

# Why Exotic Animal Law?

- ▶ The illegal global trade in exotic animals is estimated to be worth more than 10 billion dollars a year, according to the CWAPC. Many animals are taken from their natural environments to supply the pet trade. It is estimated that 90 percent of wild animals kept as pets are dead within the first two years of captivity.
- ▶ While U.S. federal quarantine regulations forbid importing non-human primates as pets, there are no federal laws in the U.S. banning primate ownership or exotic animal ownership in general. 18 states ban private possession of exotic animals, 13 states have a partial ban and 13 require a license or permit.
- ▶ The Center for Disease Control reported in 2007 in its Emergency Infectious Disease Journal that worldwide, an estimated 40,000 primates, four million birds, 640,000 reptiles, and 350 million tropical fish are traded live each year.

# If you want a pet try a dog or cat





# First rule of moonshining: Don't tell them where to find your still.

**LEADING BRANDS**  
**Kentucky & Tennessee Whiskies**

<b>BELLE MONROE</b> 3 to 5 yrs old		<b>OLD ED TAYLOR</b> 6 years old
<b>BELLE NELSON</b> 3 to 5 yrs old		<b>OLD LOG CABIN</b> 3 to 5 yrs old
<b>ROBERTSON COUNTY</b> 3 to 5 yrs old		<b>O. F. C.</b> 12 years old in bottle
<b>LINCOLN CO.</b> 2 to 6 yrs old		<b>J. W. McCULLOCH</b>
<b>GUCKENHEIMER RYE</b> 3 to 5 yrs old		<b>GREEN RIVER</b> 3 to 5 yrs old

**THE ABOVE FINE WHISKIES**  
Are For Sale by  
**G. W. RILEY,**  
West Side Court Square,  
**Benton, Kentucky.**

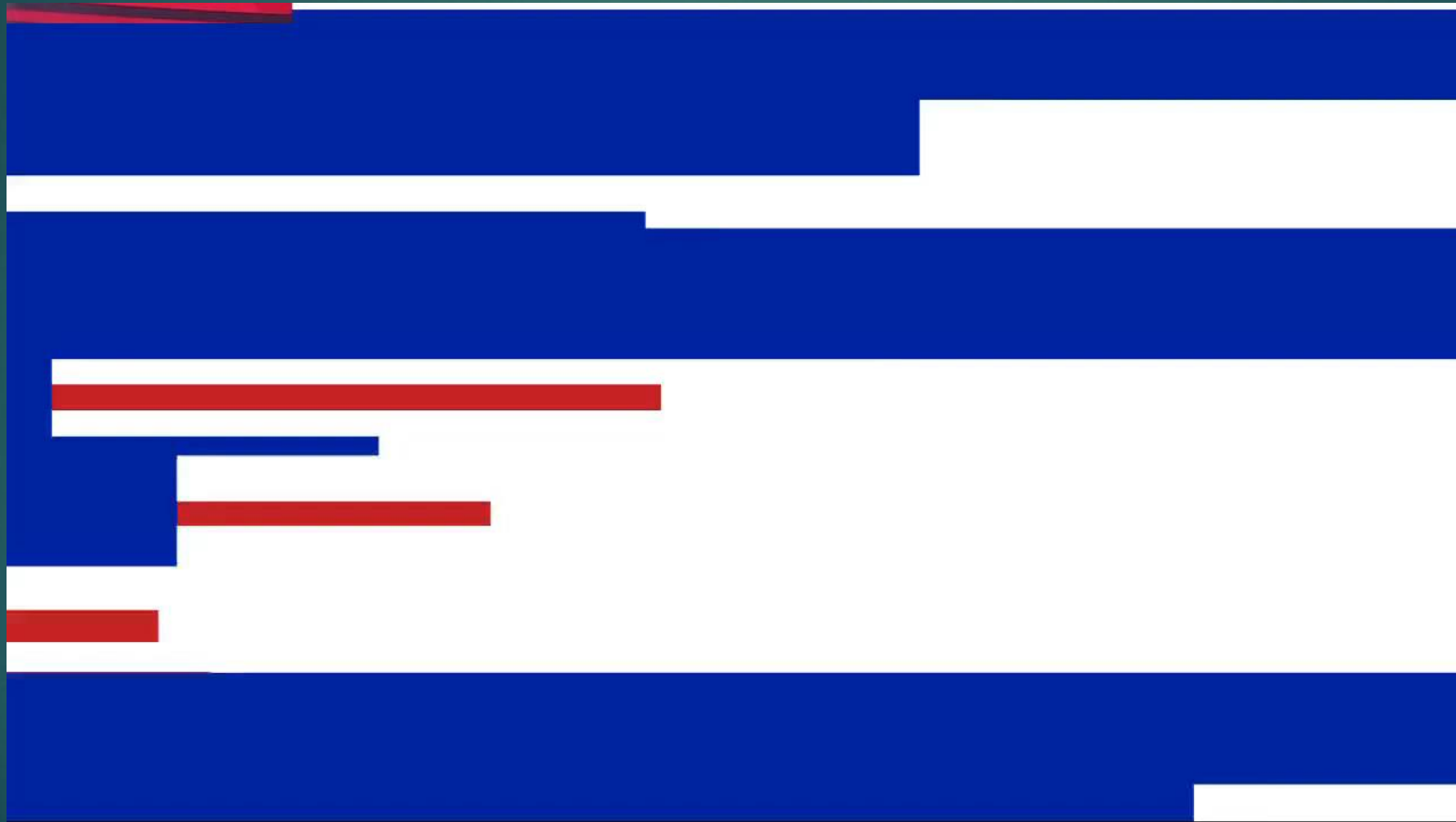


# Animal Law

- ▶ Who owns wildlife?
- ▶ Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Wildlife and Exotic Animals.
- ▶ Dept. of Agriculture
- ▶ What is an exotic animal?
- ▶ Non-indigenous and invasive species.
- ▶ Louisiana Law.
- ▶ Cases.
- ▶ Responsible Ownership.



