



Possessing Live Wildlife - Quick Reference Guide



This reference guide lists some of the species that Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) personnel are commonly asked about possessing and/or importing. The table within this quick reference guide indicates if **possession and/or importation of live wildlife is allowed and if a permit is required**. If a species is allowed for possession under a permit, wildlife housing restrictions and other conditions may be required prior to the issuance of a permit and/or during the time frame of the permit. Each application to possess live wildlife is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For more detailed information, see the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 10, Regulation for Importation, Possession, Confinement, Transportation, Sale and Disposition of Live Wildlife under the “Possession of Live Wildlife” section located on the Department’s website (<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>) via the “Regulations” link. Application forms may be downloaded from this site.

How do I get a Chapter 10 Permit



Applications are also available from your local game warden and Department regional offices. Applications should be submitted to your local game warden or fisheries biologist for initial approval. Game wardens and fisheries biologists can assist you with the application process. Please allow a few weeks for the processing of all permit applications. If a permit is required, it must be **in possession PRIOR to importation or possession of live wildlife**. Permit renewals for wildlife that will be in your possession after the existing permit expires shall be applied for at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the existing permit. If you have questions regarding the possession and/or importation of any species, please contact the nearest Department regional office for additional information.

While the Department may allow the possession or importation of various wildlife species, **local laws, ordinances, and covenants may be more restrictive**. It is your responsibility to comply with all local laws, ordinances and covenants before importing or possessing live wildlife.

Additionally, the Wyoming Livestock Board, Wyoming Department of Health, United State Fish and Wildlife Service, counties, municipalities and subdivisions have enacted further rules and regulations pertaining to the possession of wildlife. Contact these agencies directly for further information.

Note: All non-game wildlife used for any type of commercial use requires a Chapter 10 permit.

This brochure will not answer all questions, but provides basic guidelines and information regarding the complex issue of importing and possessing wildlife.

Additional permits may be required if live wildlife are used for other purposes, for example falconry (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 25*), scientific research / educational programs / special purpose (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 33*), or rehabilitation (*WGF Commission Regulation, Chapter 45*).

🐾 Wildlife Possession & *Importation Quick Reference Table 🐾

Note: This table includes typical Chapter 10 permit issuance results and is only for quick reference.

Applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

⊘ = Possession not permitted

Species (Common Name)	Possession Allowed?	Permit Required?	Notes (*Please check the United States Fish and Wildlife Service list of injurious wildlife for species prohibited from transportation between states)
Amphibians	Yes	No	Wyoming toads are prohibited from importation/ possession. Importation of non-native salamanders is prohibited. Other amphibians may be possessed/imported without a permit. Amphibians may not be imported for use as live fishing bait.
Badger, American	Yes	Yes	
Bats	Yes	Yes	
Bear, Black and Grizzly	No ⊘	N/A	
Beaver, North American	Yes	Yes	
Birds, Game (Also see "Mallard," below)	Yes	Yes	Wild turkeys are prohibited from importation/possession. Migratory game birds may require a US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit in conjunction with a state permit. The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Birds, Nongame	Yes	Yes	Requires a USFWS permit in conjunction with state permit
Birds, Other (rock pigeons, Eurasian collared-doves, and mute swans)	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Birds, Predacious (house sparrows and European starlings)	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Birds, Prohibited: monk parakeet (AKA Quaker parakeet); wild turkey	No ⊘	N/A	
Birds, Raptors	No ⊘	N/A	Possession may be permitted under other WGF Commission Regulations. Please check federal regulations.
Bobcat	Yes	Yes	
Camel, Domestic	Yes	No	The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Chinchilla	Yes	No	
Chipmunks	Yes	Yes	Least chipmunks may be possessed and do not require a permit unless imported.
Coatimundi	Yes	Yes	
Coyote	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Crustaceans	Yes	No	Please refer to WGF Commission Regulation Ch. 62, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), for prohibited species. May not be imported for use as live fishing bait.
Deer	No ⊘	N/A	All deer species, including reindeer, red deer are prohibited.
Duck, Muscovy	Yes	No	The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Elk	No ⊘	N/A	
Emu	Yes	No	The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Ferret, Black-footed	No ⊘	N/A	
Ferret, Domestic	Yes	No	
Fish, Game	No	N/A	May be permitted/licensed under other WGFD regulations.
Fish, Goldfish	Yes	No	Must be confined in aquaria.
Fish, Marine	Yes	No	Can only live in salt water. Must be confined in aquaria or reared in aquaponics not connected to waters of the state.
Fish, Nongame	Yes	Yes	Please refer to WGF Commission Regulation Ch. 62, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), for prohibited species.
Fish, Tropical	Yes	No	Defined as not being able to live in water temps below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Must be confined in aquaria or reared in aquaponics not connected to waters of the state. Please refer to WGF Commission Regulation Ch. 62, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), for prohibited species.
Fox, Red	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Gophers	Yes	Yes	Northern pocket gophers may be possessed and do not require a permit unless imported.
Ground Squirrels	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Hedgehog, Domestic	Yes	No	

