

68A-6.007 Possession, Transportation, Exhibition and Caging Venomous Reptiles and Reptiles of Concern.

(1) Any person who keeps, possesses, exhibits or sells any venomous reptiles or reptile of concern shall comply with Sections 372.86, 372.87, 372.88, 372.92 and 327.921, F.S., and the provisions of this rule. The following reptiles, including any subspecies or hybrids thereof, are designated as reptiles of concern:

- (a) Indian or Burmese python (*Python molurus*)
- (b) Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*)
- (c) African rock python (*Python sebae*)
- (d) Amethystine or Scrub python (*Morelia amethystinus*)
- (e) Green anacondas (*Eunectes murinus*)
- (f) Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*)

(2) General qualifications: Applicants for authorization to possess venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall:

- (a) Be at least 18 years old at the time of application.
- (b) Not have been convicted of any violation of venomous reptile or reptile of concern or captive wildlife regulations involving unsafe housing of wildlife or that could potentially endanger the public; any violation involving the illegal commercialization of wildlife; any violation involving cruelty to animals; or any violation involving importation of wildlife within three (3) years of the date of application.

(c) Shall specify the location of the facility at which the venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall be maintained. Facilities for venomous reptiles shall be inspected and approved by Commission personnel prior to the issuance of the permit and placement of animals at the facility location.

(3) Experience requirements: Applicants for authorization to possess venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall meet the following experience requirements.

(a) Venomous reptiles: Any person or entity not currently permitted to possess or exhibit venomous reptiles must qualify for a permit by meeting the following criteria:

1. Applicants shall demonstrate no less than one (1) year of substantial practical experience (to consist of no less than 1,000 hours) in the care, feeding, handling and husbandry of the species or other species within the same biological family which are similar in characteristics and care to the species for which the permit is sought. For the purposes of demonstrating compliance, applicants shall submit documentation of such experience including:

- a. A description of the specific experience acquired.
- b. The dates the experience was obtained and the specific location(s) where acquired.
- c. References of no less than two (2) individuals, no more than one of which may be a relative of the applicant, having personal knowledge of the applicant's stated experience, one of which must be licensed by the commission for venomous reptiles of the same family for which the applicant is seeking authorization.
- d. Additional documentation may include records of prior permits for the keeping of venomous reptiles, employment records, and any other competent documentation of the requisite experience.

2. If the applicant is unable to document such experience, as an alternative the applicant may take a written examination. The successful completion of a written examination for the particular species or family, administered by the Division of Law Enforcement, together with the documentation of not less than 500 hours of substantial practical experience in the care, feeding, handling and husbandry of the species or family for which the permit is sought may be substituted for the one year/1,000-hour requirement. Applicants scoring at least 80 percent correct on the examination shall be deemed as meeting the examination requirement for the particular species or family.

3. Providing false information to document the applicant's experience, by the applicant or any reference, is prohibited as provided in Sections 837.012 and 837.06, F.S.

(b) Reptiles of concern: On or after January 1, 2008, any person or entity not currently permitted to possess reptiles of concern must qualify for a permit by including with the application a satisfactorily completed questionnaire developed by the Commission that assesses the applicant's knowledge of general husbandry, nutritional, and behavioral characteristic of the reptile of concern to be possessed.

(4) Facility requirements: All persons licensed to keep, possess, or exhibit venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall provide safe, secure and proper housing for said reptiles in cases, cages, pits or enclosures. It shall be unlawful for any person whether licensed or not to keep, possess, or exhibit any venomous reptile or reptile of concern in any manner not approved as safe, secure

and proper by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall be kept in cages, cases, pits or enclosures of the following specifications:

(a) Cage may be constructed of a variety of materials including: plate glass of at least one-quarter inch thickness, break-resistant plastic of similar strength, concrete reinforced with wire, sheet metal, molded fiberglass, plywood or interlocking lumber that has been treated to be impervious to moisture and is not less than one-half inch in thickness, or other materials which provide equivalent stability and security against escape and unauthorized intrusion. Cages and doors to cages shall be sealed. The doors of each cage shall be securely locked by a device operated by a key, combination, key card or other locking device approved by the commission to prevent unauthorized intrusion.

(b) A room or out building may contain venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern in cages that are not locked provided that such a room or out building is locked by a device operated by a key, combination, key card or other locking device approved by the Commission to prevent unauthorized intrusion, is inaccessible to unauthorized personnel, is constructed and maintained as to be escape-proof, and has been inspected and approved as conforming to these rules by Commission personnel prior to use. Any out building so used must be of strong construction with concrete or other suitable flooring and securely anchored to the ground. Such building shall be clearly posted at point of entry with a sign stating "Danger – Venomous Reptiles" or in the instance of nonvenomous reptiles of concern a sign stating "Danger – Dangerous Reptiles."

