



## INSTRUCTIONS WILDLIFE IMPORTATION PERMIT

Fee: \$15

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** NRS 503.597  
NAC 503.110 through 503.140 inclusive; 503.220, 503.515, 530.530, 530.535, 503.360

**PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:** It is unlawful, except by under the authority of an Importation Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife, for any person at any time to receive, bring or have brought or shipped into the State of Nevada any aquatic life, wildlife, spawn, eggs or young of any of them, except as provided in NAC.140.

**HEALTH CERTIFICATES:** Valid certificates of veterinary inspection (official health certificate) must accompany all shipments of wildlife, except those specifically exempted by NAC 503.140. This exception does not relieve an individual from complying with the health testing requirements established by the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Any shipment of live fish must be from an authorized facility in which a disease free certificate is on file with the Department.

Copies of the approved health certificates must be forwarded to: State Veterinarian 350 Capitol Hill Ave, Reno, NV 89502 and the office of the Nevada Department of Wildlife that will issue the importation permit.

**PERMIT PERIOD:** Unless specifically requested otherwise by the applicant, the import period, not exceeding thirty days, will begin on the date the importation permit is issued. The importation must occur within 30 days after the date of issuance of the health certificate.

**WHERE TO OBTAIN APPLICATION:** Application for an Importation Permit may be obtained from any office of the Nevada Department of Wildlife or on the website at [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org) under the License Office section.

**DENIAL OF APPLICATION:** Whenever an application is denied, the Department shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason for the denial.

### **PERTINENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS**

**NRS 503.597 Introduction or removal of aquatic life or wildlife: Approval required; investigation; regulations.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful, except by the written consent and approval of the Department, for any person at anytime to receive, bring or have brought or shipped into this State, or remove from one stream or body of water in this State to any other, or from one portion of the State to any other, or to any other state, any aquatic life, wildlife, spawn, eggs or young of any of them.

2. The Department shall require an applicant to conduct an investigation to confirm that such an introduction or removal will not be detrimental to the wildlife or the habitat of wildlife in this State. Written consent and approval of the Department may be given only if the results of the investigation prove that the introduction, removal or importation will not be detrimental to existing aquatic life, wildlife, spawn, eggs or young of any of them.

3. The Commission may through appropriate regulation provide for the inspection of such introduced or removed creatures and the inspection fees therefor.

4. The Commission may adopt regulations to prohibit the importation, transportation or possession of any species of wildlife which the Commission deems to be detrimental to the wildlife or the habitat of the wildlife in this State.

5. The provisions of this section do not apply to alternative livestock and products made therefrom.

**NAC 503.110 Restrictions on importation, transportation and possession of certain species.** 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 504.486, the importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 504.486, the importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited

(a) Fish:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Classification</b>
(1) Lampreys.....	All species in the family Petromyzontidae
(2) Freshwater stingray.....	All species in the family Potamotrygonidae
(3) Freshwater shark.....	All species in the genus <i>Carcharhinus</i>
(4) Bowfin.....	<i>Amia calva</i>
(5) Gars.....	All species in the family Lepisosteidae
(6) Herring and shad, except threadfin shad.....	All species in the family Clupeidae, except <i>Dorosoma petenense</i>
(7) European Whitefish.....	All species in the genus <i>Leuciscus</i>
(8) Mexican banded tetra.....	<i>Astyanax mexicanus</i>
(9) Piranhas.....	All species in the genera <i>Serrasalmus</i> , <i>Serrasalmo</i> , <i>Pygocentrus</i> , <i>Teddyella</i> , <i>Rooseveltiella</i> and <i>Pygopristis</i>
(10) South American Parasitic Catfish.....	All species in the families Cetopsidae and Trichomycteridae
(11) White perch.....	<i>Morone americana</i>
(12) Freshwater drum.....	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i>
(13) Grass carp, except certified triploids as authorized by a special permit....	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
(14) Pike top minnow.....	<i>Belonesox belizanus</i>
(15) Snakehead.....	All species in the genera <i>Ophicephalus</i> and <i>Channa</i>
(16) Walking catfish.....	All species in the genera <i>Clarias</i> , <i>Heteropneustes</i> and <i>Dinotopterus</i>
(17) Tiger fish.....	<i>Hoplias malabaricus</i>
(18) Sticklebacks.....	All species in the genera <i>Apeltes</i> , <i>Eucalia</i> , <i>Gasterosteus</i> and <i>Pungitius</i>
(19) Tilapia.....	All species in the genera <i>Tilapia</i> and <i>Sarotherodon</i>
(20) Nile perch.....	All species in the genera <i>Lates</i> and <i>Luciolates</i>
(21) Goldeye.....	All species in the genus <i>Hiodon</i>
(22) Carp:	
(I) Bighead.....	<i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i>
(II) Black (snail).....	<i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i>
(III) Crucian.....	<i>Carassius carassius</i>
(IV) Indian.....	<i>Catla catla</i> , <i>Cirrhina mrigala</i> and <i>Labeo rohita</i>
(V) Silver.....	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>
(23) Rudd.....	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>
(24) Northern Pike.....	<i>Esox lucius</i>

(b) Reptiles:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Classification</b>
(1) Alligators and caimans.....	All species in the family Alligatoridae
(2) Crocodiles.....	All species in the family Crocodylidae
(3) Gharial (gavial).....	All species in the family Gavialidae
(4) Bird snake.....	All species in the genus <i>Thelotornis</i>
(5) Boomslang.....	<i>Dispholidus typus</i>
(6) Keelbacks.....	All species in the genus <i>Rhabdophis</i>
(7) Burrowing Asps.....	All species in the family Atractaspidae
(8) Coral snakes, cobras, kraits, mambas and Australian elapids.....	All species in the family Elapidae, except species in the subfamily Hydrophiinae
(9) Pit vipers and true vipers, except species indigenous to this state.....	All species in the family Viperidae, except species indigenous to this State
(10) Snapping Turtles.....	All species in the family Chelydridae

(c) Amphibians:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Classification</b>
(1) Clawed frogs.....	All species in the genus <i>Xenopus</i>
(2) Giant or marine toads.....	<i>Bufo horribilis</i> , <i>Bufo marinus</i> and <i>Bufo paracnemis</i>

(d) Mammals:

**Common Name**

- (1) Wild Dogs or Dhole.....
- (2) Raccoon Dog.....
- (3) Mongooses and Meerkats.....
  
- (4) Wild European Rabbit.....
- (5) Multimammate Rat or Mouse.....
- (6) Bats.....
- (7) Nutria.....
- (8) Coyote.....
- (9) Foxes.....
  
- (10) Raccoon.....
- (11) Skunk.....
  
- (12) Wild pigs and hogs.....
  
- (13) Axis deer.....
  
- (14) Red deer, elk and wapiti.....
  
  
- (15) Rusa deer.....
- (16) Sambar deer.....
- (17) Sika deer.....
- (18) Roe deer.....
- (19) White-tailed deer.....
- (20) Moose.....
- (21) Reedbucks.....
- (22) Oryx and Gemsbok.....
- (23) Addax.....
- (24) Blesbok, Topi and Bontebok.....
- (25) Hartebeests.....
- (26) Wildebeest and Gnus.....
- (27) Chamois.....
- (28) Tahr.....
- (29) Ibex, Wild Goats, Tur and Markhor.....
  
- (30) Barbary (Aoudad) Sheep.....
- (31) Mouflon sheep, Urial, Bighorn and Argali.....

