



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Permits Unit
Exotic and Nongame Species
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www.njfishandwildlife.com

★ ★ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** ★ ★
NOTICE TO PET SHOPS - ANIMAL DEALERS

NO Pet Shop or Animal Dealer may possess or sell ANY species of animal that is NOT listed on their permit. Pet Shop and Animal Dealer Permits DO NOT authorize the sale, possession, or distribution of BATS.

Pet Shops **MUST** issue an EXOTIC or NONGAME WILDLIFE SALES RECEIPT – Temporary 20-Day Permit to every individual who purchases a regulated exotic or nongame animal from your business. At the time of purchase, the individual must be advised that the receipt is only a temporary permit and that a permanent permit is required and can be obtained from the Wildlife Permits Unit. Pet Shops must submit the white copies of their State of New Jersey Exotic or Nongame Wildlife Sales Receipts annually with their annual renewal application - report. These receipts must be completely filled out, legible with the buyer's full name, complete mailing address including city, state and zip code or the Pet Shop is subject to penalties or fines. Incomplete, illegible, undated or non-issued temporary permits are a violation of New Jersey regulations and are subject to fines and penalties.

DO NOT ISSUE NEW JERSEY TEMPORARY 20-DAY NONGAME WILDLIFE SALES RECEIPTS FOR: *Hermit Crabs, Scorpions, Hissing Cockroaches, Tarantulas, Millipedes, Common Green Iguanas and all other Exempt Wildlife Species. (Check regulations for complete exempt species list).*

TO REQUEST TEMPORARY 20-DAY PERMIT BOOKLETS - Call (609) 292-9591 or email: exoticpermits@dep.nj.gov

★★★ Any violation of possession or sales of the following could result in fines, penalties and/or revocation of your permit:

BE AWARE THAT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING, EXOTIC BIRDS **MAY NOT BE SOLD OR POSSESSED IN NEW JERSEY.** *ALL* ARE LISTED AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SPECIES DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING AN AGRICULTURAL PEST, OR MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE POPULATIONS: **Monk Parrot (Quaker), Patagonian Conure, Seychelles Parrot, Rose-Ringed Parrot, Ring-necked Parrot, Moustached Parrot, Mauritius Parrot, Newton's Parrot, Plum - Headed Parrot, Alexandrine Parrot, Slaty-Headed Parrot, Blossom - Headed Parrot, Intermediate Parrot, Malabar Parrot, Derbyan Parrot, Emerald - Collared Parrot, Blyth's Parrot, Long - Tailed Parrot and all others in the Psittacula genus.**

The **BENGAL MONITOR** (*Varanus bengalensis*) is listed as an ENDANGERED SPECIES under the FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, Department of the Interior and **CANNOT BE SOLD, POSSESSED, DISTRIBUTED, ETC.**

THE FOLLOWING IS A ***PARTIAL LIST*** OF VENOMOUS, REAR-FANGED SPECIES WHICH MAY **NOT** BE POSSESSED UNDER A PERMIT SPECIFYING “NONVENOMOUS REPTILES”: **Mangrove Snake, Parrot Snake, Asiatic Dogtooth Cat Snake, Boomslang, Indian Cat Snake, African Krait Snake**

★★★VENOMOID SNAKES are considered to be a potentially dangerous species [N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.8(a)], and are not allowed to be possessed or sold in New Jersey. **★★★**

★★★GREEN & YELLOW ANACONDAS have been determined to be a potentially dangerous species [N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.8(a)], and are no longer allowed to be possessed or sold in New Jersey. **★★★**

★★★All species of GROUND SQUIRRELS are considered potentially dangerous species [N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.8(a)] and may not be sold or possessed in New Jersey. **★★★**

New Jersey Department of Health mandates: Turtles and Tortoises CAN NOT be sold in New Jersey.

