

**– INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS –**

**License for Noncommercial Possession of Live Wildlife** FEE: \$5 (license class 22.73)  
**License for Commercial Possession of Live Wildlife** FEE: \$100 (license class 22.76)

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**AUTHORITY:** NRS 501.097, 501.379, 501.381, 503.590, 503.597, 503.610, 504.245 & 504.295  
NAC 503.108, 503.110, 503.140, 503.560, 503.565, 503.575, & 504.450 - 504.488, inclusive.

**WILDLIFE DEFINED:** Any wild mammal, wild bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk or crustacean found naturally in a wild state, whether indigenous to Nevada or not and whether raised in captivity or not.

**PROCESSING TIME:** Allow up to thirty (30) days.

**LICENSE REQUIREMENT:** A license is required to possess any live wildlife unless specifically provided otherwise in Commission regulation. You must obtain the license before you possess the wildlife. A license is not transferable. NOTE: If the wildlife that you wish to possess must be imported into the state it may be necessary for you to first complete and submit a WILDLIFE IMPORTATION INVESTIGATION.

**LICENSE EXCEPTIONS:** A possession license is not required for species listed in NAC 503.140. These species are referred to as EXEMPT animals. In addition, under certain specific circumstances, a license is not required to possess certain upland game birds, game fish, and unprotected reptiles and amphibians as described or authorized in NAC's 504.459, 504.4595, & 504.461, respectively. Further, a person who holds an exhibitor's license issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture may import and exhibit in this state wildlife listed in the USDA license, for not more than 90 days, without obtaining any license or permit issued by the Division for the possession, transportation, importation or exportation of that wildlife.

**APPLICATION:** Applications for noncommercial and commercial licenses are available at region offices of the Division located in Fallon, Elko, and Las Vegas and at the Division headquarters in Reno.

**WHERE TO SEND THE APPLICATION & FEE:** Submit the completed application and corresponding fee to the regional office indicated on the last page of the application.

**DENIALS:** If your application is denied, the Division will notify you in writing and provide justification for the denial. License fees will be refunded.

**– LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS –**

**SALE OF WILDLIFE:** It is unlawful to sell, barter, or trade wildlife unless specifically authorized in statute or by a regulation of the Commission. Wildlife possessed under the authority of a noncommercial license shall not be sold, bartered or traded, nor maintained for public display or as a part of or adjunct to any commercial establishment.

**ACQUIRING LIVE WILDLIFE:** Wildlife may only be obtained from a licensed breeder or dealer in that wildlife; collections lawfully made in another state or country (if intended for a commercial license the state or country of origin must allow commercialization of the species); or from the Division. Live wildlife shall not be captured from this state and confined unless specifically authorized by Commission regulation.

**RECORD KEEPING:** If you are issued a license, you will be required to maintain accurate records regarding the transfer or disposal of any wildlife. The Division will provide you with the necessary forms.

**ESCAPES AND UNAUTHORIZED RELEASES:**

1. Any species of wildlife that:
  - (a) Is released from confinement without the prior written authorization of the Division; or
  - (b) Escapes from the possessor's control,may be captured, seized or destroyed by the Division if the Division determines that such actions are necessary to protect wildlife and the habitat of wildlife in this state.
2. The owner or possessor of such wildlife:

- (a) Shall report its escape immediately after receiving knowledge of the escape; and
- (b) Is liable for the costs incurred by the Division to capture, maintain and dispose of the wildlife and for any damage caused by the wildlife.

**DISEASE REPORTING:** A person who has reason to believe that any captive wildlife has been exposed to a dangerous or communicable disease shall immediately give notice to the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Agriculture of the Department of Business and Industry.

### **IMPORT, EXPORT, TRANSPORT**

**NAC 504.464.** Importing of live wildlife into state: General conditions.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and NAC 504.466, a person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license may import a shipment of live wildlife into this state if he complies with the following requirements:

- (a) His license must authorize the possession of the species to be imported;
- (b) He must first obtain an importation permit from the division unless his commercial or noncommercial license specifically authorizes the importation of the species; and
- (c) If the shipment is comprised of birds, fish or mammals, it must be accompanied by a certificate of health issued by a fish pathologist approved by the division or a veterinarian who is:
  - (1) Licensed to practice in the state in which the shipment originated; and
  - (2) Accredited by the Federal Government.