**Scientific Classification**

- Cuon alpinus*
- Nyctereutes procyonoides*
- All species in the genera *Atilax*, *Cynictis*, *Helogale*, *Mungos*, *Suricate*, *Ichneumia* and *Herpestes*
- Oryctolagus cuniculus*
- All species in the genus *Mastomys* (= *Praomys*)
- All species in the order Chiroptera
- Myocastor coypus*
- Canis latrans*
- All species in the genera *Vulpes*, *Fennecus*, *Urocyon*, *Alopex*, *Lycalopex* and *Pseudalopex*
- Procyon lotor*
- All species in the genera *Spilogale*, *Mephitis* and *Conepatus*
- All species in the family Suidae, except domestic breeds of *Sus scrofa*
- Cervus (Axis) axis*, *C. porcinus*, *C. kuhli* and *C. calamianensis*
- All subspecies of *Cervus elaphus*, except those members of *C. elaphus nelsoni* which are alternative livestock, as that term is defined in NRS 501.003
- Cervus timorensis*
- Cervus unicolor*
- Cervus nippon*
- Capreolus capreolus* and *C. pygargus*
- Odocoileus virginianus*
- Alces alces*
- All species in the genus *Redunca*
- All species in the genus *Oryx*
- Addax nasomaculatus*
- All species in the genus *Damaliscus*
- All species in the genera *Alcelaphus* and *Sigmoceros*
- All species in the genus *Connochaetes*
- Rupicapra rupicapra* and *R. pyrenaica*
- All species in the genus *Hemitragus*
- All species in the genus *Capra*, except domestic goats, *Capra hircus*
- Ammotragus lervia*
- All species in the genus *Ovis*, except domestic sheep, *Ovis aries*

(e) Birds:

**Common Name**

- (1) Pink Starling or Rosy Pastor.....
- (2) Red-billed Dioch.....
- (3) Red-whiskered Bulbul.....

**Scientific Classification**

- Sturnus roseus*
- Quelea quelea*
- Pycnonotus jocosus*

(f) Crustaceans:

**Common Name**

- (1) Asiatic mitten crab.....
- (2) Crayfish.....

**Scientific Classification**

- Eriocheir sinensis*
- All species in the families Parastacidae, Cambaridae and Astacidae, except *Procambarus clarkii*, *Orconectes causeyi* and indigenous species of the genus *Pacifastacus*

(g) Mollusks:

**Common Name**

- (1) African giant snail.....
- (2) Zebra and quagga mussel.....
- (3) New Zealand mud snail.....

**Scientific Classification**

- Achatina fulica*
- All species in the genus *Dreissena*
- Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, *P. jenkinsi*

2. The headquarters of the Department and each regional office of the Department will maintain a physical description and picture of each species listed in this section when reasonably available.

3. The Department may issue a scientific permit for the collection or possession of wildlife or a commercial license for the possession of live wildlife, whichever is applicable, for the importation, transportation or possession of a species listed in this section only to:

- (a) A zoo or aquarium which is an accredited institutional member of the Zoological Association of America, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or their successors.
- (b) A person who displays, exhibits or uses the species for entertainment or commercial photography, including, without limitation, motion pictures, still photography or television, if the species:
  - (1) Is accompanied by evidence of lawful possession;
  - (2) Is not in this state for more than 90 days; and
  - (3) Is maintained under complete control and prohibited from coming into contact with members of the general public.

If the person is displaying, exhibiting or using mammals for commercial purposes other than for food or fiber, he must possess the appropriate license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

- (c) A college, university or governmental agency, for scientific or public health research.
- (d) Any other scientific institution, as determined by the Department, for research or medical necessity.
- (e) Any person engaged in commercial aquaculture, upon application and proof to the Department that the activity will not be detrimental to aquatic life, other wildlife or recreational uses. As a condition of the issuance to such a person of a commercial license for the possession of a species listed in this section, a bond may be required to provide for the removal of any species to which the licenses applies that may escape or be released from captivity for any reason. The amount of the bond will be determined by the Department after considering the degree of potential hazard to wildlife.
- (f) A tax-exempt nonprofit organization that exhibits wildlife solely for educational or scientific purposes.