# Why Exotic Animal Law? Today's Headlines



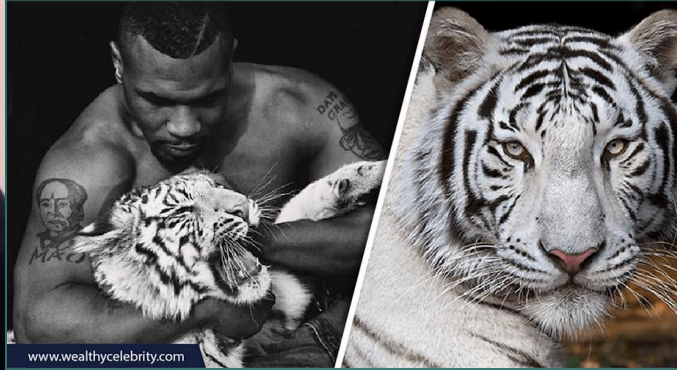
# Hyenas in Louisiana



- ▶ An unfortunate incident happened over the weekend at Barn Hill Preserve in Ethel, Louisiana when a hyena bit a boy who stuck his hand into the animal's enclosure.
- ▶ Amber and Joshua Laviolette were also visiting the small-scale nature preserve with their toddler when they witnessed the bite happen. They followed a group of other families down an unmarked path to the hyena exhibit. The couple watched as a boy reached his hand through a chain link fence into the habitat and pet the animal. They said the hyena (named Mowgli) then latched its mouth onto the kid's arm.
- ▶ "I just basically went behind him and tried to grab his arm to try to pull it back forward, and the hyena had him pretty good," Joshua said. Amber said she heard bones in the boy's arm cracking during the struggle. She called for help while another person nearby who saw the incident happen started screaming, and the animal eventually let go and ran away.
- ▶ Barn Hill: "Striped hyenas are a "strict no-contact species for staff and guests" because of their dangerous nature, having a bite force strong enough to break bones, according to the animal preserve.
- ▶ "This guest was incredibly fortunate that the hyena they approached was our hand-raised male who tends to be less aggressive," Barn Hill Preserve said. "The guest sustained minor bruising and scraping to their forearm."



# Celebrities and Exotics



# Two State Agencies

- ▶ Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries: Regulation of reptiles, game animals and non-game quadrupeds, large exotic cats and primates.
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Agriculture: Exotic Animal Farming (deer, and ratites).
- ▶ Don't forget your ordinances here's a link:  
<https://lasc.libguides.com/c.php?g=436994&p=2981871>

# Department of Agriculture

- ▶ Issues permits for the farming of exotic deer and ratites.



# Statutory Provisions

- ▶ "Livestock" means any animal except dogs and cats, bred, kept, maintained, raised, or used for profit, that is used in agriculture, aquaculture, agritourism, competition, recreation, or silviculture, or for other related purposes or used in the production of crops, animals, or plant or animal products for market. This definition includes but is not limited to cattle, buffalo, bison, oxen, and other bovine; horses, mules, donkeys, and other equine; goats; sheep; swine; chickens, turkeys, and other poultry; domestic rabbits; **imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white-tailed deer, farm-raised ratites**, and other farm-raised exotic animals; fish, turtles, and other animals identified with aquaculture which are located in artificial reservoirs or enclosures that are both on privately owned property and constructed so as to prevent, at all times, the ingress and egress of fish life from public waters; any commercial crawfish from any crawfish pond; and any hybrid, mixture, or mutation of any such animal.
- ▶ R.S. 3:3101 – 3108. Exotic animal farming.
- ▶ R.S. 3:3103(A), "Any person who engages in owning, raising, selling, or harvesting imported exotic deer, antelope, elk, farm-raised white tail deer, and other exotic cervidae, for any purpose, on farms or preserves of which he is the owner or lessee shall apply to the commissioner for a license to do so."
- ▶ R.S. 56:632 – 632.9 Reptiles (To be covered later today.)

# Sika, Axis, and Fallow Deer





# Ratites





# A Swell Ratite Case

- ▶ George v Pigno 696 So.2d 186 (97-127 La.App. 3 Cir. 6/4/97)
- ▶ 1997 Third Circuit Court of Appeal Case.
- ▶ This classic "whodunit" begins with Judy George's purchase of two breeding emus in March of 1993. George, a school bus driver on disability retirement, purchased the emus as an investment using \$8,500.00 of her savings. At the time of her purchase, there was a ready market for the offspring of emus. George had a cage built beside her home to house her emus and testified that the pair were exhibiting breeding behavior, though they had not actually bred at the time of their demise.
- ▶ On the morning of September 30, 1993, George went out to the pen to see her emus. To her horror the birds were laying on the ground. Inside the locked pen was a dog with a bloody snout. Upon recovering from her shock, George called the Sheriff's Department and Animal Control. The deputies and employees of Animal Control opened the locked gate and retrieved the alleged killer dog.

- ▶ An investigation by George and the deputies quickly resolved the "locked room" mystery. There was clear evidence of fresh digging outside of the pen and a hole large enough for the suspect dog to enter the pen.
- ▶ Examination of the birds revealed damage to the necks of both birds resembling teeth marks. Animal Control took the suspect dog away. He was later claimed by the Pignos.
- ▶ In the meantime, George, seeking to recoup some of her lost investment, attempted to salvage the meat from her slain emus. Unfortunately, the excited state of the emus at the time of their demise rendered the meat too full of blood to be marketable.
- ▶ While to the casual eye the solution to this "whodunit" might appear obvious, the parties hired men experienced in the raising of emus to ferret out the truth. George engaged the services of Harris Desormeaux, the owner and operator of the largest emu farm in Louisiana, and qualified him as an expert at trial. Desormeaux, relying on his experience raising approximately five thousand emus in pens, concluded that the dog panicked the emus from outside the pen causing them to damage themselves and die. Thereupon, he concluded the dog dug his way into the pen and feasted on his kill. He indicated that he had seen this same scenario played out in the past.
- ▶ The Pignos engaged the services of Ronald Pesson, a plumbing contractor who raised exotic animals and felt that emus "was ugly enough to raise." Pesson was not offered as an expert by the Pignos, but the trial judge indicated that he felt Pesson was an expert. Relying on his nineteen years experience raising emus in a pasture, Pesson [97-127 La.App. 3 Cir. 3] concluded that the emus had fought between themselves and, in the course of combat, mortally wounded each other.