2. A person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license may import live fish into this state if:

- (a) His license authorizes the possession of the species to be imported; and
- (b) He complies with the provisions of NRS 503.597 and NAC 503.560.

**NAC 504.466** Conditions for importing of ungulates into state.

1. A person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license must not import ungulates into this state unless:

- (a) His license authorizes the possession of the species to be imported;
- (b) He first obtains:
  - (1) An importation permit from the division; and
  - (2) An importation permit from the state department of agriculture; and
- (c) He submits to the division of wildlife and the state department of agriculture a health certificate and certificate of examination of the ungulates issued by a licensed veterinarian who is accredited by the Federal Government. The certificate of examination must include:
  - (1) A statement that all animals in the shipment tested negative for tuberculosis, brucellosis and such other diseases as prescribed by the division of wildlife and the state department of agriculture; and
  - (2) The following statement signed by the veterinarian in the state, province or country where the ungulates originated:

To the best of my knowledge, animals listed in this certificate are not infected with paratuberculosis (Johnes Disease) and have not been exposed to animals infected with paratuberculosis. To the best of my knowledge, the premises of origin have not been the site of a significant outbreak of disease in the previous 24 months that was not contained and extirpated using recognized standards for the control of diseases.

2. Additional examinations of the animals may be required by the division of wildlife or the state department of agriculture if:

- (a) Written notice is given to the licensee; and
- (b) There is reason to believe that other diseases, parasites or health risks are present.

3. Imported ungulates must be isolated from other animals, for at least 30 consecutive days after entry into the state, at the quarantine facility of the importing licensee which is approved pursuant to NAC 504.480

**NAC 504.471** Restrictions on shipment, transportation and exportation of wildlife; exceptions. A person shall not ship, transport or export wildlife from the State of Nevada unless:

1. He first obtains an exportation permit from the division;
2. He possesses a valid license or permit issued by the division which specifically authorizes the export of the species listed on the license or permit;
3. He lawfully obtains the wildlife from a person authorized to possess and export live wildlife without an export permit and the shipment is accompanied by a receipt which includes:

- (a) The species of wildlife and the number of each species being shipped or transported;
  - (b) The date that the wildlife is being shipped or transported; and
  - (c) The name, address and signature of the person from whom the wildlife was obtained;
4. He ships or transports species possessed pursuant to NAC 504.459 or 504.4595; or
  5. The wildlife to be transported is an unprotected reptile or amphibian possessed pursuant to NAC 504.461.

**MINIMUM FACILITY STANDARDS FOR UNGULATES:** Any person who is granted a license to possess ungulates (cloven-hoofed animals) shall maintain on the premises where the ungulates are most often kept, an enclosure that meets or exceeds the following minimum requirements:

1. The enclosure must have a conventional perimeter fence which is at least 8 feet high for its entire length. The lower 6 feet of the fence must be constructed of:
  - (a) Woven wire or chain link which is no smaller than 12 1/2 gauge; or
  - (b) High-tensile woven wire which is no smaller than 14 1/2 gauge,of a mesh that is no larger than 6 inches by 8 inches. If the roll of fencing material is less than 6 feet in height it must be overlapped to attain 6 feet, and securely fastened at every other vertical row or woven together with cable, in such a manner as to eliminate gaps. Any supplemental wire used on the upper 2 feet of the fence to attain the height of 8 feet must be constructed of smooth, barbed or woven wire which is no smaller than 12 1/2 gauge with strands spaced not more than 6 inches apart.
2. The posts used in a perimeter fence must:
  - (a) Extend at least 8 feet above and 2 1/2 feet below the surface of the ground.
  - (b) Be spaced not more than 24 feet apart with stays or supports at intervals between the posts of not more than 8 feet, except that no stays or supports are required for properly stretched high-tensile fences.
  - (c) For corner posts, be:
    - (1) Constructed of pressure-treated wood which is not less than 5 inches in diameter; and
    - (2) Braced with wood or a suitable metal properly set in concrete.
  - (d) For line posts, be constructed of:
    - (1) Pressure-treated wood which is not less than 4 inches in diameter; or
    - (2) Metal "T" posts which weigh not less than 1 1/4 pounds per foot.
3. Any gate in a perimeter fence must be:
  - (a) Designed to close by itself; and
  - (b) Equipped with two locking devices.
4. There must be no gate in any portion of a perimeter fence shared in common with another enclosure for the same species which is maintained by another licensee.
5. Materials for an electrical fence may be used on a perimeter fence only as a supplement to the materials required by this section.
6. If a perimeter fence is on uneven terrain, any hollows must be filled with suitable materials such as rock, hard-packed soil or logs.
7. A perimeter fence must be maintained in a condition that prevents the ingress and egress of ungulates. If any ungulates pass through, under or over the perimeter fence, the licensee shall immediately repair or alter the fence to prevent the continued passage.

