

NEW YORK LAWS

UAPPEAL

WILD ANIMALS

BANS possession, harboring, sale, barter, transfer, exchange and import and release of wild animals as pets.

- GRANDFATHERED: animals on effective date that are licensed
- EXEMPT:
 - zoological facilities
 - USDA exhibitors and for-profit reptile exhibitors
 - USDA research facilities
 - licensed vets, incorporated humane societies, shelters, SPCAs temporarily possessing
 - State universities, private colleges and universities, state agencies
 - wildlife rehabilitators for sick and injured
 - those transported to vet or other exempted place
 - wildlife sanctuary
 - traveling through the state less than 10 days
 - New World service monkeys for paralyzed individuals

Owners of animals must notify local clerks of their presence, which are forwarded to police and fireman.

- EXEMPT: pet dealers, zoological parks, and USDA Exhibitors
- Constrictors and pythons only need reported if 10'+ and crocodilians only if 5'+

LIST: wild animals limited to these groups (see [Specific List of Animals](#)):

- nonhuman primates and prosimians
- Felidae and hybrids except domesticated and feral cats and ACFA or TICA registered domestic hybrids without wild parentage for 5 generations
- Canidae except domesticated dogs and fennec foxes
- Ursidae
- venomous reptiles
- Burmese Python, Reticulated Python, African Rock python, green anaconda, yellow anaconda, Australian Amethystine python, Indian python, Asiatic water monitor, Nile monitor, white throat monitor, black throat monitor, crocodile monitor, Komodo dragon and hybrids
- Crocodilians

(New York ENV 11-0103, 11-0512; New York GMU Art. 10 209-CC)

DANGEROUS ANIMALS/WILDLIFE DANGEROUS TO HEALTH OR WELFARE

BANS import, transport, possession, purchase, barter, transfer, sale, exchange, propagation and release of dangerous animals (was lion, raccoon dog, wolf, coyote).

- PERMIT (Dangerous Animal License) issued for scientific, educational, exhibition, zoological, propagation purposes
- EXEMPT:
 - Scientific research with license
 - Rehabilitator temporarily possessing American black bear, bobcat, coyote, gray or red fox, native bats, raccoon, striped skunk, massasauga, Northern copperhead, timber rattlesnake
 - Grandfathered wild animal pets
 - Grandfathered furbearer license
 - Nuisance wildlife control operator permit if immediately euthanized or released in 24 hours
 - Taking destructive or menacing native wildlife by landowners if immediately released or disposed of
 - Captive bred domestically raised ranch fox
 - Veterinarian, humane society, SPCA temporarily possessing one
 - Federal and USDA research facilities
 - Facilities under Assurance from the National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare for nonmammals

LIST:

- Canines except domestic dogs and fennec foxes
- Raccoon dog
- Wolverine
- Badgers (Taxidea)
- Raccoons
- Skunks (Mephitidae)
- Bears
- Cats except domestic cats and ACFA and TICA registered hybrids without wild parentage 5+ generations
- Nonhuman primates and prosimians
- Elephants
- Rhinos
- Bats
- Crocodylians
- Monitors
 - Asiatic
 - Nile
 - white-throat
 - black-throat
 - crocodile

- Komodo dragons
- Anacondas
 - DeSchauensee's
 - Green
 - Yellow
 - Beni
- Pythons:
 - Australian Amethystine
 - Indian
 - Burmese
 - Reticulated
 - Northern African
 - Southern African pythons
- Venomous reptiles including:
 - Elapidae
 - Viperidae
 - Mole vipers and burrowing asps (Attractaspis)
 - African dwarf garter snakes (Homoroselaps)
 - Natal black snake
 - Montpellier snake
 - Boomslang
 - Kirtland's bird snake
 - Cape bird snake
 - Tiger keelback
 - Red-necked keelback
 - Lichtenstein's racer
 - Patagonian racer
 - Venomous lizards, beaded Lizards and Gila monsters (Helodermatidae)

(New York Codes Rules & Regs Part 180.1)

ANIMAL LIBERATION

BANS liberating zebra mussels.