Corn Snakes are an **Endangered Species** in the state of New Jersey. Possession or sale of any other color morphs, other than those listed could result in fines, penalties and/or possible revocation of your permit **The only color morphs that are legal to possess and/or sell are the following:** **Red Albino (Amelanistic), Butter, Snow, Pearl, Lavender, Blizzard, Creamsicle, Sun Glow, Candy Cane.** All temporary 20-Day Permit receipts must list the above individual color morphs and/or specify on the receipt – **ALBINO CORNSNAKE.**

It is also illegal to sell or possess in New Jersey any species on the New Jersey Endangered Species List. Due to difficulties in determining morphological differences among several species and the fact that these difficulties have already produced problems, including but not limited to the following species **CANNOT BE SOLD OR POSSESSED** in New Jersey: **Gray Tree Frogs (all species), Dino Dogs, Larval Salamanders, Mud Puppies, Water Dogs and Axolotls.**

BE AWARE THAT THE FOLLOWING RODENTS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK BY THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL [CDC] AND MAY NO LONGER BE SOLD OR POSSESSED IN NEW JERSEY. ALL ARE LISTED AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SPECIES DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPREADING INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Dormice Zebra Mice Spiny Mice Pygmy Mice Gambian giant-pouched rats

It is your responsibility to contact the USDA to obtain the correct permit for the sales of "Pocket Pets" including but not limited to: Hedgehogs, degus, sugar gliders and jerboas. For more information contact their office at (919) 855-7100. If you sell any "Pocket Pets" without the correct USDA permit you are in violation of Federal and New Jersey regulations.

It is your responsibility as a commercial permittee to ascertain that the Sources of Acquisition for regulated wildlife is legal. For the sale and distribution of regulated New Jersey Exotic and Nongame wildlife species, a permit is required. Request a copy of the New Jersey Exotic and Nongame permit from your Sources of Acquisition or contact our office for more information.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SELL REGULATED WILDLIFE SPECIES UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL HOBBY (PET) EXOTIC AND NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES POSSESSION PERMIT. If the intent of breeding regulated wildlife species is to sell, Individual Hobby permittees must upgrade to a commercial permit.

If you do obtain regulated species from an “illegal” Source of Acquisition, you are in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.7 (a3). This regulation is as follows: “Prior to the issuance of any permit permitted by these regulations, every applicant shall, in forms provided by the Department, demonstrate that the method of acquisition did not violate the laws and regulations of this state, any other state or the Federal Government.” If you do obtain regulated wildlife from an “illegal” Source of Acquisition, you may be subject to penalties, fines, and possible revocation of your permit.

If you are not certain if your Source of Acquisition has the correct current New Jersey permit to sell regulated wildlife, request a current photocopy of their commercial permit for your records. If you have additional questions, please contact our office for more information.

For regulations regarding **BOARDING** and/or **CONSIGNMENT SALES** of Regulated Exotic and Nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, contact the Wildlife Permits Unit.

The Wildlife Permits Unit must be informed a minimum of two weeks prior to any New Jersey OFF-SITE regulated wildlife sales activities including Trade Shows, Wildlife Expos, Auctions, etc. **INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE DATES, TIMES, and LOCATIONS of EVENTS.** Failure of notification could result in fines.

Possession of any wildlife on New Jersey's ENDANGERED and/or

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SPECIES lists is STRICTLY PROHIBITED

IMPORTANT NOTE: If any amendment is requested (other than any New Jersey Staff clerical error) after an Exotic & Nongame permit is issued for the current year, a \$5.00 amendment processing fee will be required per amendment.

If your business is sold/transferred during the year, you must supply this office with an Annual Report including all information regarding the disposition of all regulated wildlife. New business or pet shop owners and/or any new locations of business must obtain their own commercial permit. According to N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.11(a): "Any person who transfers possession, as distinguished from ownership, or location of any animal for which a permit has been issued, shall, **within 48 hours**, report to the Division of Fish and Wildlife exactly which animals are transferred and the name and address of the person to whom the animals were transferred."

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In our experience, it has become clear that many commercial permittees do not know or understand our policy regarding the display of regulated exotic and nongame wildlife, particularly exotic birds, in your place of business. Rather than waiting for an inspector to inform or re-inform each place of business, the required information is supplied below. Read it carefully, as you will be required to comply.

All regulated exotic and nongame wildlife species must be housed or caged in a manner that prevents any possibility of liberation, accidental injury to the animal and/or to the public, and any possibility of public contact.

- All regulated exotic and nongame wildlife species exhibited outside of cages must be behind a barrier or other obstruction to prevent public access.
- Out of cage birds should be wing-clipped, prevented from any possibility of escape and caged at night.
- If a potential customer wants to handle a regulated animal for sales purposes, it must be done **ONLY** under the direct supervision of an employee and out of direct contact with other customers.
- All regulated animal cages must be covered or otherwise inaccessible to the public.