- ▶ No doubt constrained by its reading of > Landry v. State Department of Transportation, 497 So.2d 743 (La.App. 3 Cir.1986), writ denied > 501 So.2d 234 (La.1987), the trial court found that George had failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Pignos' dog caused the death of her emus. We must respectfully disagree.
- ▶ Landry provides that "[W]here proof is to be made using only circumstantial evidence, that evidence taken as a whole, must exclude other reasonable hypotheses with a fair amount of certainty, though it need not negate all possible hypotheses." Id. at 745, citing > Lacey v. Louisiana Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Ltd., 452 So.2d 162, 163 (La.1984). The trial court apparently read this very narrowly and in fact required George to exclude all possible hypotheses. The record clearly indicates that the hypothesis of Desormeaux regarding panicked birds was substantiated by actual experience and its possibility was acknowledged by Pesson.
- ▶ On the other hand Pesson's hypothesis of mutual mortal combat, given in the most equivocal of testimony, was expressly disavowed by Desormeaux, and Pesson acknowledged that he had never had the actual experience either. Under these circumstances, we do not find Pesson's hypothesis to be reasonable. Therefore, we find the hypothesis put forth by Desormeaux excludes all other reasonable hypotheses though it does not negate all possible hypotheses. Accordingly, the trial court's ruling to the contrary is manifestly erroneous.



- ▶ It is well settled that it is the plaintiff's burden to prove with legal certainty every item of damage claimed. > Keaty v. Moss Motors, Inc., 93-1452, 93-1453 (La.App. 3 Cir. 6/1/94); 638 So.2d 684. Plaintiff's own uncorroborated personal estimate is insufficient. > Parker v. Dubus Engine Co., 563 So.2d 355 (La.App. 3 Cir.1990).
- ▶ For the foregoing reasons the judgment of the trial court is reversed.
- ▶ IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that judgment be entered in favor of plaintiff-appellant Judy George as follows:
  - ▶ 1) \$12,000.00 together with legal interest from date of demand for the loss of two emus;
  - ▶ 2) \$4,800.00 together with legal interest from date of demand for lost income; and
  - ▶ 3) \$600.00 in expert witness fees for Harris Desormeaux.

# Who Owns Wildlife?

- ▶ Civil Code Art. 3413. Wild animals, birds, fish, and shellfish
- ▶ Wild animals, birds, fish, and shellfish in a state of natural liberty either belong to the state in its capacity as a public person or are things without an owner. The taking of possession of such things is governed by particular laws and regulations.
- ▶ The owner of a tract of land may forbid entry to anyone for purposes of hunting or fishing, and the like. Nevertheless, despite a prohibition of entry, captured wildlife belongs to the captor.
- ▶ Art. 3414. Loss of ownership of wildlife
- ▶ If wild animals, birds, fish, or shellfish recover their natural liberty, the captor loses his ownership unless he takes immediate measures for their pursuit and recapture.
- ▶ Art. 3416. Tamed wild animals
- ▶ Tamed wild animals and birds are privately owned as long as they have the habit of returning to their owner. They are considered to have lost the habit when they fail to return within a reasonable time. In such a case, they are considered to have recovered their natural liberty unless their owner takes immediate measures for their pursuit and recapture.

# Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

- ▶ R.S. 56:3(A). Ownership of wild birds, **quadrupeds**, fish, aquatic life, water bottoms, oysters, and shellfish
- ▶ A. The ownership and title to all wild birds, and wild **quadrupeds**, fish, other aquatic life, the beds and bottoms of rivers, streams, bayous, lagoons, lakes, bays, sounds, and inlets bordering on or connecting with the Gulf of Mexico within the territory or jurisdiction of the state, including all oysters and other shellfish and parts thereof grown thereon, either naturally or cultivated, and all oysters in the shells after they are caught or taken therefrom, are and remain the property of the state, and shall be under the exclusive control of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission except as provided in R.S. 56:4.




# Quadruped

- ▶ R.S. 56:151(a) "Wild quadrupeds" means and includes any and all of the following:
  - ▶ (i) Game quadrupeds: wild deer, bears, squirrels, and wild rabbits.
  - ▶ (ii) Outlaw quadrupeds: coyotes, armadillos, and feral hogs.
  - ▶ (iii) Protected quadrupeds: wolves, cougars, bobcats, and foxes; provided that foxes and bobcats may be run with dogs.
  - ▶ (iv) Nongame quadrupeds: mink, otter, muskrat, nutria, beaver, weasels, raccoons, skunks, opossum, alligator, and other wild quadrupeds valuable for their skins or furs.

# Case

- ▶ Leger v. Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries 305 So. 2d 391. Writ Denied 310 So.2d 640.
- ▶ 1975 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Case.
- ▶ Alex Leger instituted action against the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and the commissioner Burton Angelle to recover damages for the loss of his 1973 sweet potato crop.
- ▶ Mr. Leger planted sweet potatoes which were eaten in March, April and May by deer. He contacted the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and told them he would have to shoot the deer to save his crop. The Department told him if he shot the deer they would prosecute him.

- 
- ▶ Legal Argument: Civil Code Art. 2321. Damage caused by animals
  - ▶ The owner of an animal is answerable for the damage caused by the animal. However, he is answerable for the damage only upon a showing that he knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that his animal's behavior would cause damage, that the damage could have been prevented by the exercise of reasonable care, and that he failed to exercise such reasonable care. Nonetheless, the owner of a dog is strictly liable for damages for injuries to persons or property caused by the dog and which the owner could have prevented and which did not result from the injured person's provocation of the dog. Nothing in this Article shall preclude the court from the application of the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* in an appropriate case.
  - ▶ R.S. 56:102 (now repealed) provided that, "the ownership and title to all wild birds and wild quadrupeds found in the state is declared to be in the state of Louisiana in its sovereign capacity."



- ▶ State Owns Deer + Deer damaged my sweet potatoes = State owes me money because the state's deer damaged my property.
- ▶ The court stated, "We have concluded that the wild birds and wild quadrupeds found in the state are owned by the State of Louisiana in its sovereign capacity, as distinguished from its proprietary capacity, and that it owns them solely as trustee for the use and common benefit of the people of the state. Because of its ownership in a sovereign capacity, and in the exercise of its police power, the state may regulate and control the taking and subsequent use of wild birds and wild quadrupeds, and the property rights which may be acquired in them. *Lacoste v. Department of Conservation*, 263 U.S. 545, 44 S.Ct. 186, 68 L.Ed. 437 (1924); *Geer v. State of Connecticut*, 161 U.S. 519, 16 S.Ct. 600, 40 L.Ed. 793 (1896); *Foster-Fountain Packing Co. v. Haydel*, 278 U.S. 1, 49 S.Ct. 1, 73 L.Ed. 147 (1928)."
- ▶ The United States Supreme Court, interpreting another Louisiana statute in *Lacoste v. Department of Conservation*, 263 U.S. 545, 44 S.Ct. 186, 68 L.Ed. 437 (1924) held: 'The wild animals within its borders are, so far as capable of ownership, owned by the state in its sovereign capacity for the common benefit of all of its people. Because of such ownership, and in the exercise of its police power the state may regulate and control the taking, subsequent use and property rights that may be acquired therein.'