- PERMIT required to buy, sell, possess or transport under 11-0511 below

BANS liberating, importing or importing for liberation of European hare, European or San Juan rabbit, Texas or jack rabbit, gray and red fox including captive bred, and nutria.

- PERMIT required for nutria for scientific, exhibition or breeding

PERMIT required to place fish or eggs in the waters of the state.

- EXEMPT: aquariums

PERMIT required to liberate other wildlife.

- EXEMPT: migratory game birds

(New York ENV 11-0507)

WOLF, COYOTES AND HYBRIDS, FOX, SKUNK, VENOMOUS REPTILES, RACCOON, ENDANGERED SPECIES, SECTION 11-536 SPECIES

PERMIT required for any wolf, wolfdog, coyote, coydog, fox, skunk, venomous reptile, raccoon, endangered species, or species in section 11-536 (endangered species).

(New York ENV 11-0511)

SALE OF CERTAIN ANIMALS 11-0536

BANS sale of leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, tiger, Asiatic lion, cheetah, mountain lion, jaguar, margay, ocelot, crocodilians, tortoise (genus Gopherus), marine turtles (families Cheloniidae and Dermochelidae), vicuna, wolf, red wolf, Tasmanian Forester kangaroo, polar bear, Sumatran rhino, and black rhino and parts.

- EXEMPT: approved zoological, scientific or educational, and propagation for preservation purposes; parts of alligators, crocodiles, caiman
- Penalty is \$4000 + \$700 per animal

(New York ENV 11-0536, 71-0925)

WILDLIFE DEFINITIONS

Wild game – all game except domestic game birds and animals, carcasses of foreign imported game, propagated furbearing animals in captivity, imported or artificially propagated game for liberation, and game for field trial

Game – game birds, big game, small game

- Big game – deer, bear, moose, elk except captive bred North American elk, caribou and antelope

- Small game – black, gray and fox squirrels, European hares, varying hares, cottontail rabbits, native frogs, native salamanders, native turtles, native lizards, native snakes, coyotes, red and gray fox except captive bred, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk, bobcat, lynx, muskrat, mink except captive born, fisher, otter, beaver, sable and marten – excludes coydogs

- Game Birds – migratory game birds and upland game birds
 - Migratory game birds – waterfowl (Anatidae); rails American coots, mud hens, gallinules (Rallidae); shorebirds (Limicolae); jays, crows, magpies (Corvidae)
 - Upland game birds – wild turkeys, ruffed and other grouse; ring-necked, dark-necked, and mutant pheasant and all other pheasants (Phasianus); Hungarian or European gray-legged partridge and quail

Unprotected wild birds – English sparrow and starling and wild pigeons and psittacine birds

Protected birds – all wild birds not protected

- Wild bird – all wildlife birds

Wildlife – wild game and other animals in wild state except fish, shellfish and crustacea

Protected wildlife – wild game, protected wild birds, protected insects, species of special concern and endangered and threatened species, section 11-0536 species, and 11-0311 species

Unprotected wildlife – all wildlife not protected wildlife

Protected insect – insect with department restrictions

(NY ENV 11-0103)

IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, SALE OF NATIVE FISH, WILDLIFE, GAME

BANS:

- native wildlife as pets
- import of wild white-tailed deer
- sale of wild-caught wild birds

LEGAL WITHOUT PERMIT:

- Fish taken outside state during open season only
 - INCLUDES: Atlantic salmon taken outside state any time
 - EXCLUDES: trout, black bass, muskellunge, landlocked salmon
- lake sturgeon, lake trout, whitefish, pickerel, pike, walleye and striped bass taken outside state (import, buy, possess, transport, sell during closed season) – need record
- possess, transport, buy and sell unprotected wildlife
 - EXCLUDES:
 - Certain parts
 - PERMIT for wolf, coyote, coydog, fox, skunk, venomous reptile or raccoon under 11-0511
- frogs outside state – need record during closed season (Import, transport, possess, buy and sell)
- various parts and carcasses
- game for propagation (import and transport)
 - PERMIT for beaver, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, sable or marten, skunk, otter, fisher, nutria and muskrat (propagate or possess)
- deer (Import, possess, buy and sell)
 - EXCLUDES: white-tailed deer and captive bred North American elk
- Skunk, bobcat, mink, muskrat, fisher, beaver, otter, marten or sable if imported during open season (import, buy, sell, possess, transport)
 - PERMIT required for possession or transport during closed season

PERMIT required to import or possess rabies vector species (raccoons, skunks, red foxes, gray foxes, and bats).