(c) Outdoor open-topped enclosures:

1. For venomous reptiles native to the United States, the floors of outdoor cages shall be of concrete or masonry construction at least two inches in thickness. Sides shall be of similar construction, at least eight inches in thickness, or strength equivalent, with a minimum height of four feet above the floor of the enclosure. Outdoor enclosures need not have concrete or masonry flooring if the enclosure meets the following additional specifications:

- a. The enclosure shall have concrete or masonry walls, at least eight inches in thickness, or strength equivalent.
- b. The enclosure shall have footers made of concrete, or strength equivalent, extending not less than three feet below the grade level, outside the perimeter.
- c. The corners of enclosure shall be designed or guarded to prevent the escape of reptiles by climbing.
- d. All landscaping of the enclosure shall be arranged to insure that vegetation or other structures do not allow for the escape of reptiles.

2. Entrance doors shall be kept securely locked on all outdoor enclosures to prevent escape and unauthorized intrusion and the enclosure shall be equipped with barriers to prevent visitors from falling into enclosures that are constructed below ground level.

3. For venomous reptile species and reptiles of concern not native to the United States, all outdoor enclosures shall be topped with close-meshed wire or an equivalent barrier to provide additional security.

4. Enclosures shall meet the minimum standard caging size requirements as specified in Rule 68A-6.004, F.A.C.

5. Facilities housing venomous reptiles shall maintain bite or exposure protocols for the species of venomous reptiles possessed and have a visible cage enclosure identification system identifying the venomous reptiles housed or maintained on the premises.

a. Bite or Exposure Protocol: Facilities or premises where venomous reptiles are housed or maintained shall have posted on the premises a venomous reptile bite protocol. Such protocol shall include: identification of the species by common and scientific name, emergency contact information, type of antivenin required for treatment of bites or exposures from the species housed or maintained, a plan of action to be taken in the event of a bite or exposure, and location of antivenin if stored on premises. In lieu of antivenin on premises contact information shall be provided for an antivenin bank or medical facility that maintains antivenin for the species possessed. Such protocol shall be clearly visible and posted in the room, building or other structure and in close proximity to where venomous reptiles are housed or maintained.

b. Cage Enclosure Identification System: Each cage or enclosure housing venomous reptiles shall be clearly marked with a card or sign clearly stating "Danger Venomous Reptile" and identifying the species contained therein by common and scientific name. Such card or sign shall be clearly visible. A card or sign shall accompany the venomous reptile when it is removed from the cage or enclosure for handling or transport purposes.

(d) Facilities with one or more licensee at the same facility location may not commingle their respective live venomous reptile or reptile of concern inventories. All cages or enclosures must be clearly identified or visibly marked with the name of the licensee or other identifier to facilitate inventory inspections.

(5) Inspection: Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern held in captivity are subject to inspection by commission personnel. Commission personnel shall determine whether the said reptiles are securely, properly and safely housed. In the event that the

reptiles are not safely housed, commission personnel shall report the situation in writing to the person possessing or exhibiting such reptiles. Failure of the possessor or exhibitor to correct the situation within 30 days after such written notice shall be grounds for revocation of the license or permit.

(6) No person except the licensee or his or her authorized employee shall open any cage, pit, or other container which contains venomous reptiles.

(7) Transporting: Any person transporting venomous reptiles shall comply with Section 372.86, F.S., and the provisions of this rule. Venomous reptiles shall be placed in a stout closely woven cloth sack, tied or otherwise secured. In lieu of a stout closely woven cloth sack, the venomous reptile may be contained in a trap or box of solid construction which is locked or otherwise secured. The sack, trap or box shall then be placed in a box. The box shall be of strong material in solid sheets, except for small air holes which shall be screened. Boxes containing venomous reptiles shall be prominently labeled "Danger – Venomous Reptiles."

(8) Disaster and Critical Incident Plans: Applicants for permits to possess venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern in captivity shall document in writing a course of action to be taken in preparation for disasters or critical incidents. Such course of action shall be documented on the Captive Wildlife Critical Incident/Disaster Plan form FWCDLE_619 (02-06), which is adopted and incorporated herein by reference. Forms may be obtained by submitting a request to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, or at www.myfwc.com/permits. This form shall consist of two parts. Part A of form FWCDLE_619 shall be submitted at the time of initial application or renewal; and Part B shall be retained on file at the facility location and be made available for inspection upon request of Commission personnel.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.86, 372.92, 372.921 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.86, 372.87, 372.88, 372.92, 372.921 FS. History–New 1-1-08, Amended 1-8-08.

68A-6.0071 Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements.

Any person who possesses any live venomous reptile or reptile of concern shall have a permit issued in accordance with Section 372.86, 372.921 or 372.922, F.S., and comply with the provisions of this rule, Rule 68A-6.007, F.A.C., and if applicable Rule 68A-6.0072, F.A.C.

(1) Record Keeping:

Possessors shall maintain an accurate record of all changes in inventory including births, deaths, acquisitions, sales and transfers of all venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern. Such records shall be kept on the licensed premises on a Captive Wildlife Inventory-Reptile form, FWCDLE_620IV-R (12-06), which is adopted and incorporated herein by reference. Forms may be obtained by submitting a request to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, or at www.myfwc.com/permits. Such records shall be open to inspection upon request by commission personnel.