**QUARANTINE FACILITY FOR UNGULATES:** A person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license for ungulates shall:

1. Maintain, on the premises where the ungulates are most often kept, a quarantine facility which is approved by both the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Agriculture of the Department of Business and Industry.
2. Allow agents of either division to inspect at any time that quarantine facility and any animals contained therein.
3. If a quarantine is imposed, quarantine ungulates in that quarantine facility.
4. Immediately report to the division the death of any ungulate he possesses under the authority of that license. The division may require the licensee to submit the ungulate to:
  - (a) A laboratory approved by the division; or
  - (b) A licensed veterinarian who is accredited by the Federal Government, for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.

**MINIMUM FACILITY STANDARDS FOR BOBCATS, MOUNTAIN LION AND BLACK BEAR:** Any person who is granted a license to possess bobcats, mountain lions or black bears shall maintain, on the premises where the species is most often kept, a cage or open-top enclosure for the species that meets or exceeds the following minimum requirements:

**CAGES**

1. Any cage for bobcats, mountain lions or black bears must have:
  - (a) Sides constructed of:
    - (1) Woven wire or chain link which is no smaller than 11 gauge for bobcats and 9 gauge for mountain lions or black bears; or
    - (2) A solid material that cannot be destroyed by the species contained therein;
  - (b) A top constructed of woven wire or chain link which is no smaller than 11 gauge;
  - (c) A floor:
    - (1) Constructed of cement or concrete at least 3 inches thick into which metal fence posts are permanently secured; or
    - (2) Made of dirt with buried chain link or a similar material that will preclude the species from digging through the floor and escaping; and
  - (d) Have double doors constructed in such a manner that the exterior door must be closed before the interior door can be opened. Each door must be secured by a lock.

**OPEN-TOP ENCLOSURES**

2. Any open-top enclosure for bobcats, mountain lions or black bears must comply with the following minimum requirements:
  - (a) The enclosure must have a perimeter fence which is:
    - (1) At least 8 feet high for its entire length;
    - (2) Constructed of woven wire or chain link which is no smaller than 11 gauge for bobcats and 9 gauge for mountain lions or black bears OR a solid material that cannot be destroyed by the species contained therein; and
    - (3) Supported by posts or stays located at intervals of not more than 10 feet.
  - (b) A double overhang (Y-cantilever) of barbed or electrified wire, or smooth wire which is no smaller than 9 gauge, must be installed at the top of the perimeter fence with one cantilever tilted in at a 45-degree angle and the other tilted out at a 45-degree angle. The cantilevers must be at least 12 inches in length.
  - (c) For :
    - (1) Bobcats and mountain lions, the bottom of the perimeter fence must be secured to the ground in such a manner as to prevent the ingress and egress of the species; and
    - (2) Black bears, buried mesh wire which is no smaller than 11 gauge must extend laterally 3 feet to the inside of the enclosure for the length of the perimeter fence in such a manner as to prevent the species from digging under the fence and escaping.
  - (d) Any trees or obstacles that would allow bobcats, mountain lions or black bears to exit or enter the enclosure must be removed.
  - (e) Any gate in the perimeter fence must be:
    - (1) Designed to close by itself; and
    - (2) Equipped with two locking devices.
3. Any cage or open-top enclosure for bobcats, mountain lions or black bears must be maintained in a condition that prevents the ingress and egress of the species. If any bobcats, mountain lions, or black bears pass through, under or over the cage or open-top enclosure, the licensee shall immediately repair or alter the cage or open-top enclosure to prevent the continued passage.

**HANDLING FACILITIES:** A person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license for ungulates, bobcats, mountain lions or black bears shall maintain on the premises where the species is most often kept holding and handling (squeeze-chute, for example) facilities that enable the handling, marking and individual identification of the species he possesses under the authority of that license.

