

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
APPLICATION TO EXHIBIT WILD ANIMALS IN VIRGINIA

(Under Authority of § 29.1-412, § 29.1-417 of the Code of Virginia, 4 VAC 15-290-60, 4 VAC 15-30-40)

PERMIT: (Circle one) **NEW** **RENEWAL** PREVIOUS VDGIF PERMIT No. _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

_____ County _____ Telephone #() _____

Business Name: _____ FIN# _____

Address: _____

_____ County _____ Telephone #() _____

TYPE OF OPERATION OR SPONSORSHIP AND NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE (check one):

- Accredited Educational Institution (\$20) Political Subdivision (\$20) Agency of the State (\$20)
 Public Authority (\$20) Rehabilitator (\$20) Business/Corporation (\$50) Falconer (\$20)

Name and location of facility (if different from above) where animal(s) will be held or exhibited:
(Temporary Exhibitors MUST list all dates and locations of exhibits to be held in Virginia: additional pages may be added as needed.)

_____ County _____
_____ County _____

- Applicants must attach a list of species (**include scientific and common names and number of each**) that the applicant wishes to be permitted to exhibit to this application. Only animals defined as domestic in Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia do not need to be listed, all others must be listed. If an exhibitor wishes to add any additional species to their permit during the year, they must notify VDGIF's Permitting Section at (804) 367-9588, and we will consider each animal individually for approval. The Department must also be notified of changes in number of exhibited individuals of a given species. (No additional fee will be charged for any updates.)
- The Applicant must be licensed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Federal Animal Welfare Act, if exhibiting warm-blooded mammals. A copy of the license must be included with the application.
- To exhibit migratory birds, attach copy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit and for threatened or endangered species, attach copies of Federal permit(s).
- Applicants must submit information proving their exhibit to be educational and purposeful in nature, and they must indicate what interpretive information and educational brochures are available. **Programs must involve the public.** If an exhibit is temporary in nature, the applicant must describe how the animals are to be displayed or caged.
- 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.

Make check for non-refundable application fee payable to: **Treasurer of Virginia** and return to:
Permits Section, VDGIF, P. O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104

THIS PERMIT EXPIRES OCTOBER 31st

ATTACHMENT A

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF EXHIBITOR PERMIT

Changes since 2003 in italics

1. **This permit will be required of any wild animal exhibit (permanent or temporary) serving an educational purpose rather than serving merely as an attraction or amusement**, and must be operated or sponsored by one of the following:
 - a. An accredited educational institution.
 - b. A business or corporation providing educational exhibits as part of its operation, and charges a fee for their services.
 - c. An agency of the State.
 - d. A political subdivision of the State.
 - e. A public authority duly created by law, or by a political subdivision of the State.
 - f. Rehabilitators
 - g. Falconers

Exhibits conducted under the auspices of this permit must be educational and purposeful in nature.

2. Permanent exhibit areas must contain interpretive information designed to inform visitors about the animals on display.
3. Permanent exhibits must be open to the public. **A private menagerie is not considered an educational exhibit.**
4. Animals must be confined under sanitary and humane conditions with no animal continuously restrained by a chain, rope, or other similar device.
5. **All** exhibits and facilities must be open to inspection by Department representatives, at all times.
6. Permits to hold, in captivity, species subject to the Endangered Species Act (Code of Virginia, §29.1-564) will be considered only if the applicant is able to show, affirmatively, that the application, and the transportation and possession, of such animals has not been in violation of federal laws, or of laws of this, or any other state.
7. Individuals wanting to display rehabilitated non-releasable wildlife for educational purposes must include a description of the nature of the injury/illness that makes each animal non-releasable. Animals with visible deformities will not be exhibited.
8. 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, buy, sell, offer for sale or liberate within the Commonwealth any wild animal unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation. Permittees shall not import any member of the Cervidae family into Virginia. Permittees shall not receive, transfer, move or relocate any member of the Cervidae family within Virginia, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. *Any facility possessing cervids under this permit is prohibited from accepting cervids for rehabilitation or for any other purpose unless otherwise provided for by an exception from the Director.*
9. Under authority of Section 29.1-545 of the Code of Virginia, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm,

