pink Starling or Rosy Pastor) (*Sturnus roseus*), which requires a permit)

5. List of Mammals.

The following mammals may be kept without an exotic animal possession permit:

1. Four-toed (African pygmy) hedgehog (*Erinaceus albiventris*) (= *Atelerix pruneri*)
2. Chinchilla (*Chinchilla* spp.) derived from captive stock
3. Deer Mouse and White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus* and *P. leucopus*)
4. Degu (*Octodon degus*)
5. Egyptian Spiny Mouse (*Acomys cahirinus*)
6. House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)
7. Jerboas (*Dipus* spp.)
8. Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
9. Paca (*Cuniculus* spp.)
10. Striped hamster (*Cricetulus barabensis*), also known as the Chinese or Siberian dwarf hamster.
11. Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*)
12. Ferret (*Mustela putorius*)

NOTE: Possession of a ferret does not require obtaining an exotic animal possession permit. Possession of a ferret does require a ferret possession permit issued through the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

RULE 8 VIOLATIONS

Any violation pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 4-18 and/or these Rules and Regulations may be cause for imposing penalties in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned statute and/or these Rules and Regulations, as well as revocation of existing exotic animal possession permits.

1. Any exotic animal imported into or possessed within the state of Rhode Island without obtaining a permit to do so prior to import or possession will be considered to be contraband. Any such animal may be confiscated by the Department or any other law enforcement agency. Any confiscated animal may be euthanized and its entire carcass or parts thereof may be held as evidence. Any confiscated animal not euthanized may be kept by the Department with the owner of the animal being responsible for cost of care including but not limited to cost of feeding, boarding, veterinary care, transportation, and routine husbandry.
2. If an exotic animal is judged to have been illegally possessed or imported, the Department may make a reasonable effort to find suitable placement for the animal or at the discretion of the Director, the animal may be euthanized.

RULE 9 APPEAL AND HEARING PROCEDURE

Opportunity for Hearing

1. Denials -- Any person whose application for a permit, permit renewal, or other approval has been denied by the permitting agency, acting through the Division of Agriculture, may appeal to the Administrative Adjudication Division for review of the decision on which the denial is based.
2. Violations -- Any person who has been issued a notice of violation of any of the provisions of these rules, may request a hearing from the Administrative Adjudication Division, subject to the provisions of R.I.G.L. 42-17.1-2(21).
3. Hearings and Administrative Procedure -- Pursuant to the authority granted to the Department in Chapter 42-17.7-9.
 - a. Any person who seeks an adjudicatory hearing in order to contest an enforcement action which alleges violation(s) of these Rules and Regulations must file said request in writing with the clerk of Administrative Adjudication Division, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02908 within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of the contested agency enforcement action.
 - b. Any person who seeks an adjudicatory hearing relative to the denial of a permit or sub-permit arising under these Rules and

Regulations must file said request in writing with the clerk of Administrative Adjudication Division, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02908 within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the contested agency action.

RULE 10 SEVERABILITY

If any provisions of these Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

RULE 11 SUPERSEDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

On the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, all previous Rules and Regulations and any policies regarding the administration and enforcement of Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 4-18 shall be superseded. However, any enforcement action taken by, or application submitted to, the Department prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations in effect at the time the enforcement action was taken, or the application filed.

RULE 12 EFFECTIVE DATE

The foregoing “Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation and Possession of Exotic Wild Animals,” after due notice, are hereby filed with the Secretary of State this _____ day of April, 2010 to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter in accordance with the provisions of Rhode Island General Law of 1956 as amended, Chapters 4-18, 42-35, 42-17.1, 42-17.6.

W. Michael Sullivan, PhD. _____
Director of the RI Department of Environmental Management
Notice given on: 2/16/10
Hearing date: 3/4/10
Effective: _____