PERMIT required to possess, transport, sell or transfer unlisted native wildlife, including:

- beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, skunk, coyote, fisher, bobcat, opossum, weasel or pine marten

PERMITS:

- License to Collect or Possess Education/Exhibition (possess captive bred or permanently disabled native or migratory, and collect/possess native and migratory)
 - EXCLUDES: pets, sale or propagation, endangered/threatened

- License to Collect or Possess Banding (possess/collect migratory birds for banding)
 - EXCLUDES: pet, propagation, endangered/threatened, exhibition

- License to Collect or Possess Scientific (possess captive bred or permanently disabled native wildlife, collect/possess native wildlife and migratory for science)
 - Protected fish, wildlife, shellfish, crustacea, aquatic insects, bird nests and eggs
 - EXCLUDES: pets, propagation, endangered/threatened, exhibition

- License to Possess and Sell (propagate/sell protected fish, wildlife, shellfish, crustacea, aquatic insects)
 - EXCLUDES: pets, exhibition

- Bird Breeder License (sell and exhibit captive born birds)
 - EXCLUDES:
 - Captive bred domesticated game birds
 - domesticated birds like chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, peafowl and pigeons
 - governmental agencies
 - Scientific, zoological or educational institutions with state license
 - Falconry license
 - GRANDFATHERED: birds on 5/1/86 with permit
 - EXEMPT SPECIES: from permit and banding
 - Diamond dove
 - Cockatiel including mutations
 - Crimson rosella
 - Eastern rosella
 - Pale-headed (blue) rosella
 - Red-rumped parakeet (including all mutations)
 - Bourke's parrot
 - Budgerigar (including all mutations)
 - Blue-masked lovebird
 - Zebra finch
 - (Lady) Gouldian finch
 - Society (Bengalese) finch
 - Java sparrow
 - Common canary (including all varieties)
 - Nonexempt species need permit and banding - retail/wholesale need records and sign

- Domestic Game Bird Breeder's License (possess/propagate captive bred game birds)
 - Class A for selling and Class B for personal use

- ducks, geese, brant, swans, pheasants, quail, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, Chukar and Hungarian partridge
- Domestic Game Animal Breeder's License (possess/propagate captive bred white-tailed deer)
 - Class A sale and Class B personal use
 - Must comply with department TB and CWD laws
- Shooting Preserve License
 - Class A commercial club and Class B personal use and guests without fee
- Fur Breeder License (possess or propagate furbearers except RVS)
 - Live ones limited to propagation, exhibition, scientific, or educational purposes
 - BANS new licenses after 2012
 - LIMITED TO: beaver, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, sable or marten, skunk, otter, fisher, nutria and muskrat
- Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Permit (business of removing nuisance wildlife)
- Destructive Wildlife on Private Property (landowners to handle destructive wildlife)
- Hatchery Permit (trout or black bass)
 - Transport live trout requires tagged container
- Farm Fish Pond License
- Fishing Preserve License
- Field Trials
- Leashed Tracking Dog License (recover injured big game)
- Falconry License (obtain, possess, buy, sell and train raptors for falconry)
 - EXEMPT: nonresidents if nonresident small game hunting license, proof of falconry authorization in other state, and proof of legal raptor ownership

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (rehabilitate injured/orphaned wildlife)
 - Class I and II – be 16+, receive 80% on exam, interview to access proficiency – Class II must be Class I 2 years
 - Assistant – nominated by Class II and assist them and meet Class I requirements
 - General and Rabies Vector Species

(New York ENV 11-0515, 11-0521, 11-0524, 11-0709, 11-0917, 11-1000, 11-1701, 11-1705, 11-1728, 11-1900; 6 CRR-NY parts 6.3(f), 35.2, 150-155, 173-177, 181, 184)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES

BANS take, import, transport, possession or sale of federal and state endangered and threatened fish, shellfish, crustacea or wildlife.

