

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
**APPLICATION TO IMPORT AND POSSESS CERTAIN NON-NATIVE (EXOTIC) WILDLIFE
IN VIRGINIA**

(Under Authority of § 29.1-542 of the Code of Virginia, 4 VAC 15-30)

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$10.00

Permit (circle one): **NEW** **RENEWAL** **Previous VDGIF Permit No.** _____

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

County _____ Telephone Number (_____) _____

Business Name _____ FIN# _____

Business Address _____

County _____ Telephone Number(_____) _____

Location of facility where animal(s) will be kept: _____

_____ County: _____

List species to be imported and possessed (common & scientific names, and number): _____

Purpose of importation: _____

Person or facility from which animal(s) will be acquired:

Name: _____ Telephone number: _____

Address: _____

Have you ever been convicted of violating any federal or state wildlife laws or wildlife-related regulations? Yes ___ No ___ If "yes", year and nature of offense:

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

By my signature above, I hereby certify that all entries made on this application are true and complete, and I agree and understand that any falsification of information herein, regardless of time of discovery, may result in denial or revocation of my permit.

(Please briefly describe on the back how the animal will be housed, secured from the public and escapement, and maintained.)

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF CERTAIN EXOTIC SPECIES

EXOTIC SPECIES PERMIT INFORMATION: Under authority of Sections 29.1-103 and 29.1-521 of the Code of Virginia it shall be unlawful to take, possess, import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, buy, sell, offer for sale or liberate within the Commonwealth any wild animal unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation. Unless otherwise stated, for the purposes of identifying species regulated by the Board, when both the scientific and common names are listed, the scientific reference to genus and species will take precedence over common names.

Under the authority of Section 29.1-542 of the Code of Virginia, live wolves or coyotes, or birds and animals otherwise classed as predatory or undesirable, may not be imported into the Commonwealth or liberated therein, or possessed therein, except under a special permit of the Board. **Before such permit is issued**, the importer shall make application to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Department), giving the place of origin, the name and address of the exporter and a certificate from a licensed and accredited practicing veterinarian, or certified fish pathologist, certifying that the animal to be imported is not manifesting any signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable disease. **(IF ANIMALS ARE ACQUIRED FROM AN IN-STATE SOURCE, A HEALTH CERTIFICATE IS NOT NECESSARY.)**

Regulation 4 VAC 15-30-40 states that a special permit is required and may be issued by the Department, if consistent with the department's fish and wildlife management program, to import, possess, or sell those non-native (exotic) animals that the board finds and declares to be predatory or undesirable within the meaning and intent of Section 29.1-542 of the Code of Virginia, in that their introduction into the Commonwealth will be detrimental to the native fish and wildlife resources of Virginia.

It shall be unlawful for any person, or persons, to display, exhibit, handle or use any poisonous or dangerous snake or reptile in such a manner as to endanger the life or health of any person under authority of Section 18.2-313 of the Code of Virginia.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any exotic reptile or type of reptile not native to the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to the American alligator, to keep the reptile in any manner that will permit its escape or to knowingly permit the reptile to run at large under authority of Section 29.1-569 of the Code of Virginia.

The public should not be allowed to come into direct contact with any animals possessed under this permit, or within close proximity of any animal possessed under this permit where a person's health and safety could be potentially compromised.

APPLICATION: Application for a permit and a \$10.00 non-refundable application fee shall be submitted to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Permits Section, P. O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104 (All checks made payable to the "Treasurer of Virginia").

TERM OF PERMIT: Permits issued under the provisions of this section shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning January 1 and expiring December 31.

RENEWAL: It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to initiate any and all renewals.

COMPLIANCE/VIOLATION/REVOCATION:

A. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions

of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possession, sale, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified. Further, any violation of state or federal wildlife laws related to the permitted activities by the permittee, his/her agents or employees, or guests will constitute a violation of the conditions of the permit.

B. As provided by 4 VAC 15-30-5, failure to comply with the provisions of a permit may result in the revocation or suspension of the permit for a period up to but not to exceed five (5) years. Any person whose permit is revoked, or suspended may appeal that decision in writing, to the Director, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230.

RELEASE TO THE WILD: Under no circumstances shall any non-native (exotic) species be released into the wild.

FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS: This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened and endangered species.