# Baton Rouge Ordinance

- ▶ No person shall own, possess or sell or keep a wild or exotic animal as a pet in the parish.
- ▶ **Wild or Exotic Animal Examples**
- ▶ Wild or exotic animals include but are not limited to:
- ▶ Alligators
- ▶ Caimans
- ▶ Crocodiles
- ▶ Foxes
- ▶ Leopards
- ▶ Lions
- ▶ Lynx
- ▶ Monkeys
- ▶ Poisonous snakes
- ▶ Raccoons
- ▶ Skunks
- ▶ Squirrels
- ▶ Tigers
- ▶ Wolves

# Criminal Statutes

- ▶ R.S. 14:32 and 39. Negligent homicide and negligent injury.
- ▶ §32. Negligent homicide
- ▶ A. Negligent homicide is either of the following:
  - ▶ (1) The killing of a human being by criminal negligence.
  - ▶ (2) The killing of a human being by a dog or other animal when the owner is reckless and criminally negligent in confining or restraining the dog or other animal.
- ▶ \* \* \*
- ▶ D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:
  - ▶ \* \* \*
- ▶ (5) Any attack made by livestock as defined in this Section.
- ▶ E. For the purposes of this Section:
  - ▶ (2) "Livestock" means any animal except dogs and cats, bred, kept, maintained, raised, or used for profit, that is used in agriculture, aquaculture, agritourism, competition, recreation, or silvaculture, or for other related purposes or used in the production of crops, animals, or plant or animal products for market. This definition includes but is not limited to cattle, buffalo, bison, oxen, and other bovine; horses, mules, donkeys, and other equine; goats; sheep; swine; chickens, turkeys, and other poultry; domestic rabbits; **imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white-tailed deer, farm-raised ratites, and other farm-raised exotic animals; fish, pet turtles, and other animals identified with aquaculture which are located in artificial reservoirs or enclosures that are both on privately owned property and constructed so as to prevent, at all times, the ingress and egress of fish life from public waters; any commercial crawfish from any crawfish pond; and any hybrid, mixture, or mutation of any such animal.**



# Duties of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

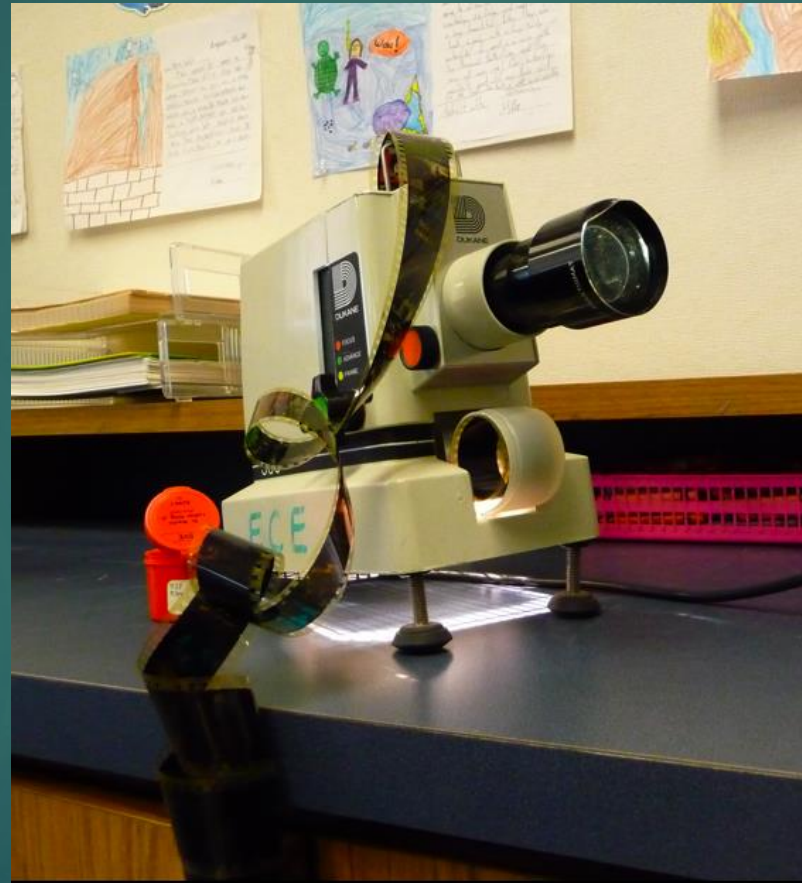
- ▶ R.S. 56:6(30 and 31). Special powers and duties; statistics; rules and regulations; reports
- ▶ The commission, through its secretary: Shall promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and private possession of nonindigenous **constrictors in excess of twelve feet in length, venomous snakes**, and nonhuman **primates**. The rules shall provide exceptions for animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities, including but not limited to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Primate Center and the Tulane National Primate Research Center. Such rules shall address internet purchase of such animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for owners who can prove ownership prior to July 1, 2003.
- ▶ Shall promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and private possession of big exotic cats **including but not limited to tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and hybrids resulting from cross-breeding of such cats**. The rules shall provide exceptions for big cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as school mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife research centers, and scientific organizations. Such rules shall address Internet purchase of such animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for owners who can prove previous ownership. Previous ownership shall include persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed their animal since August 15, 2006. Violation of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.

# Wildlife and Fisheries Rule

## LAC 76:V.115(C)(1)

- ▶ C.1. Except as provided herein, it shall be unlawful to import into, possess, purchase or sell within the state of Louisiana, by any means whatsoever including but not limited to transactions conducted via the internet, any of the following species or its subspecies of live wild quadrupeds, big exotic cats, or non-human primates, domesticated or otherwise (hereinafter "listed animals"): a. black bear (*Ursus americanus*); b. grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*); c. polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*); d. red wolf (*Canis rufus*); e. gray wolf (*Canis lupus*); f. wolf dog hybrid (*Canis lupus* or *Canis rufus* x *Canis familiaris*); g. all non-human primates; h. the following big exotic cats: i. tigers; ii. lions; iii. leopards (including, but not limited to snow leopard and clouded leopard); iv. jaguars; v. cheetahs; vi. cougars or mountain lions (*Felis concolor*); vii. all subspecies of the above listed exotic cats; viii. hybrids resulting from cross breeding of the above listed exotic cats.

