

Golden Rules, Rules of Thumb, and Rules that RULE!

Requirements for maintaining animals for exhibits and educational purposes

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What to talk about?

- Types of permitting
 - Taxa, protection status, general regulations
 - State, Federal
 - Examples
 - Permits
 - Reports
- Recent updates for regulated facilities
- Changes in regulations



What's out there that you'll need...

- Permits from NCWRC
 - Fish, invertebrates, herps, birds, mammals, plants
 - Collection, possession, salvage, etc
 - Endangered species permitting
 - **Sub permittee**
- Federal permitting
 - Raptors/migratory birds
 - Letter of authorization
 - Training requirements

- Licensing
 - USDA - APHIS
 - Invertebrates
 - Mammals
 - NCDA



Permits

- **Wildlife Collection License**

- License to collect wild species
- Does not authorize collection, or possession, of state or federally listed species (endangered, threatened, special concern)
- License does not give authorization to collect on public or private lands, prior authorization required
- Collection report must be sent to NCWRC within 15 days
- Usual exceptions on this permit include game species deer, turkey, etc



Permits

- Reptile and Amphibian Possession Permit
 - Permit allows for possession of over 4 native reptiles and/or 24 native amphibians
 - This includes, to my knowledge, eggs / larval stages / etc.
 - Does not authorize collection or release of listed species
 - Yearly report must be sent to NCWRC within 15 days of permit expiration.

Permits

- Endangered Species Permit

- NCWRC is attempting to combine Possession, Salvage, Collection, and Rehabilitation into a single document.
- NCWRC's regional biologists (coastal, piedmont, mountain, aquatic) decide whether species will be added to the permit. They may allow a species to be possessed but not collected (ex. Hellbender)
- Collection group typically has limits assigned for each species.
- Possession group may not have limits.



Article 55A of the NCGS (14: 416-422)

- Regulates the transport, caging, and safety requirements for “inherently dangerous animals”.
- These include venomous reptiles, crocodilians, and large constrictor snakes
- Large snakes include the following:
 - Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*)
 - Burmese Python (*Python molurus*)
 - African Rock Python, (*Python sebae*)
 - Amethystine Python (*Morelia amethystina*)
 - Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*); or any of their subspecies or hybrids.

Article 55A of the NCGS (14: 416-422)

- **Venomous Snakes**

- Permanent enclosures: Escape-proof, bite-proof, and have an operable lock. Transport containers: escape-proof (locked) and bite-proof.
- Enclosures need "Venomous Reptile Inside" labels with scientific name, common name, appropriate antivenom, and owner's identifying information noted on the container.
- Bite protocol: emergency contact information, local animal control office, the name and location of suitable antivenom, first aid procedures, treatment guidelines, and an escape recovery plan.
- A copy must accompany the transport of any venomous reptile.

Article 55A of the NCGS (14: 416-422)

- **Large Constrictor Snakes**
 - Similar ownership regulations to venomous reptiles minus the bite plan.
 - Most importantly enclosures, permanent and travel, must be escape-proof and have an operable lock.

Article 55A of the NCGS (14: 416-422)

- **Crocodylians**

- All crocodylians, excluding the American alligator, are regulated under this Article.
- Secure, locked enclosures
- Escape and recovery plan must travel with animal.

- Veterinarians, zoos, serpentariums, museums, laboratories, educational or scientific institutions are exempt however I advise that you follow the regulations to ensure highest level of safety and professionalism.

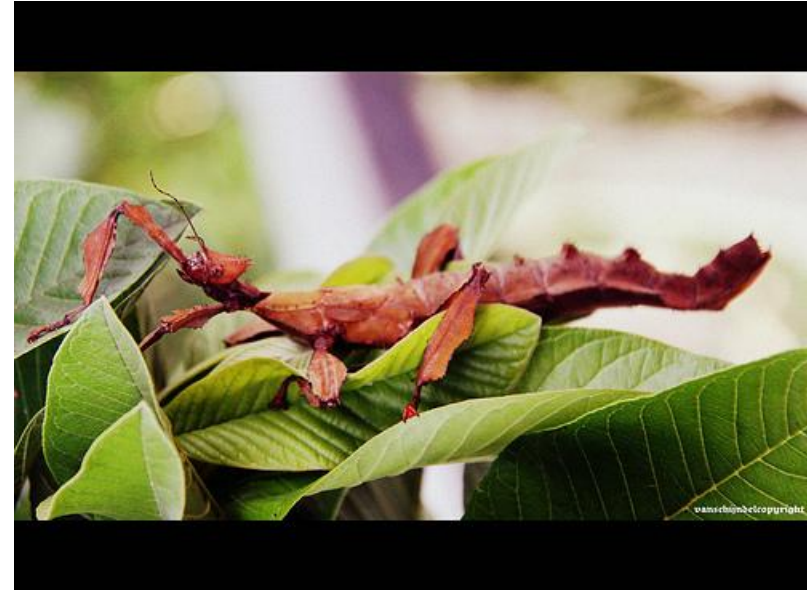
Permits

- Fisheries
 - Inland & Coastal Fisheries are separate permitting entities.
 - Permits written pertaining to species
 - Consider T&E species, quantity per year, etc.
 - May only constitute possession and no collection
 - Annual reports on take due in at the end of the calendar year (within 15 days of expiration)
 - Collection, possession, salvage again are different things



Permits

- Invertebrates
 - USFWS / USDA regulations
 - Potential pest species
 - Exotics
 - Dead or alive
 - Lacey Act can apply
 - Rearing, collection, possession, commercial trade/sales permits
 - Collection reports & inspection of facilities
 - Contingency plans in place
 - Emergency, natural disaster, etc.
- “Russian doll” philosophy



Permits

- Raptors/Migratory birds
 - Staff w/ 240 hours experience <12 month period
 - Documentation of experience, supervisor
 - Migratory birds (no exotics, i.e. parrots)
 - Document habitat size and available resources
 - 20 programs w/ bird on glove
 - Letter of authorization from USFWS
 - Permit in addition to LOA ?
 - Region 4 office



Licensing

- USDA APHIS
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Must comply with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) for all animals regulated by USDA
 - All mammals except for rats & mice
 - Housing, transport, food & water availability
 - Veterinary health checks
 - Quarantine and disease screening
 - Review of any acquisitions/dispositions since last inspection
 - Annual license renewal
 - Fee based on # of mammals + random inspection of facility

Recent Updates / Need to know info

- USDA Inspected Facilities requiring emergency contingency plan
 - Plan in place by September 27, 2013
 - All staff trained on plan
 - Plan reflects each facilities needs



Key Contacts for Permits/Licensing

- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
 - Daron Barnes, Permit Supervisor
 - Jeff Hall – PARC Biologist, NCWRC
- Article 55 – NC Museum of Natural Sciences
 - Phil Bradley
- US Fish & Wildlife – Migratory Birds
 - Region 4 Office Atlanta – (404)679-7070
- USDA APHIS –
 - Raleigh Regional Office – Animal Care & Welfare
 - Invertebrate regulation - Wayne Wheeling