

NR 6.2/P44/1996
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WILDLIFE THAT REQUIRE PERMITS

All other species of native and exotic wildlife require a license from either the Division of Wildlife or the state Department of Agriculture. The license requires inspection of proper facilities before approval and acquisition of animals. Specific facilities are required to prevent escapes, the spread of diseases and to ensure animal welfare. To have or import one of these species, you must get a license first. You can get importation permits from the Department of Agriculture after obtaining a license from the Division of Wildlife.

This brochure is intended to answer common questions about possessing wild and exotic animals in Colorado. Escapes of wildlife or violations should be reported to a local DOW office, sheriff's office or Operation Game Thief at 1-800-332-4155. For more information, contact the following agencies:

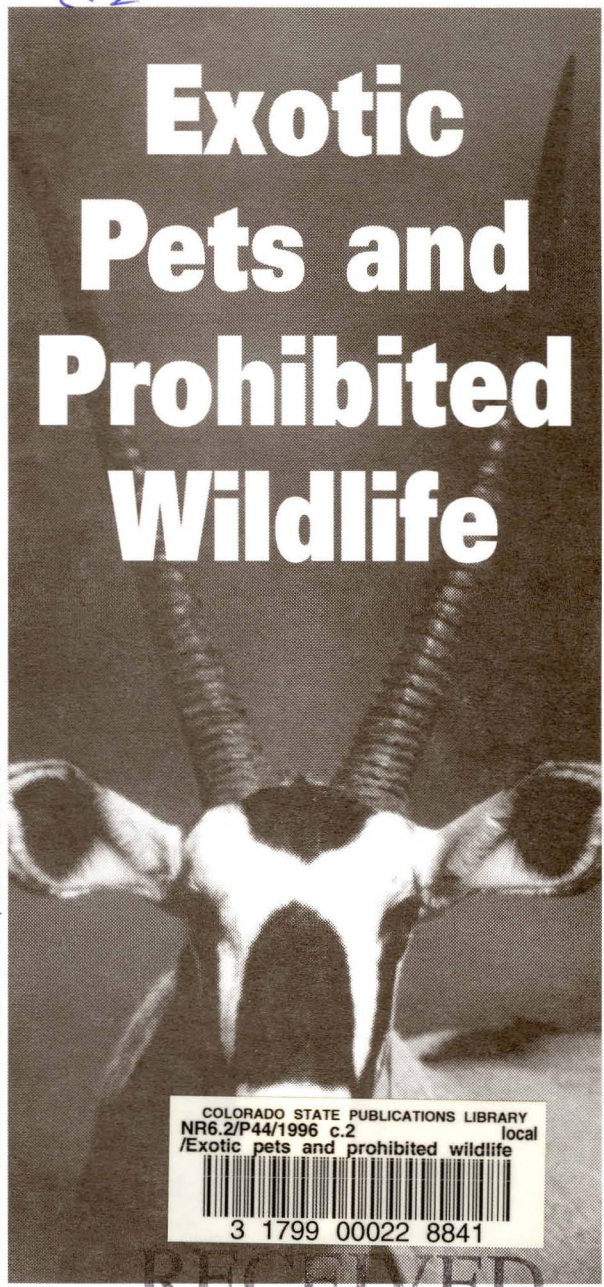
- **Wildlife Questions** — John Seidel
Colo. Division of Wildlife
50633 Hwy. 6&24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 963-1976
- **Alternative Livestock, Importations, Humane Care or Pet Questions** — State Veterinarian's Office
Colo. Dept. of Agriculture
700 Kipling St., Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO, 80215
(303) 239-4161
- **Human Health Questions** — John Pape
Colo. Dept. of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80222
(303) 692-2700




GREEN FROG PHOTO BY
LAUREN J. LIVO AND
STEVE WILCOX ©

PHOTO OF GEMSBOK BY WENDY SHATTIL/BOB ROZINSKI ©

Exotic Pets and Prohibited Wildlife



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RACCOON PHOTO BY IRENE VANDERMOLEN ©

The children were playing in a field near their foothills home when they spotted the tiny ball of fur huddled in a culvert. It was an infant raccoon, still soaking wet from the previous night's rainstorm. It couldn't have weighed more than a pound. Thinking the poor creature was orphaned, the children

carried it home and convinced their mom to let them care for it.

At first, the family thought the raccoon made a wonderful pet. It was sweet, friendly, cuddly and playful. That didn't last long.

The raccoon began to grow larger and larger. Soon, it hit puberty, with its hormones raging and moods turning ugly. The animal got loose in the house and ripped everything in its path to shreds — pillows, shoes, toys, clothes. It snarled without provocation. It attacked and bit the family dog. Then one day, the raccoon bit a neighbor child. Fortunately the child received only minor injuries.

Much to the family's surprise, it's illegal to own raccoons in Colorado. These wild animals carry rabies and other diseases. Consequently, the raccoon was turned over to the Division of Wildlife and had to be destroyed. The animal's fate was particularly unfortunate because it should have been taken to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who is properly trained to care for injured and orphaned wildlife.