# Time for an Educational Video







# Reptiles


R.S. 56:2358.4. Licensing; fees; renewal

A. No person shall breed, hatch, propagate, raise, grow, receive, ship, transport, export, or **sell turtles or turtle eggs** without possessing a turtle farmer license.

B. Turtle farmer licenses shall expire annually on the thirty-first day of December, and must be renewed no later than the last day of January of the following year.

C. The commissioner shall adopt, by rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the fee to be charged for the issuance of a turtle farmer license. The amount of the fee shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars per license issued annually.

D. Each person applying for a turtle farmer license shall complete a written application as provided by the commissioner, pay the required license fee, and comply with any other requirements for licensure required by the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Part.

- 
- ▶ (c) Exceptions. The provisions of this section are not applicable to:
    - ▶ (1) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs for bona fide scientific, educational, or exhibitional purposes, other than use as pets.
    - ▶ (2) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs not in connection with a business.
    - ▶ (3) The sale, holding for sale, and distribution of live turtles and viable turtle eggs intended for export only, provided that the outside of the shipping package is conspicuously labeled "For Export Only."
    - ▶ (4) Marine turtles excluded from this regulation under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section and eggs of such turtles.
  - ▶ (d) Petitions. The Commissioner of Food and Drugs, either on his own initiative or on behalf of any interested person who has submitted a petition, may publish a proposal to amend this regulation. Any such petition shall include an adequate factual basis to support the petition, and will be published for comment if it contains reasonable grounds for the proposed regulation. A petition requesting such a regulation, which would amend this regulation, shall be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.



# My Turtle Adventure





# 1000

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Rush my Rock Garden and live baby turtle at once. If I am not completely satisfied I may return the garden for prompt refund of the full purchase price, and I may keep the turtle. ABSOLUTELY FREE. Price is \$1.69.

☐ Enclosed find \$\_\_\_\_\_ in full payment.  
☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman, plus C.O.D. fee on delivery.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



# Federal Rule

## CITE: 21CFR1240.62

Sec. 1240.62 Turtles intrastate and interstate requirements.

(a) Definition. As used in this section the term "turtles" includes all animals commonly known as turtles, tortoises, terrapins, and all other animals of the order Testudinata, class Reptilia, except marine species (families Dermachelidae and Chelonidae).

(b) Sales; general prohibition. Except as otherwise provided in this section, viable turtle eggs and live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches shall not be sold, held for sale, or offered for any other type of commercial or public distribution.



- ▶ R.S. 56:632.5.1. Constrictors and poisonous snakes
- ▶ A. The importation or private possession of **constrictor snakes** in excess of **eight feet long**, including but not limited to the following species: Apodora papuana (Papuan python), Liasis olivacea, (Olive python), Morelia spilota (Carpet or Diamond python), Morelia kinghorni (Scrub python), Morelia amethystine (Amethystine python), Python natalensis (Southern African python), Python sebae (African Rock python), Python molurus (Indian or Burmese python), Python reticulatus (Reticulate python), any species of the genus Boa (Boa constrictors), and any species of the genus Eunectes (Anacondas), obtained in any manner, shall be only by permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries except for animals kept by animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined in the Animal Welfare Act as found in the United States Code Title 7, Chapter 54, 2132(e).
- ▶ B. The importation or private possession of **venomous snakes**, including any species under current taxonomic standing recognized to belong to the Families Viperidae (Pitvipers and Vipers), Elapidae (Cobras and Mambas), Hydrophiidae (Sea Snakes), Atractaspididae (Mole Vipers), as well as the genera Dispholidus, Thelotornis, and Rhabdophis of the Family Colubridae obtained in any manner, shall be only by permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries except for animals kept by animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined in the Animal Welfare Act as found in the United States Code Title 7, Chapter 54, 2132(e).
- ▶ C. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is authorized to adopt rules and regulations for the harvest, possession, sale, handling, housing, or importation for species of constrictors and poisonous snakes.
- ▶ D. Violation of the provisions of this Section or rules adopted pursuant thereto shall constitute a class three violation as provided for in R.S. 56:33.

# Can I Own This?





# Puff Adder





# Puff Adder

- ▶ The puff adder (*Bitis arietans*) is a highly venomous viper species found in savannahs and grasslands from Morocco and western Arabia throughout Africa except for the Sahara and rainforest regions. It is responsible for causing the most snakebite fatalities in Africa owing to various factors, such as its wide distribution, frequent occurrence in highly populated regions, and aggressive disposition.
- ▶ Normally a sluggish species, the puff adder relies on camouflage for protection. Locomotion is primarily rectilinear, using the broad ventral scales in a caterpillar fashion and aided by its own weight for traction. When agitated, it can resort to a typical serpentine movement of surprising speed. Although mainly terrestrial, these snakes are good swimmers and can also climb with ease; often they are found basking in low bushes.
- ▶ This species is responsible for more snakebite fatalities than any other African snake, due to a combination of factors, including its wide distribution, common occurrence, large size, potent venom that is produced in large amounts, long fangs, and their habit of basking by footpaths and sitting quietly when approached.
- ▶ Puff adder venom contains a thrombolytic enzyme and causes tissue necrosis, hypotension, coagulopathy, thrombocytopenia, and spontaneous bleeding.

- ▶ R.S. 56:632.5. Reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license; nonresident three-day license
- ▶ A. Any person buying, acquiring, or handling, from any person, by any means whatsoever, or for propagation for sale, any live species of native reptile or amphibian, except farm raised aquatic chelonians, or any live species of poisonous snake or constrictor, as delineated in R.S. 56:632.5.1, in Louisiana, from within or outside the state, for sale, or resale, whether on a commission basis or otherwise, is a wholesale/retail reptile amphibian dealer and shall possess a reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license at a cost of one hundred five dollars for a resident and four hundred five dollars for a nonresident.
- ▶ B. All persons selling native, captive-reared reptiles or amphibians, regardless of the number of generations removed from the wild, shall be required to possess a reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license.
- ▶ C. Individual employees of reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealers are not required to obtain a reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license when transacting the business of the reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer on the premises of the place of business, but any employee or person buying, acquiring, handling, or selling reptiles or amphibians as a wholesale/retail dealer or for a wholesale/retail dealer at any place other than on the premises of the place of business, must obtain a reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license.
- ▶ D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a person transporting reptiles and amphibians under the privilege of a Louisiana reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license when that person buys reptiles and amphibians for or on behalf of the reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer to whom such transport license was issued and only transports such reptiles and amphibians to that wholesale/retail dealer.
- ▶ E. In lieu of the regular nonresident wholesale/retail dealer's license, nonresidents may purchase a three-day reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license for a fee of seventy-five dollars. The three-day license shall be valid only for three consecutive days.
- ▶ F. A violation of this Section is a class three violation.
- ▶