- PERMIT (Endangered/Threatened Species Permit) issued for protection of species
 - Education/Exhibition
 - Scientific
 - Propagation

BANS sale, trade, purchase and distribution of ivory and rhinoceros horn.

- PERMIT issued for antiques 100+ years old if ivory or horn is less than 20%, educational or scientific purposes, museum, distribute to legal trust beneficiary or heir of estate, and musical instruments from at least 1975

BANS sale of articles of vulnerable species.

- PERMIT for antiques at least 100 years old, scientific or educational purposes, museum

BANS import, possession and sale of live alligator, caiman and crocodile.

- EXEMPT: scientific or educational purposes
- PERMIT (Crocodilian Permit) issued for retail sale of crocodilians parts.
- REGISTRATION (Crocodilian Registration) required to import or possess dead alligator, caiman or crocodile or parts for wholesale, tanning or finishing products

(NY ENV 11-0535; 6 NYCRR 182)

BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES

BANS take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, transport, export and import of bald and golden eagles.

- PERMIT from lawful authority

(New York ENV 11-0537)

NATIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (SMALL GAME)

BANS take of native snakes, lizards, salamanders and turtles other than snapping turtles (no open season).

PERMIT (Fishing License) required to take frogs and snapping turtles.

- EXEMPT: frogs for those under 16 AND owners of farm lands and waters along with immediate family

METHODS: frogs can be taken by spear, hand, club or hook

SEASONS:

- Snapping Turtles - Jul 15 to Sep 30 anytime – must be 12”
- Native Frogs – Jun 15 to Sep 30 anytime

BAG LIMIT:

- Snapping turtles – take 5/day and 30/season
- Native frogs - none

LISTS:

- Native Turtles:
 - snapping turtle
 - common musk turtle
 - eastern mud turtle
 - spotted turtle
 - bog or Muhlenberg's turtle
 - wood turtle
 - eastern box turtle
 - common map turtle

- painted turtle
- Blanding's turtle
- diamondback terrapin
- green sea turtle,
- Atlantic hawksbill sea turtle
- loggerhead sea turtle
- Atlantic or Kemp's ridley sea turtle
- leatherback sea turtle
- eastern spiny softshell turtle

- Native Snakes:
 - northern water snake
 - queen snake
 - northern brown snake
 - northern redbelly snake
 - common garter snake
 - shorthead garter snake
 - ribbon snake
 - eastern hognose snake
 - northern ringneck snake
 - eastern worm snake
 - northern black racer
 - smooth green snake
 - black rat snake
 - eastern milk snake
 - northern copperhead
 - eastern massasauga
 - timber rattlesnake

- Native Lizard:
 - northern fence lizard
 - five-lined skink
 - northern coal skink

- Native Frog:
 - eastern spadefoot toad
 - eastern American toad
 - Fowler's toad
 - northern cricket frog
 - northern gray treefrog
 - northern spring peeper
 - western chorus frog
 - bullfrog

- green frog
- mink frog
- wood frog
- northern leopard frog
- southern leopard frog
- pickerel frog

- Native Salamanders:
 - eastern hellbender
 - mudpuppy
 - marbled salamander
 - Jefferson salamander
 - blue-spotted salamander
 - spotted salamander
 - eastern tiger salamander
 - red-spotted newt
 - northern dusky salamander
 - mountain dusky salamander
 - redback salamander
 - northern slimy salamander
 - Wehrle's salamander
 - four-toed salamander
 - northern spring salamander
 - northern red salamander
 - northern two-lined salamander
 - longtail salamander

(New York Env 11-0701, 11-0707, 11-0903, 11-0905; 6 NYCRR 3)

PIRANHA AND GRASS CARP

BANS import, export, ownership, possession, acquisition, and disposal of piranha (*Serrasalmus*, *Roseveltiella* or *Pyrocentrus*), grass carp and hybrid grass carp.