If you think having a wild animal for a pet would be fun, think again. This raccoon nightmare happens only too frequently in Colorado. And, the

story is often replayed for families who adopt other wildlife species.

More people are becoming interested these days in owning exotic animals as pets. However, Colorado takes a conservative stance on private ownership of wildlife. This brochure explains state laws and regulations on wildlife as pets — what's legal and illegal to own, and why.

In general, it is illegal to own wildlife in Colorado. You just cannot remove a wild animal from the woods and take it home. As a public resource, wildlife belongs to the state of Colorado.

In addition, there are many species you cannot have as pets, many of which are exotic or non-native animals. And then there are animals you can own, but only with a specific license.

There are many good reasons for these regulations. Regulating wild animals falls under the jurisdiction of the Division of Wildlife, the Colorado

Department of Health and the state Department of Agriculture. These agencies have adopted regulations with three main goals: ensuring public health and safety; protecting domestic livestock; and protecting the state's wildlife resources.

From the DOW's perspective, Colorado's wild animals should stay wild. That's the philosophy behind prohibiting people from owning wildlife. Not only are many of our native wildlife species potentially dangerous, such as predators, they can spread diseases — to people and domestic animals.



MOUNTAIN LION PHOTO BY ED KOSMICKI ©

Imported and exotic species brought into Colorado are regulated as well. Some are legal with permits; some are prohibited. The reasoning behind the regulations center on health and safety issues, primarily to prevent spreading diseases to people, domestic pets, livestock and native wildlife.

The regulations also are aimed at protecting all animals from cruelty through negligence, mistreatment or lack of care.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Domestic animals are legal and not regulated by the DOW. These animals must, however, comply with regulations of the state agriculture and health departments on public and animal health. Here's a list of animals classified as domestic:

COMMON NAME	GENUS/SPECIES
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>
Ass and donkey	<i>Equus asinus</i>
Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>
Camel	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i> and <i>Camelus domedarius</i>
Cats	<i>Felis catus</i> , including hybrids with wild felids
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i> and <i>Bos indicus</i>
Chickens	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
Chinchilla	<i>Chincilla laniger</i>
Dogs	<i>Canis familiaris</i> , including hybrids with wild canids
Ducks	<i>Anatidae</i> distinguishable morphologically from wild birds
Emu	<i>Dromieius</i> spp.
European ferrets	<i>Mustela putorius</i>
Fowl (Guinea)	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Geese	<i>Anatidae</i> , distinguished morphologically from wild birds
Gerbils	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>
Goats	<i>Capra hircus</i>

Hamsters	<i>Mesocricetus</i> spp.
Horses	<i>Equus callabus</i> and hybrids with <i>Equus assinus</i>
Llama	<i>Lama glama</i>
Mice	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Pea fowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Pig (Guinea)	<i>Cavia pocellus</i>
Pigeons	<i>Columbia livia</i>
Rabbits (European)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Rats	<i>Rattus novegicus</i> and <i>Rattus rattus</i>
Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>
Swine	<i>Sus scofa domestica</i>
Turkeys	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> , distinguished morphologi- cally from wild birds

WILDLIFE YOU CAN OWN

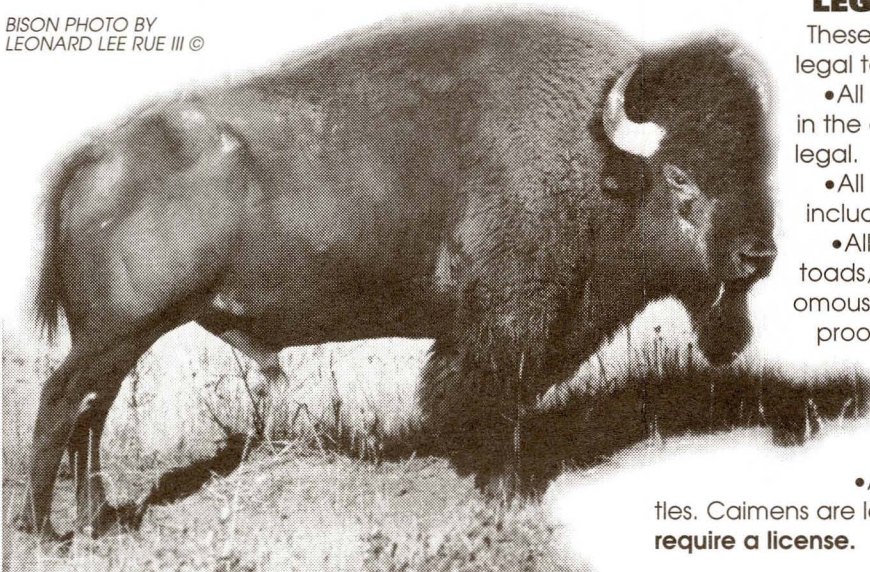
Some animals sold commercially are considered exotic wildlife. The Division of Wildlife has created a category of species called Unregulated Wildlife. These species are legal to own, import or sell. It is illegal to release any of them into the wild in Colorado. You don't need a license from the DOW to have one of these species. You must, however, comply with all other federal, state and local laws on importation, disease and other issues.