(a) Records of births or deaths shall include the date of the birth or death; and the quantity and species of each birth or death. For the purposes of this section “birth” shall be defined as the initial hatch or live birth date for the clutch.

(b) Records of acquisition shall include the date of acquisition; quantity and species of reptiles acquired; method of identification and unique passive integrated transponder (PIT tag) number, if applicable, for each specimen; name and complete address of supplier; and license identification number of supplier where applicable.

(c) Records of sale or transfer shall include the date of sale or transfer; quantity and species of reptiles sold or transferred; method of identification and unique passive integrated transponder (PIT tag) number, if applicable, of each specimen sold or transferred; and the license identification number of the recipient where applicable.

(2) Reporting:

(a) Persons exhibiting or selling live venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern in accordance with Section 372.86 or 372.921, F.S., shall complete a Captive Wildlife Inventory-Reptile form, FWCDLE_620IV-R (12-06), and submit same to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, upon annual renewal of license and six months thereafter.

(b) Persons possessing any live venomous reptile in accordance with Section 372.86, F.S., or any live reptile of concern in accordance with Section 372.922, F.S., for personal use shall complete a Captive Wildlife Inventory-Reptile form, FWCDLE_620IV-R (12-06), and submit same to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, upon annual renewal of license and upon any instance of inventory change.

(c) Persons operating in accordance with Rule 68A-6.0011, F.A.C., are exempt from these reporting requirements.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.92, 372.921, 372.922 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.86, 372.87, 372.88, 372.89, 372.90, 372.901, 372.91, 372.92, 372.921, 372.922 FS. History—New 1-1-08.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
CAPTIVE WILDLIFE INVENTORY – REPTILES (FWCDLE_620IV–R)

This form is to be completed and submitted upon annual renewal of the License to Sell or Exhibit Class III Wildlife and again six months thereafter. A reporting period shall consist of six months. Each report will include requested data from the previous six months.

Data shall include the total number of births, deaths, acquisitions and sales or transfers that occurred during the reporting period for each reptile of concern and each non-native venomous reptile, including subspecies or hybrids thereof. Data for non-native venomous reptiles, including subspecies or hybrids thereof, shall be entered according to the biological family to which the species belongs. **DO NOT** include data for species of

1. **REPORTING PERIOD:** Enter reporting period in a MM - MM/YYYY format.
2. **LICENSEE NAME:** Enter full name as indicated on the License to Sell or Exhibit Class III Wildlife.
3. **BUSINESS NAME:** Enter Business name, if applicable, as indicated on the License to Sell or Exhibit Class III Wildlife.
4. **LICENSE TYPE:** Enter the three letter code for the license type (as indicated below), or select the license type from the drop down menu if filing electronically.
 - ESC (License to Sell or Exhibit Class III Wildlife)
 - VRL (Venomous Reptile License)
5. **LICENSE ID NUMBER:** Enter the nine digit ID Number as indicated on the license that corresponds to the license type.
6. **BIRTHS:** Enter the total number of specimens born during the reporting period.
7. **DEATHS:** Enter the total number of specimens that died during the reporting period.
8. **ACQUISITION:**
 - **IN STATE:** Enter the total number of specimens that were acquired from entities or suppliers within the state of Florida. This does not include the number of specimens produced (born) at your facility.
 - **OUT OF STATE:** Enter the total number of specimens that were acquired from entities or suppliers outside of the state of Florida or the Continental United States during the reporting period.
9. **SALES OR TRANSFERS:**
 - **IN STATE:** Enter total number of specimens sold or otherwise transferred to entities within the state Florida.
 - **OUT OF STATE:** Enter the total number of specimens sold or otherwise transferred to entities outside of the state of Florida or the Continental
10. **CURRENT INVENTORY:**
 - In addition to this change of inventory form a complete inventory of the numbers and species of all wildlife possessed shall accompany any initial or renewal application for licensure.



**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**



CAPTIVE WILDLIFE INVENTORY – REPTILES

Reporting Period: _____ - _____

Licensee Name

License Type

License ID #

License Type

License ID #

Business Name

	BIRTHS	DEATHS	ACQUISITION		SALES OR TRANSFERS	
			IN-STATE	OUT OF STATE	IN-STATE	OUT OF STATE
REPTILE OF CONCERN						
Indian or Burmese Python (<i>Python molaras</i>)						
Reticulated Python (<i>Python reticulatus</i>)						
African Rock Python (<i>Python sebae</i>)						
Amethystine or Scrub Python (<i>Morelia amethystinus</i>)						
Green Anaconda (<i>Eunectes marinus</i>)						
Nile Monitor (<i>Varanus niloticus</i>)						

VENOMOUS REPTILES (NON-NATIVE ONLY)						
Crotalidae						
Viperidae						
Elapidae						
Colubridae						
Helodermatidae						

A copy must be retained for inspection by Commission personnel