- PERMIT issued for scientific, biological or exhibition purposes

(New York ENV 11-1703)

FISH DANGEROUS TO INDIGENOUS SPECIES

BANS purchase, sale, trade, barter, possession, transport, import or export of certain fish considered dangerous to indigenous fish.

- PERMIT issued for educational, exhibition or scientific purposes

LIST:

- silver carp
- bighead carp
- black carp
- snakehead fish (channa and parachanna) including:
 - chel or borna snakehead
 - northern or Amur snakehead
 - Chinese or northern green snakehead
 - Channa aurantimaculata
 - bangka snakehead
 - baram snakehead
 - barca or tiger snakehead
 - rainbow or jewel snakehead
 - bluespotted snakehead
 - dwarf, gaucha, or frog snakehead
 - inle snakehead
 - shiny or splendid snakehead
 - blotched snakehead
 - bullseye, murrel, Indian, great, or cobra snakehead
 - emperor snakehead
 - Channa melanoptera
 - black snakehead
 - giant, red or redline snakehead
 - Channa nox
 - Ceylon or Ceylonese green snakehead
 - Channa panaw
 - ocellated, spotted, or eyespot snakehead
 - dotted or spotted snakehead
 - golden snakehead
 - chevron or striped snakehead
 - Niger or African snakehead
 - Congo, square-spotted African, or light African snakehead
 - dark African, dusky or square-spotted snakehead

PLACING FISH IN WATER BODIES OF STATE

Fish Health Certification Report in last 12 months required to place fish in water bodies of the state.

- EXEMPT: marine and coastal district, department permit, contiguous waters connected to another state, bait fish
- Must be free of VHS, Infectious carp dropsy, Furunculosis, Enteric Red Mouth, IPN
- Salmonids must also be free of whirling disease, IHN, bacterial kidney disease

(6 NYCRR 188)

PIGEONS

BANS capturing or killing homing pigeons with leg bands. Only the owner can detain, possess and transport them.

(New York ENV 11-0513)

RABIES CONTROL

BANS import, transport, possession, transport, sale and release of live raccoon, skunk, red or gray fox or bat.

- PERMIT issued for certain purposes

BANS live transport and sale of trapped raccoons.

(6 NYCRR 181.3)

EURASIAN BOAR

BANS the import, breeding, introduction into wild, possession, sale, distribution and transport of any Eurasian boar, Russian boar, wild and feral swine after 2015.

- EXCLUDES: domestic pigs for meat or pets and AZA

(New York ENV 11-0514; 6 NYCRR 180.12)

INVASIVE SPECIES (NY Invasive Species Council)

BANS sale, import, purchase, transport, introduction or propagation of prohibited invasive species AND introduction into wild of regulated invasive species.

- PERMIT (Invasive Species Permit) issued for research, education, or other approved activity

LEGAL to possess, sell, buy, propagate and transport regulated invasive species.

- NEED Invasive Species-Harmful to the Environment sign on containers if sold

EXEMPTIONS:

- incidental or unknowing
- control or management of that species not due to failure to take precaution
- transport for identification or disposal
- plant cultivators whose parent species are invasive
- disposal, control, research, or education permit by AGM
- compliance agreement, limited permit, or certificate of inspection pertaining to invasive species
- pest or biological control agent under AGM
- wetland plant species for a wastewater treatment facility

LIST:

Prohibited Invasive Species (4/15/21):

- Fish:
 - Northern Snakehead
 - Bullseye Snakehead
 - Giant Snakehead
 - Walking Catfish

- Western Mosquitofish
- Eastern Mosquitofish
- Largescale Silver Carp
- Silver Carp
- Bighead Carp
- Oriental Weatherfish
- Black Carp
- Round Goby
- Sea Lamprey
- Tubenose Goby
- Tench

- Aquatic Invertebrates:
 - Chinese Mystery Snail
 - Japanese Mystery Snail
 - Faucet Snail
 - Spiny Water Flea
 - Fishhook Water Flea
 - Asian Clam
 - Suminoe Oyster
 - Carpet Tunicate
 - Zebra Mussel
 - Quagga Mussel
 - Chinese Mitten Crab
 - Asian Shore Crab
 - Bloody Red Shrimp
 - Rusty Crayfish
 - New Zealand Mud Snail
 - Veined Rapa Whelk
 - Asian Sea Squirt