LEGAL NON-MAMMALS

These are the non-mammal species legal to own in Colorado:

- All tropical and subtropical birds, in the order Passeriformes. Parrots are legal.
- All tropical and subtropical fishes, including common gold fish and koi.
- All tropical and subtropical frogs, toads, snakes and lizards. All venomous snakes require a license and proof of commercial use.
- All marine vertebrates and invertebrates, except anadromous and catadromous species.
- All tropical and subtropical turtles. Caimens are legal. **Alligators and crocodiles require a license.**

BISON PHOTO BY
LEONARD LEE RUE III ©



LEGAL MAMMALS

Elk and fallow deer are classified as alternative livestock and are licensed by the Department of Agriculture. Below are the other mammals that are legal to own in Colorado:

COMMON NAME	GENUS/SPECIES
African pygmy hedgehog	<i>Atelerix, Erinaceus; albiventris</i>
Red kangaroo	<i>Macropus rufus</i>
Short-tailed possum	<i>Monodelphis domestica</i>
Sugar gliders	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>
Bennett wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>
Dama wallaby	<i>Macropus eugenii</i>
Swamp wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Wallaroo	<i>Macropus robustus</i>

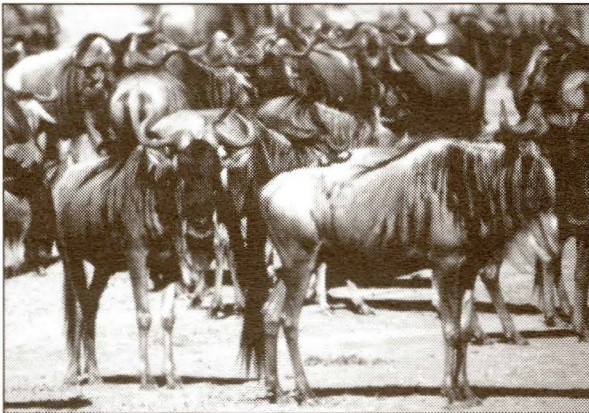
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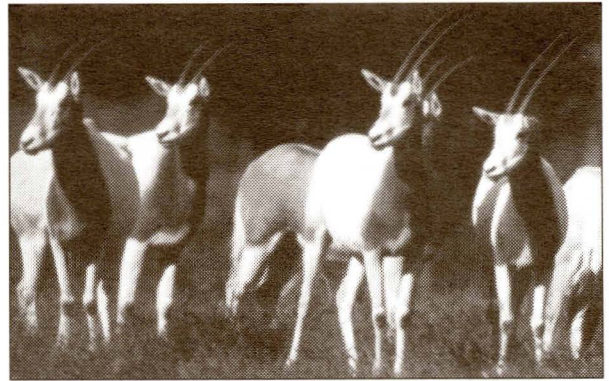
HEDGEHOG PHOTO BY
JOHN EDWARDS ©

PROHIBITED SPECIES

These are the species that are illegal to have in Colorado. That means there are no licenses available to possess one of these species. There are several reasons why the state has prohibited them, ranging from concerns about damage to native wildlife or habitat to the potential for spreading diseases to livestock or people.



WILDEBEEST HERD PHOTO BY WENDY SHATTIL/BOB ROZINSKI ©.



ORYX PHOTO BY WENDY SHATTIL/BOB ROZINSKI ©

COMMON NAME	GENUS SPECIES
Addax	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>
Aoudad	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damalicus dorcas</i>
Barbary sheep	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>
Brush-tailed possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula, arnhemensis, caninus</i>
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>
European hedgehogs	<i>Erinaceus spp.</i> , (except <i>Erinaceus albiventris</i>); <i>Hemiechinus spp.</i> , <i>Paraechinus spp.</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Wild and exotic goats	<i>Capra spp.</i> (all wild exotic goats and hybrids)
Goral	<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>
Green frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus lichtensteini</i>
Ibex	<i>Capra ibex</i>
Markhor	<i>Capra falconeri</i>
Mouflon	<i>Ovis musimon</i>
Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah, leucoryx.</i>
Wild and exotic pigs	<i>Sus spp.</i> (all wild pigs and hybrids)
Primates	All non-human primates, (monkeys, chimpanzees)
Raccoon	<i>Procyon spp.</i>
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus elaphus</i> (and hybrids)
Sheep (wild exotic sheep and hybrids)	<i>Ovis spp.</i>
Striped skunks	<i>Mephitis mephitis.</i>
Tahr	<i>Hemitragus spp.</i>
Topi	<i>Damalicus lunatus</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes spp.</i>