# Time for an Educational Video





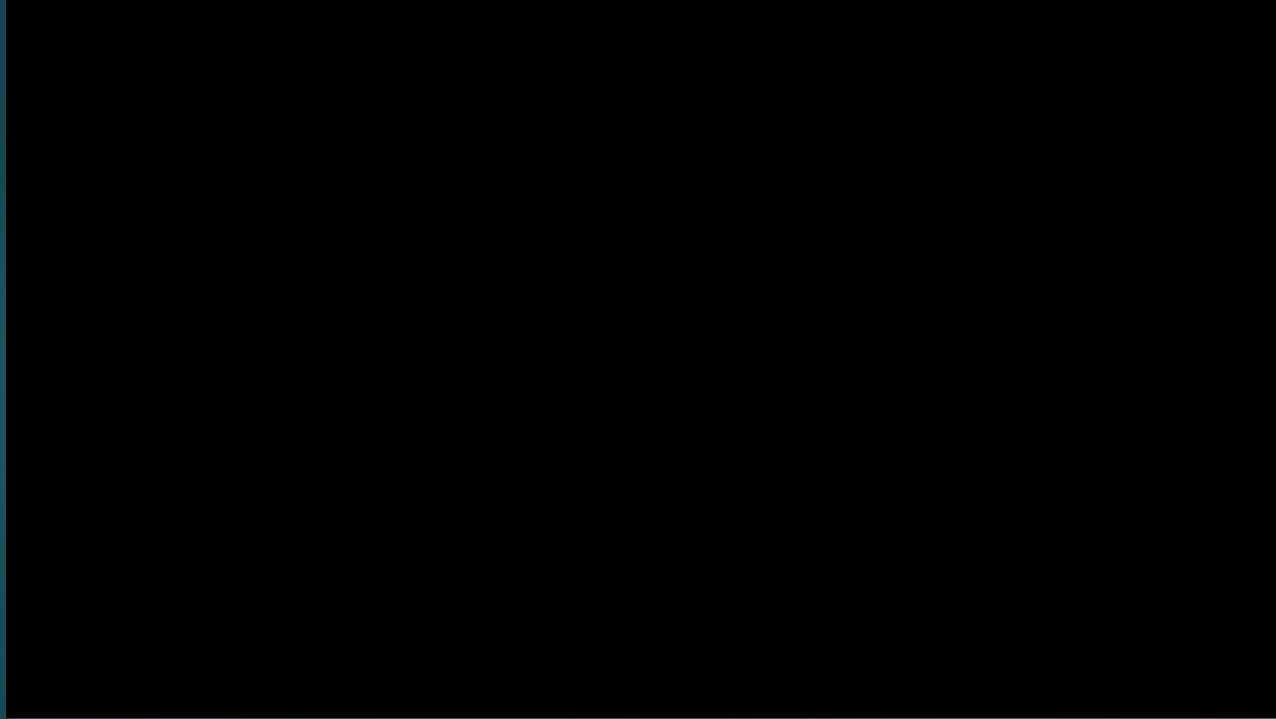


- ▶ R.S. 56:632.4. Reptile and amphibian collector's license; scientific collector's permit
- ▶ A. All persons engaged in the sale of native reptiles and amphibians collected in Louisiana must possess one of the following licenses:
  - ▶ (1) A resident must possess a resident collector's license at a cost of twenty-five dollars.
  - ▶ (2) A nonresident must possess a nonresident collector's license at a cost of two hundred dollars.
  - ▶ (3) Residents under sixteen years of age shall be required to possess a collector's license at a cost of ten dollars.
- ▶ B. Persons engaged in legitimate herpetological research may request from the secretary a scientific collector's permit. No fee shall be charged for such a permit. No specimens obtained under this permit may be sold.
- ▶ C. A violation of this Section is a class three violation.

R.S. 14:91.21. Sale of **poisonous reptiles** to minors; penalty

- ▶ A. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell any type of **poisonous reptile** to a minor.
- ▶ B. Any person violating the provision of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, for each such offense.

# Fun With Giant Reptiles



# Pet Iguana





# Act No. 715

## 2006 Regular Session

- ▶ Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and possession of **big exotic cats**. Authorizes exceptions for cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities. Provides for permits for owners who could prove previous ownership.
- ▶ Provides that violations of the rules are class two violations punishable as follows:
  - ▶ 1st offense \$100 - \$350 or imprisonment not more than 60 days, or both
  - ▶ 2nd offense \$300 - \$550 & imprisonment between 30 and 60 days
  - ▶ 3rd + \$500 - \$750 & imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture

# Wildlife and Fisheries Rule

- ▶ C.1. Except as provided herein, it shall be unlawful to import into, possess, purchase or sell within the state of Louisiana, by any means whatsoever including but not limited to transactions conducted via the internet, any of the following species or its subspecies of live wild quadrupeds, big exotic cats, or non-human primates, domesticated or otherwise (hereinafter "listed animals"): a. black bear (*Ursus americanus*); b. grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*); c. polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*); d. red wolf (*Canis rufus*); e. gray wolf (*Canis lupus*); f. wolf dog hybrid (*Canis lupus* or *Canis rufus* x *Canis familiaris*); g. all non-human primates; h. the following big exotic cats: i. tigers; ii. lions; iii. leopards (including, but not limited to snow leopard and clouded leopard); iv. jaguars; v. cheetahs; vi. cougars or mountain lions (*Felis concolor*); vii. all subspecies of the above listed exotic cats; viii. hybrids resulting from cross breeding of the above listed exotic cats.

# What is a big exotic cat?

- ▶ The importation and private possession of big exotic cats including but not limited to tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and hybrids resulting from cross-breeding of such cats.