Species (Common Name)	Possession Allowed?	Permit Required?	Notes
Jackrabbit	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Kangaroos / Wallabies	Yes	Yes	
Lion, Mountain	No ⊘	N/A	
Lynx	No ⊘	N/A	
Mallard, Domestic	Yes	No	Defined as morphologically distinct from wild mallards. The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Mallard, Captive-reared	Yes	Yes	Typically used for dog training.
Marmot	Yes	Yes	
Marten	Yes	Yes	
Mice, Native	Yes	Yes	House, northern grasshopper, western harvest and North American deer mouse may be possessed and do not require a permit unless imported.
Mink	Yes	Yes	
Moles	Yes	Yes	
Mollusks	Yes	No	Please refer to WGF Commission Regulation Ch. 62, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), for prohibited species. May not be imported for use as live fishing bait.
Monkeys	Yes	Yes	
Moose	No ⊘	N/A	
Muskrat	Yes	Yes	
Opossum, Virginia	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Ostrich	Yes	No	The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Otter, River	No ⊘	N/A	
Peccaries	No ⊘	N/A	
Pigs, Wild and other members of family Suidae	No ⊘	N/A	Prohibited, except domestic pigs and pot-bellied pigs. The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Pika	No ⊘	N/A	
Piranha	Yes	No	Must be confined to aquaria.
Porcupine, North American	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Prairie Dog	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Pronghorn	No ⊘	N/A	
Rabbit, Cottontail	Yes	Yes	
Rabbit, European	No ⊘	N/A	
Raccoon	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Rat, Norway	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.
Reptiles, Native	Yes	No	May not be imported for use as live fishing bait.
Reptiles, Non- native	Yes	No	Please check federal regulations for prohibited species. May not be imported for use as live fishing bait.
Rhea, Domestic	Yes	No	The Wyoming Livestock Board regulates domestic livestock and poultry.
Shrews	Yes	Yes	
Skunks	Yes	No	Importation prohibited by Animal Damage Management Board Rules.
Squirrels	Yes	Yes	
Sugar Glider	Yes	No	
Vicuna, Domestic	Yes	No	
Voles, Native	Yes	Yes	Meadow voles may be possessed and do not require a permit unless imported.
Weasels	Yes	Yes	
Wolves & Wolf Hybrids	No ⊘	N/A	
Wolverine	No ⊘	N/A	
Woodrat, Bushy- tailed	Yes	No (unless imported)	Do not require a permit unless imported.



Notes:

- All non-game wildlife used for any type of commercial use requires a Chapter 10 permit for possession.
- Common pets such as domestic varieties of dogs, cats, gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats, guinea pigs and ferrets are exempted from Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regulations.
- Please check with the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), at www.fws.gov/, prior to importing or possessing wildlife.
- Wildlife may carry toxins or diseases. Public display, where there is a possibility of exposure, may be regulated by the Wyoming Department of Health or federal agencies. Please check with a veterinarian for vaccination information.
- If wildlife is to be used for scientific research, education, or a special purpose that is deemed beneficial to conservation or management goals of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the wildlife may, upon approval, be possessed with a Chapter 33 permit.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MST)



Casper Regional Office	(307) 473-3400
Cheyenne Headquarters	(307) 777-4600
Cody Regional Office	(307) 527-7125
Green River Regional Office	(307) 875-3223
Jackson Regional Office	(307) 733-2321
Lander Regional Office	(307) 332-2688
Laramie Regional Office	(307) 745-4046
Pinedale Regional Office	(307) 367-4353
Sheridan Regional Office	(307) 672-7418

Additional Information

Animal Damage Management Board	(307) 777-6433
Wyoming Department of Health	(307) 777-7656
Wyoming Livestock Board	(307) 777-7515
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	(307) 772-2374

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