**MARKING OF UNGULATES, BOBCATS, MOUNTAIN LIONS AND BLACK BEARS:**

1. Any person who holds a commercial or noncommercial license for:
  - (a) Ungulates shall cause any ungulates he possesses under the authority of that license to be:

- (1) Marked with an official eartag approved by the United States Department of Agriculture;
- (2) Marked with an eartag supplied or approved by the Division; or
- (3) Otherwise permanently marked in a manner acceptable to the Division.

(b) Bobcats, mountain lions or black bears shall cause any of those species he possesses under the authority of that license to be:

- (1) Tattooed in the left ear with a number assigned by the Division; or
- (2) Otherwise permanently marked in a manner acceptable to the Division.

(c) Ungulates, bobcats, mountain lions or black bears shall cause any of the progeny of those species he possesses under the authority of that license to be tagged or marked:

- (1) By December 31 of its year of birth; or
- (2) Before leaving the facility,

whichever is earlier.

2. Any identification attached to or implanted in a captive ungulate, bobcat, mountain lion or black bear must not be removed or transferred to any other animal.

**PROHIBITED SPECIES:** The Division MAY issue a license or permit for the possession of a prohibited species (list attached) only to:

(a) A zoo or aquarium which is an accredited institutional member of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

(b) A person who displays, exhibits or uses the species for entertainment or commercial photography, such as motion pictures, still photography or television, if the species:

- (1) Is accompanied by evidence of lawful possession;
- (2) Is not in this state for more than 90 days; and
- (3) Is maintained under complete control and prohibited from coming into contact with members of the general public.

If the person is displaying, exhibiting or using mammals for commercial purposes other than food or fiber, he must possess the appropriate license issued by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

(c) A college, university or governmental agency, for scientific or public health research.

(d) Any other scientific institution, as determined by the Division, for research or medical necessity.

(e) Any person engaged in commercial aquaculture, upon application and proof to the Division that the activity will not be detrimental to aquatic life, other wildlife or recreational uses. The Division may require a bond as a condition of the license. The amount of the bond will be determined by the Division.

(f) A tax-exempt nonprofit organization that exhibits wildlife solely for educational or scientific purposes. A person who holds any license or permit issued by the Division that authorizes the possession of a prohibited species shall not release, sell, barter, trade or give away any of those species within this state.

**INSPECTIONS:** A licensee shall allow, at reasonable times, any person authorized to enforce wildlife regulations, free and unrestricted access for the inspection of wildlife and holding facilities.

**LICENSE RENEWAL:** A commercial or noncommercial license expires on June 30th of each year. If an application for a new license is not submitted to the Division on or before that date, live wildlife possessed pursuant to the expired license shall be deemed to be possessed unlawfully and may be seized by the Division.

If an application for a new license, with no changes in the current license, is submitted to the Division on or before June 30, the current license remains in effect while the application is being reviewed by the Division.

**LICENSE SUSPENSIONS/REVOCATIONS:** A license may be suspended or revoked by the division for a violation of any term, condition or restriction of the license OR if it is found that the possession of any wildlife under the authority of the license is detrimental to any of the wildlife or the habitat of wildlife in this state. The licensee would be advised of any appeal process.

**COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS:** A license does not authorize the taking, possession, transportation, importation, exportation or disposal of any wildlife in violation of any applicable federal or state law, any county or city ordinance, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

**SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE LICENSE REQUIREMENT.****NAC 504.459.** Upland Game Birds.

1. A person does not need to obtain a license for the possession of wildlife to possess, propagate, breed or otherwise maintain the following species of live wildlife to be held in captivity on private property:

- (a) California quail;
- (b) Gambel's quail;
- (c) Scaled quail;
- (d) Mountain quail;
- (e) Chukar;
- (f) Hungarian (gray) partridge;
- (g) Ring-necked and white-winged pheasant; or
- (h) Bobwhite quail.

2. Species of birds, and any parts and progeny thereof, which are possessed in accordance with this section must not be:

- (a) Sold, bartered or traded;
- (b) Released without the written authorization of the division;
- (c) Hunted, except under the authority of a permit to train hunting dogs or raptors;
- (d) Captured or removed from the wild;
- (e) Imported into this state without an importation permit issued by the division, unless:

(1) The bird, or part or progeny thereof, is from a hatchery, dealer or independent flock that is an approved participant of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; and

(2) The importation of the bird, or part or progeny thereof, is in compliance with the requirements established by the state department of agriculture pursuant to NAC 571.070; or

- (f) Placed on public display or maintained as a part of or adjunct to a commercial establishment.

