

USDA-APHIS Animal Care Permit Requirements

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for the management and issuance of permits relative to the possession of captive game species in New Jersey.

Please be advised and/or reminded all captive game permittees holding mammals for the purpose of sale, exhibit, education, experimentation and/or zoological purposes, are also subject to the licensing/registration requirements by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The only exception being those animals held for food and/or fiber.

If you are the owner or person in charge of a regulated business, the law requires you to be licensed or registered with the USDA. Failure to become licensed or registered is a punishable violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Please contact the Regional USDA office for additional information and/or an application package.

USDA, APHIS – Animal Care
920 Main Campus Dr.
Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
Telephone: 919-855-7100
Fax: 919-855-7123

Be advised, all NJ permit holders are required to provide a copy of the USDA permit (if applicable) when renewing your NJ captive game permit.

Additionally, please remember that New Jersey is a **NO CONTACT STATE**. Wildlife must be exhibited in such a manner as to prevent any possibility of public contact. Examples of prohibited contact include, but are not limited to the following:

Taking pictures of the public holding regulated wildlife

Hand feeding of regulated wildlife by the public

Exhibition of any potentially dangerous wildlife outside of approved cage.

Non-compliance with any regulation could result in fines, penalties and revocation of the permit. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Captive Game Permitting Office at (908)735-7040.