association or corporation to possess, sell, offer for sale, or liberate in the Commonwealth any live fur-bearing animal commonly referred to as nutria.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. All exhibitors operating temporary exhibits must submit information on how their animals are displayed or caged at an event. All animals must be exhibited in a manner determined by the Department to prevent the opportunity for animal or public injuries.
13. Individuals operating a temporary exhibit must additionally include an outline of the educational program (include a brochure, if applicable).
14. Temporary exhibitors that have not notified the Department of all permit year exhibition dates and locations on the application, must notify the Permit Section of the Department of any additional events at least seven days prior to the event.
15. During the year, if an exhibitor wishes to add any additional animals to the list of species shown on their permit, they must notify the Department's Permitting Section at (804) 367-9588, and we will consider each animal individually for approval. (No additional fee will be charged.)
16. An annual report containing the disposition of the animals, the number of exhibits or programs held during the year, and the approximate number of people reached will be submitted to the Department by November 1st each year. Failure to submit the Annual Report will preclude the Department from renewing the permit.
17. 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/endangered species.
18. The permittee(s) shall maintain adequate liability insurance to cover all damages, losses, or claims arising from the possession, exhibition, or escapement in the Commonwealth of Virginia of the species authorized by this permit. The permittee(s) hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for all damages, losses, or claims arising out of the possession, exhibition, or escapement in the Commonwealth of Virginia of the species authorized by this permit. The permittee(s) shall cooperate with the Commonwealth and the Department in defense of any claim hereunder, and permittee(s) shall pay all consequential and incidental expenses of the Commonwealth and the Department, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees.
19. Should the permitted species escape, the permittee(s) must immediately notify the Department and is responsible for all expenses incurred for their recovery. Members of the Cervidae family which escape from

confinement may be destroyed by the VDGIF without indemnity, after the VDGIF contacts the owner. In any case, escaped free-ranging Cervids will be destroyed after a period of 30-days following escape.

20. In the event of the escape of any permitted species this permit may be revoked without further action by the Department. Such revocation on this basis shall not relieve the permittee(s) of any other responsibility and/or liability required herein.
21. The permittee shall notify the Department of all deaths to members of the Cervidae family (except deer less than 6 months of age) within 48 hours. Carcasses (except those deer less than 6 months of age) must be transported by the permittee to a Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services veterinary diagnostic laboratory, *or the head and neck of the carcass must be given to designated Department personnel*, within 48 hours for disease testing.
22. *The permittee shall immediately notify the Department if any member of the Cervidae family demonstrates some combination of clinical neurological signs consistent with Chronic Wasting Disease (e.g., abnormal behavior, increased salivation, tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, difficulty swallowing, excessive thirst, excessive urination). The permittee is encouraged to euthanize and submit such an animal for disease testing. The Department's wildlife veterinarian will consult with the permittee's veterinarian regarding appropriate actions to be taken.*
23. *The permittee must immediately notify the Department if wild deer enter any enclosures holding cervids. If the wild deer cannot be freed within 24 hours, the Department will assist in its removal.*
24. All Cervids will be individually identified with ear tags provided by the VDGIF. Exhibitors will be required to comply with Cervid marking requirements within 90 days of receipt of ear tags. *Cervid young must be identified as prescribed above within 7 days following birth.* Permittees requiring ear tags for deer born on site must request additional tags from the Department.
25. Records on the inventory of all Cervid stock must be maintained on forms provided by the Department and such records shall be retained for at least two years. Records will be open to inspection by authorized department personnel at any reasonable time.
26. A separate Virginia Endangered and Threatened Species Permit is not required if you have a valid permit to exhibit the species in Virginia.
27. A Permit To Exhibit Wild Animals In Virginia is not required for an authorized falconer or raptor propagator to exhibit a bird held under his/her valid falconry or raptor propagation permit(s) for noncommercial, conservation education purposes, except eagles.
28. Regulation 4 VAC 15-30-7 states that provided that the issuance of a permit renewal has been delayed past the expiration date of the permittee's previous permit at no fault of the applicant, the permittee may continue the specific activities authorized by the expired permit until the Department has acted on such person's application for renewal. To qualify for this allowance, applicants must submit a completed renewal application to the Department at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the permit. The Department may deny renewal of a permit to any applicant who fails to meet the issuance criteria set forth by the Department. Renewal applications will be mailed approximately two months in advance of the permit's expiration date.

Compliance/Violation/Revocation

September 24, 2009

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.

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.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXHIBITOR PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR DANGEROUS REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Caging requirements and safety measures:

1. A safety barrier (perimeter fence, secondary fence) shall be present to adequately prevent wildlife from touching, grasping, or biting visitors. These barriers shall be present to prevent the public from approaching the cages, pens, enclosures or areas near enough to contact the cage that the wildlife is in. Under no circumstances should the public ever be allowed to come inside this safety barrier. A minimum of 4' feet from the cage holding the animal to the safety barrier shall be maintained at all times.
2. All cages and enclosures shall be secured at all times in such a manner as to prevent animals from escaping or the public from entering. The public may at no time come into contact with the animals.
3. Animals on display shall be contained within an escape-proof area or enclosure at all times when not under the immediate control or direct supervision of the handler.
4. All cage entrances must remain locked at all times when unattended with chains and locks of sufficient strength to prevent entrance to the facility by unauthorized individuals and to prevent the animal from breaking open the door if highly excited.