3. A bird authorized to be possessed pursuant to this section may not be transported, alive or dead, from the private property where the bird is being held, unless the bird is accompanied by an itemized invoice which lists:

- (a) The species and the number of each bird to be transported;
- (b) The date on which the bird to be transported was acquired by the person possessing the bird pursuant to this section;
- (c) The name and address of the person transporting the bird; and

(d) The name and address of the person who owns the property from where the wildlife is being transported.

**NAC 504.4595.** Game fish.

1. A person does not need to obtain a license to possess, propagate, breed or otherwise maintain the following species of privately planted live fish, including hybrids thereof, in a pond or lake which is not connected to a state water system by means of a natural water course and which is located wholly on private property:

- (a) Rainbow trout;
- (b) Brown trout;
- (c) Cutthroat trout;
- (d) Brook trout;
- (e) Largemouth bass;
- (f) Smallmouth bass;
- (g) Bluegill sunfish;
- (h) Redear sunfish;
- (i) Channel catfish;
- (j) Black bullhead; or
- (k) Crappie.

2. Species of fish, and any parts and progeny thereof, authorized to be held pursuant to subsection 1 must not be:

- (a) Sold, bartered or traded;
- (b) Released into the waters of this state which are not located on the same private property, unless the other water is located wholly on private property and is not part of or connected to the state water system by

means of a natural water course;

- (c) Captured or removed from the wild to stock the water on the private property;
- (d) Imported into this state, except upon the written authorization of the division; or
- (e) Placed on public display or maintained as a part or as an adjunct to a commercial establishment.

3. A person who possesses fish in accordance with this section may not charge another person a fee for the privilege of fishing for or otherwise capturing those fish.

4. A species of fish authorized to be possessed pursuant to this section may not be transported, alive or dead, from the private property where the fish are being held, unless the fish are accompanied by an itemized statement which lists:

- (a) The species and number of each fish to be transported;
- (b) The date on which the fish to be transported were acquired by the person possessing the fish pursuant to this section;
- (c) The name and address of the person transporting the fish and the name and address of the person who will receive the fish, if different from the transporter;
- (d) The name and address of the person who owns or controls the property from which the fish are being transported; and
- (e) The signature of the person who owns or controls the property where the fish were being held, or of his designee.

5. The owner, or if applicable, lessee, of a private pond or lake which is stocked with fish in accordance with this section, his family and guests may take fish from that pond or lake:

- (a) At any time;
- (b) In any manner which is not deleterious or dangerous to the residents, the wildlife other than the fish to be taken, and the habitat of the wildlife in this state; and
- (c) Without regard for limits and required fishing licenses, permits or stamps.

For the purposes of this subsection, manners of taking fish which are deleterious or dangerous to the residents, the wildlife other than the fish to be taken, and the habitat of the wildlife include, but are not limited to, the use of poisons and the use of explosives.

#### **NAC 504.461.** Unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

1. A natural person may without a license or permit issued by the division capture, possess, transport and breed reptiles and amphibians which are classified by the division as unprotected if:

- (a) The capture, possession, transportation and breeding is for strictly personal and noncommercial purposes; and
- (b) The number of reptiles and amphibians possessed by the person does not exceed the possession limits *established by the commission* for each such reptile and amphibian.

2. If, while in the possession of a natural person pursuant to this section, an unprotected reptile or amphibian produces progeny and the number of the progeny exceeds the possession limits established by the commission for that reptile or amphibian, the natural person may hold the excess number of progeny in captivity for not more than 45 days after the date on which the progeny hatched or was born. On or before the expiration of the 45-day period, such progeny must be given as a gift to another natural person or a scientific or educational institution located in this state, or disposed of as directed by the division. Such progeny must not be released into the wild.

3. Except as otherwise provided in chapters 501 to 504, inclusive, of NAC, unprotected reptiles and amphibians, and any parts and progeny thereof, which are possessed in accordance with this section may not be:

- (a) Sold, bartered or traded;
- (b) Released into the wild if the reptile or amphibian has been removed from the site where it was captured; or
- (c) Maintained for public display or as a part of or adjunct to any commercial establishment.

4. This section does not authorize the possession, transportation or exportation of unprotected reptiles or amphibians in violation of any applicable federal, state, county or city law, regulation or ordinance.