- Terrestrial Invertebrates:
 - Giant Ghana Snail
 - Giant African Land Snail
 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
 - Emerald Ash Borer
 - Asian Earthworms
 - Asian Longhorned Beetle
 - Africanized Honey Bee
 - Giant West African Snail
 - Beech Scale
 - Asian and European Gypsy Moth
 - Japanese Pine Sawyer
 - Walnut Twig Beetle
 - Sirex Woodwasp

- Vertebrates:
 - Mute Swan
 - European Hare
 - Nutria
 - Asian Raccoon Dog
 - Eurasian Boar

- Also includes plants, algae and fungi species

Regulated Invasive Species (4/15/21):

- Fish:
 - Goldfish
 - Red Shiner
 - Common Carp, Koi
 - Ruffe
 - Asian Swamp Eel
 - Blue Tilapia
 - Nile Tilapia
 - Common Lionfish
 - Red Lionfish
 - Zander
 - Rudd

- Aquatic Invertebrates:
 - European Green Crab
 - Water Flea (*Daphnia lumholtzi*)
 - Brush-clawed Shore Crab, Grapsid Crab

- Vertebrates:
 - Egyptian Goose
 - Muscovy Duck
 - Monk Parakeet
 - European Rabbit
 - Red-eared Slider
 - African Clawed Frog

- Also includes plants, algae species

(New York ENV 9-1701 et. al.; 6 NYCRR 575)

PUBLIC CONTACT WITH BIG CATS

BANS USDA dealers and exhibitors from allowing direct public contact with big cats including physical contact or close proximity.

- INCLUDES: photos except permanent barrier
- EXEMPT:
 - Employees or agents
 - veterinarian

LIST:

- Lion
- Tiger
- Leopard except clouded leopard
- Jaguar
- Cougar
- Hybrids of above

(New York ENV 11-0538)

CWD SUSCEPTIBLE ANIMALS (CERVIDS)

BANS import of CWD susceptible animals (Captive bred or wild white-tailed, mule, red, and sika deer, elk, moose, caribou).

- EXEMPT: As allowed under the AGM health requirements below

BANS liberation or release of CWD susceptible animals.

- EXEMPT: temporary captivity of wild white-tailed deer or moose under 11-507 permit (see animal liberation) and license for scientific, educational, propagation purposes

BANS transport of captive CWD susceptible animals.

- EXEMPT: As allowed under the AGM health requirements below

BANS capture or possession of live wild white-tailed deer for those who hold CWD susceptible animals along with taxidermists.

(6 NYCRR 189)

CAPTIVE CERVIDS (AGRICULTURE)

Captive cervids (cervids held in fence or barrier) have special health requirements.

- EXEMPT: captive white-tailed deer under ENV permit

(1 NYCRR 60, 68)

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS AND REPTILES

Owners of dangerous wild animals and reptiles capable of inflicting physical harm must safeguard the public from an attack or face a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail, a \$500 fine or both.

(New York AGM 370)

ELEPHANT ACT (AGRICULTURE)

BANS using African and Asian elephants in entertainment acts and prohibits Environment Conservation from issuing permit for such activity.

- EXEMPT:
 - AZA institutions
 - Sanctuaries
- INCLUDES: exhibition, act, circus, trade show, carnival, ride, parade, race, performance or similar used for audience entertainment or amusement
- PENALTY: civil penalty up to \$1000 each

(New York AGM 380, ENV 11-0540)

MINK AND RANCH FOX (AGRICULTURE)

Breeding, raising and producing in captivity of mink and ranch fox for live animals, pelts or carcasses is considered agricultural pursuit with such mink and fox considered domestic animals and regulated under those laws except diseases of domestic animals and dog registration.

(NY AGM 127-a)

FURBEARING ANIMALS (AGRICULTURE)

BANS electrocution of furbearing animals including arctic fox, red fox, silver fox, chinchilla, mink, pine marten and muskrat.

(NY AGM 353-c)