# Big Cat Hybrids

Liger = Dad Lion + Mom Tiger



Tigon = Dad Tiger + Mom Lion





Leopon = Dad Leopard + Mom Lion

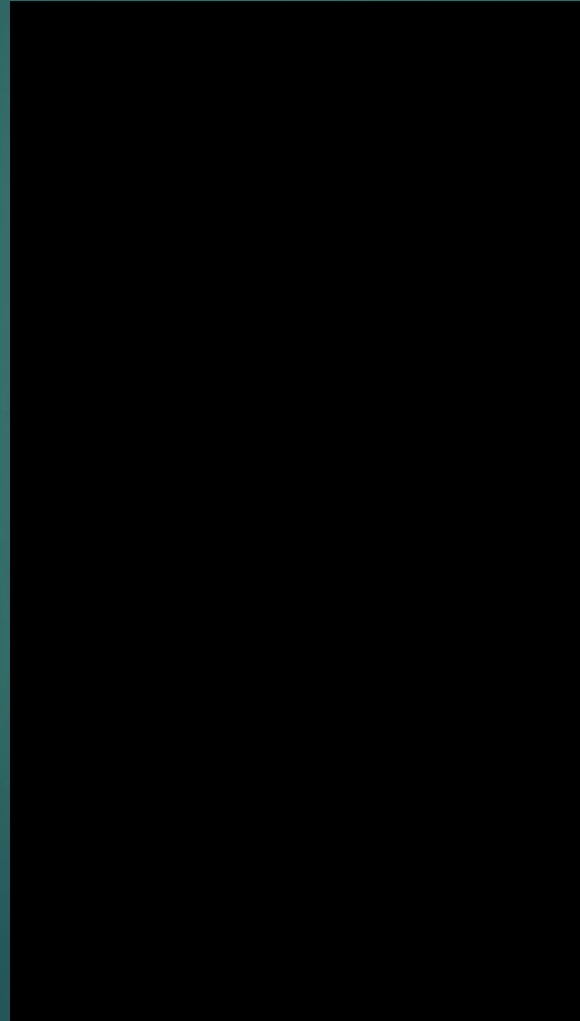


# What about these guys?





Of course having a wild cat in the  
house is a great idea



# Non-indigenous species

- ▶ Nutria
- ▶ Tallow Trees
- ▶ Feral Hogs
- ▶ Apple Snails
- ▶ Privet
- ▶ Kudzu

# Nutria





# Neuty the Bucktown Nutria




Denny and Myra Lacoste's bottle-fed rescue nutria, Neuty.  
PHOTO FROM DENNY AND MYRA LACOSTE



# Neuty's Saga

- ▶ Denny Lacoste encountered the injured animal on West Esplanade Avenue in 2020, when it was no bigger than his palm. He and his wife hand-fed the unweaned creature until it was able to eat on its own. Then they reared the wild animal as a pet.
- ▶ The swamp rat was allowed to swim in the family pool, nest in the bathroom of the Lacostes' home, ride in the couple's pickup truck and accompany Denny to work at the Metairie seafood shop he owns, where Neuty was popular among customers.
- ▶ But after being highlighted in a local news story, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries attempted to remove the two-year-old, 22-pound nutria, as it is illegal to house them as pets. Labeled an invasive species, nutria were released into the wild after the fur market tanked in the 1930's. They've been known to affect wetlands and other animal habitats negatively.
- ▶ In a statement, the department planned to reintroduce Neuty at the Baton Rouge Zoo. But Lacoste says that's when the community stepped up. "20,000 signatures nationwide. Our friends in Alaska called. He's in a paper up there."
- ▶ With over tens of thousands of supporters on social media and a petition on change.org, Denny says he's been blown away by the support from the community.

- 
- ▶ Amid public outrage, however, the agency softened and conceived a way to allow the critter to remain with its adopted family. Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Jack Montoucet said the agency has provided special conditions that will permit the nutria to be kept as a pet within the law.
  - ▶ The state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on Friday announced an agreement that will let a Bucktown couple keep the orange-toothed rodent as a house pet. A day earlier, the agency had ticketed the couple for illegally harboring a wild animal and vowed to confiscate it for relocation to the Baton Rouge Zoo.
  - ▶ Neuty's owner, Myra Lacoste, said the agency let her husband, Denny, complete documents Friday to expedite the process.
  - ▶ "We're beyond ecstatic," she said.
  - ▶ She thanked state Sen. Cameron Henry Jr., R-Metairie, "for his efforts to free Neuty," and Wildlife and Fisheries for eventually "understanding that Neuty's home is Bucktown."
  - ▶ Neuty must:
    - ▶ Receive regular veterinary checkups
    - ▶ Be caged while at the seafood shop
    - ▶ Be shielded from shop customers seeking to touch it, as they had before.



# You cannot just let them go

- ▶ R.S. 56:20. Releasing game, fowl, or fish; permission; intrastate restocking; importation; violations
- ▶ A. No pen-raised or wild animal, fowl, or fish of any species from within or without the state shall be liberated within the state except upon written permission of the secretary.
- ▶ B. No wild animal, fowl, or fish of any species shall be transported for restocking purposes from a site within the state to any other site within the state except in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the commission.
- ▶ C. No person shall import any live cervid from outside the state.
- ▶ D. Violations of the provisions of this Section shall constitute a class four violation, as provided in R.S. 56:34.

# You cannot just let them go

- ▶ R.S. 9:2799.4. Liability for unauthorized release of certain animals, birds, or aquatic species
- ▶ A. Any person who, without permission from the owner or agent in possession, releases or attempts to release an animal, a bird, or an aquatic species which has been lawfully confined for agriculture, science, research, commerce, public propagation, protective custody, or education shall be liable:
  - ▶ (1) To the owner or agent exercising possession of the animal, bird, or aquatic species for damages and replacement costs, including the cost of restoring the animal, bird, or aquatic species to confinement and to its health prior to being released.
  - ▶ (2) For damages to property caused by the release or attempted release of the animal, bird, or aquatic species.
- ▶ B. If the release or attempted release causes the failure of an experiment, the person causing the release or attempted release shall be liable for all costs of repeating the experiment, including replacement of the animal, bird, or aquatic species.


# You cannot just let them go

- ▶ R.S. 14:228.1. Unauthorized release of certain animals, birds, or aquatic species
- ▶ A. It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally and without permission, release any animal, bird, or aquatic species which has been lawfully confined for agriculture, science, research, commerce, public propagation, protective custody, or education.
- ▶ B. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.