4. An interstate shipment of a species listed in this section may be transported through this State, without a permit or license issued by the Department, if:

- (a) The shipper or transporter has evidence of lawful possession of the species issued by the state or country where the species originated;
- (b) Mammals, birds or fish are accompanied by a health certificate issued by the state or country where the species originated that indicates the destination, origin and proof of ownership of the species being transported;
- (c) The species is in this State for less than 48 hours; and
- (d) The species is not unloaded or otherwise released while being transported through this State.

5. This section does not apply to the Department when it is conducting authorized introductions or transplantations of a native species of big game mammal listed in this section.

**NAC 503.120 Import eligibility permit: Issuance; use.** A commercial dealer in pets, aquarium fish and other wildlife may apply to the Department for an annual import eligibility permit. If the application is approved, the dealer will be issued an import number which he shall affix to each shipment of pets, aquarium fish or wildlife he imports, in lieu of obtaining an individual importation permit.

**NAC 503.130 Inspection of imported wildlife; Notification by Department.** The Department will notify a person permitted to import wildlife of the time and place of inspection of imported wildlife subject to inspection.

**NAC 503.135 Permit to release wildlife. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#))**

1. An application for a permit to release wildlife must be made on a form provided by and available from the Department at its office in Reno, Fallon, Elko or Las Vegas.

2. An applicant for a permit to release wildlife must include on the application:

- (a) The name of the applicant;
  - (b) The physical and mailing address of his residence;
  - (c) The telephone number of his residence;
  - (d) His driver's license number, if he has been issued a driver's license;
  - (e) The name of the owner of the property where the wildlife is to be released;
  - (f) The address and legal description of the property where the wildlife is to be released;
  - (g) The species of each type of wildlife and the number of each such type of species to be released.
  - (h) The purpose for the release;
  - (i) The date on which the wildlife is to be released;
  - (j) The location or source from which the applicant has acquired, or will acquire, the wildlife to be released;
- and
- (k) The applicant's signature and the date on which he signed the application.

3. If the Department determines, based on its evaluation of the application, that the condition of the wildlife to be released could pose potential harm to the existing wildlife of this state if released, the Department will require the applicant to submit to the Department a certificate of health issued by a licensed veterinarian or a fish pathologist approved by the Department, as appropriate, attesting to the health of the wildlife to be released.

4. Based on its evaluation of the application for a permit to release wildlife, the Department may make such stipulations and conditions on the use and scope of a permit as the Department determines appropriate. A violation of a stipulation or condition is cause for the cancellation of the permit.

**NAC 503.140 Species for which certain permits and licenses are not required: Specification; release; sale; exceptions.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 and [NAC 503.500](#) to [503.535](#), inclusive, the following animals may be possessed, transported, imported and exported without a permit or license issued by the Department:

- (a) Canaries;
- (b) Toucans;
- (c) Lovebirds;
- (d) Nonindigenous house finches;
- (e) Parakeets;
- (f) Cockatiels;
- (g) Mynah birds;
- (h) Parrots;
- (i) Hamsters;
- (j) Domesticated races of rats and mice;
- (k) Gerbils;
- (l) Guinea pigs;
- (m) Monkeys and other primates;
- (n) Aquarium fish;
- (o) Marsupials;
- (p) Elephants;
- (q) All felines, except mountain lions and bobcats;
- (r) Wolves;
- (s) Camels (*Camelus* spp.);
- (t) European ferret (*Mustela putorius*);
- (u) Llamas (*Lama glama*);
- (v) American Bison;
- (w) Marine mammals;
- (x) Ostrich (*Struthio* spp.);
- (y) Emus (*Dromiceius* spp.);
- (z) Rheas (*Rhea* spp.);
- (aa) Nonvenomous, nonindigenous reptile species and subspecies;
- (bb) Albino forms of indigenous reptile species;
- (cc) Alpaca (*Lama pacos*);
- (dd) Guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*);
- (ee) Old World species of pheasants, partridges, quails, francolin, peafowl and jungle fowl (nonendemic species of the subfamily *Phasianae*), except:
  - (1) Chukar partridge;
  - (2) Hungarian (gray) partridge;
  - (3) Snow cock; and
  - (4) Ring-necked and white, winged pheasant;
- (ff) Domesticated races of turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), distinguished morphologically from wild birds;
- (gg) Domesticated races of ducks and geese (*Anatidae*), distinguished morphologically from wild birds;
- (hh) Domesticated races of chinchillas;
- (ii) Domesticated races of mink;
- (jj) Waterfowl reared in captivity that are lawfully acquired pursuant to the regulations adopted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- (kk) Those species of ducks, geese and swans not listed as protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 et seq.;
- (ll) Yak (*Bos grunniens*);
- (mm) Cassowary;
- (nn) Coturnix quail (*Coturnix coturnix*);