All Regulated Exotic and Nongame Birds EXCEPT the following Require Bands and/or Micro-chips:

Budgerigar	Rock Dove	Emu
Canary	Peafowl	Greater Rhea
Cockatiel	House Sparrow	Lesser Rhea
Zebra Finch	European Starling	
Society Finch	Ostrich	

Pet Shop **MUST** be sure to write the bird band and/or microchip numbers on the Temporary 20-Day Permits or you will be subject to penalties, fines and/or revocation of your permit.

Regulation **N.J.A.C.4.6(k)** is as follows: “Pet shops or other establishments dealing in birds other than exempt species shall promptly display a sign visible to the public on the premises where such birds are offered for sale, which states: After December 10, 1991, only captive-bred birds or birds legally in possession pursuant to New Jersey regulations prior to December 10, 1991 may be offered for sale or purchase New Jersey. All birds offered for sale except those exempted by New Jersey regulations, must also be marked with a band or micro-chip approved by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. To report violations, or questions, call (609) 223-5450.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON REGULATED BIRDS:

Copies of receipts/invoices for all regulated birds purchased, transferred, or on consignment to you must be submitted as documentation with your Renewal Application – Annual Report. This documentation must list each regulated bird obtained; list band or micro-chip number and clearly state that the bird was CAPTIVE BRED – DOMESTIC BRED. If it is a pre-act wild origin bird, proof that the bird/birds were legally in captivity prior to December 10, 1991, must be submitted as documentation.

If your receipts/invoices **DO NOT STATE THAT THE REGULATED BIRDS PURCHASED or ACQUIRED by you were CAPTIVE – DOMESTIC BRED**, you must contact your Source of Acquisition for a statement on their letterhead or equivalent – WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THE REGULATED BIRDS ARE CAPTIVE BRED/DOMESTIC BRED OR WERE IN CAPTIVITY LEGALLY PRIOR TO DECEMBER 10, 1991. If your Renewal Application – Annual report is received by the Wildlife Permits Unit without this required documentation, your Renewal Application – Annual Report will not be processed, your permit will not be issued, and you may be subject to fines, penalties or denial of your permit privileges.

The Regulations implementing the Wild Bird Act of 1991 became effective December 10, 1991. With reference to the marking of regulated birds with bands or micro-chips, please note the following:

1. All bird band numbers and/or micro-chip numbers must be listed on the Exotic or Nongame Wildlife Sales Temporary 20 Day Temporary Permit Receipt.
2. Birds captive-bred in New Jersey must be seamless (closed) banded or micro-chipped.
3. Regulated birds possessed under a New Jersey permit prior to December 10, 1991, can remain unbanded or unmicro-chipped until the birds are sold or transferred to another person in New Jersey. Therefore, **ALL REGULATED BIRDS SOLD OR TRANSFERRED MUST BE BANDED OR MICRO-CHIPPED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF TAKING POSSESSION IN NEW JERSEY.**
4. Regulated birds brought in from outside of New Jersey which are not closed-banded must be butt-end (open) banded or micro-chipped within 48 hours of taking possession in New Jersey. They must be banded or micro-chipped prior to being sold or transferred. If such birds are not Captive-Bred/Domestic Bred, written documentation must be obtained stating that they were legally in captivity prior to December 10, 1991.
5. All aviculturally recognized color mutations (albino, lutino, pied, etc.) are exempt from banding and/or micro-chipping, but must still have documentation and still require an Exotic and Nongame possession permit.
6. All sales, purchases, and transfers must be accompanied by written documentation from the seller or transferor indicating in writing that the bird was Captive-Bred/Domestic Bred or was in captivity prior to December 10, 1991. Proof of prior possession can include a New Jersey permit, original receipt, veterinary records, dated photographs, affidavits from persons with relevant knowledge, etc.
7. If there is a problem with banding (i.e.: veterinary failure to close-band a nestling for a variety of reasons, etc.), please contact the Wildlife Permits Unit for alternate solutions or special exemptions.
8. Failure to properly band and/or microchip regulated birds may result in penalties and possible forfeiture of birds. Further information is included in the Division’s regulation information, available on the Division’s website.

Remember, that it is your obligation to conduct your business operations according to the requirements of the Wildlife Permits Unit – Exotic and Nongame Wildlife Permits Regulations and Policies. Failure to do so may result in penalties, including permit revocation.

Please call the Wildlife Permits Unit at (609) 223-6055, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST if you have any questions regarding these requirements.

[PS-AD Information Letter Updated 11/2021]