# *Macgruber the bunny*

- ▶ The Best Friends Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah received “MacGruber” when he was just a baby. He was found outdoors after apparently being attacked by another animal, and since his chances of survival were slim unless he got help, he came to Best Friends.
- ▶ MacGruber went to Wild Friends, Best Friends’ state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation and education center, because he was a wild cottontail bunny. Or so everyone thought. He certainly looked like a cottontail, with his grey-brown fur and his puffy white tail. And, since he’d been found outside, there was no reason to believe that wasn’t exactly what he was.
- ▶ In fact, MacGruber looked so much like a cottontail that for several weeks he passed for one. But then Wild Friends caregivers began to notice that, although injuries to his eye and his leg were healing perfectly, something just wasn’t right. MacGruber wasn’t developing like a normal cottontail. He was growing to nearly twice the size of one. As his ears kept getting longer and his body grew in size, there were other signs that he really wasn’t what he seemed to be.

- 
- ▶ When it comes to cottontails, explains Wild Friends caregiver Stefanie Rolston, it doesn't matter if they've been raised by humans since they were babies. Eventually, they "wild up" and become scared of people. For MacGruber, however, there was no wilding up. He only became more and more curious about people and, instead of hiding from them, he seemed to want to make friends.
  - ▶ So, instead of releasing him back into the wild once his injuries were all healed, Wild Friends staff called in Jason Dickman, manager of the Bunny House, who confirmed their suspicions. MacGruber isn't a cottontail at all. He's a domestic bunny.
  - ▶ With his identity confirmed, MacGruber was soon on his way to the Bunny House, where he'll stay until he gets adopted. Although he's not changing colors (his fur will stay the same brownish-grey of his wild cousins), his days of being mistaken for a cottontail are over. Because staff were able to identify that he wasn't a wild animal, he can look forward to life in a home as a much-loved pet.

# *What about a domestic animal that looks wild?*

Cottontail Rabbit



San Juan Rabbit





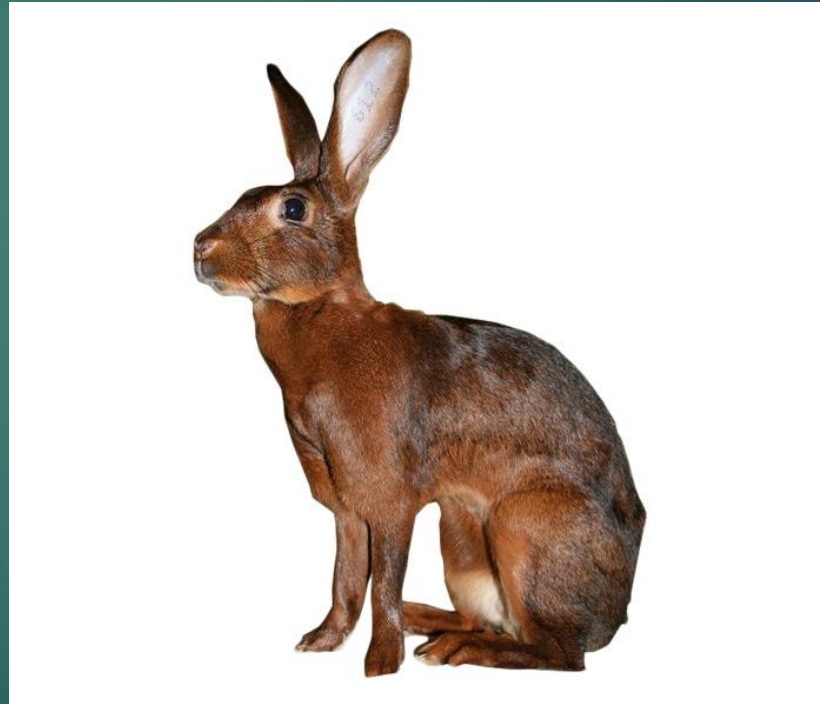
# The Flemish Giant



# The Flemish Giant



# American Desert Hare – Belgian Hare





# Wolves, Dogs and Wolf Dog Hybrids



I am a wolf. I am illegal to own.



I am a dog. You can own me legally.



We are wolf hybrids. Maybe we are legal maybe we are not??



# Time for an Educational Video







# What Can I Own Legally?

## A Game



















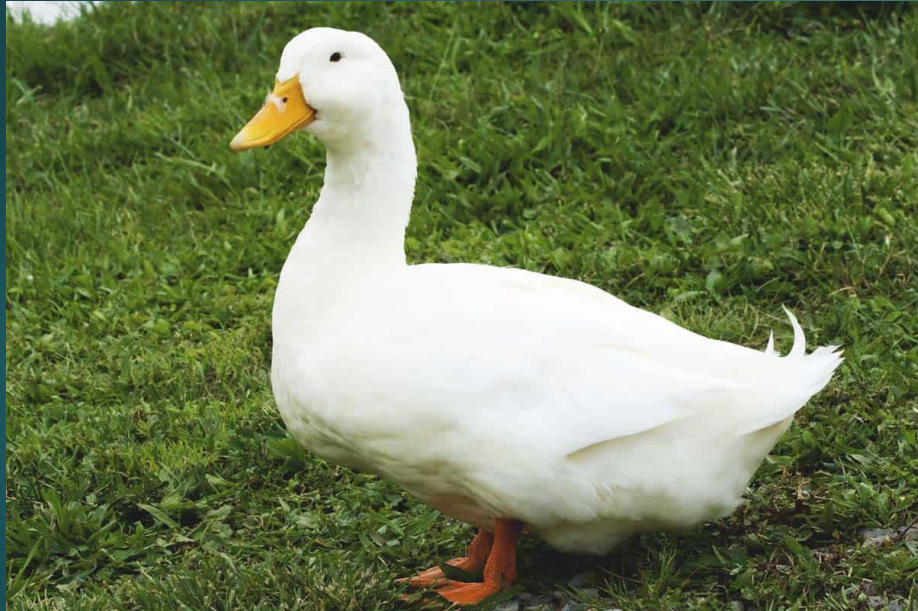












# Recap

- ▶ Two state agencies address exotic species in Louisiana. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- ▶ You can get permits and raise many exotic species in Louisiana.
- ▶ You can rehabilitate Louisiana wildlife with a permit issued by Wildlife and Fisheries.
- ▶ If you see what you think is an abandoned wild animal contact Wildlife and Fisheries and they can help you.
- ▶ It is illegal to release a non-native species into the wild.
- ▶ Please be responsible and do your homework before you bring an exotic pet into your family.
- ▶ You cannot own a big cat (Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Cougars, Jaguars and Hybrids).
- ▶ Get a dog or cat instead.
- ▶ If you do have an illegal pet don't broadcast it.
- ▶ If you have a still don't tell anyone where's its located.

Questions ???