- (oo) Zebra (*Equus spp.*);
- (pp) Salt water fish, crustaceans and mollusks;
- (qq) Nonindigenous species of amphibians, except:
  - (1) Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*); and
  - (2) Species listed in [NAC 503.110](#);
- (rr) African pygmy hedgehogs (*Atelerix albiventris*); and
- (ss) California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getulus californiae*) that do not have between their head and vent a continuous pattern of bands or rings regardless of whether the bands or rings are opened or closed.

2. Species listed in this section must not be released into the wild, except as otherwise authorized by the Department in writing.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, lawfully acquired species listed in this section may be sold in Nevada.

4. This section does not authorize the sale, possession, transportation, importation or exportation of animals in violation of any applicable federal or state law, county or city ordinance, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

5. As used in this section, "aquarium fish" includes all the species of fish, except the species listed in [NAC 503.110](#), which are listed in H. Axelrod and W. Vorderwinkler, *Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes*, 29th ed., 1988. A copy of that publication may be obtained from T.F.H. Publications, Inc., One T.F.H. Plaza, Neptune City, New Jersey 07753, for a price of \$17.59.

**NAC 503.220 Introduction into or removal from State of raptors.**

1. It is unlawful, except by the written consent and approval of the Department, for any person at any time to receive, bring, or have brought or shipped into the State of Nevada, or to remove from one portion of this State to any other portion or to any other state, any raptor or any eggs or young of any raptor.

2. Any person who holds a valid falconry license which is issued by the Department and lists the raptors in his possession may bring into this State or remove to any other state any raptor listed on the license without having a permit for importation or exportation if a numbered marker which is supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Department, as appropriate, and which is not reusable, is attached to the raptor.

3. A person who is a resident of another state and who holds a valid falconry license issued by the appropriate agency of that state may bring into or remove from this State a raptor in his possession under the authority of that falconry license without having a permit for the importation or exportation of a raptor issued by the Department if a numbered marker which is supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the appropriate agency of the state which issued the license if required, as appropriate, and which is not reusable, is attached to the raptor.

4. A raptor taken from the wild in Nevada by a resident of this state may not be permanently removed from this State unless the:

- (a) Resident holds a valid license issued by the Department pursuant to [NRS 503.583](#) and leaves this State to establish his domicile in another state; or
- (b) Raptor has been held for at least 1 year.

**WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION AND FEES**

The completed application with the required fee may be submitted to any office of the Nevada Department of Wildlife or to Wildlife Agents located in some of the rural communities.

Western Region

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
 Special Licenses and Permits  
 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV 89512  
 Telephone: (775) 688-1500  
 Counties: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe

Southern Region

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
 4747 Vegas Dr.; Las Vegas, NV 89108  
 Telephone: (702) 486-5127  
 Counties: Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye

Eastern Region

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
 60 Youth Center Road; Elko, NV 89801  
 Telephone: (775) 777-2300  
 Counties: Elko, Eureka, Lander, White Pine