



INSTRUCTIONS PERMIT FOR THE RELEASE OF LIVE WILDLIFE

Fee: None

LEGAL AUTHORITY: **NRS 501.105, 503.597, 504.245**
 NAC 503.135, 503.140, Chapters 503 and 504 of NAC

“Wildlife” DEFINED: Under Nevada wildlife law, “wildlife” means any wild mammal, wild bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk, or crustacean found naturally in a wild state, whether indigenous to Nevada or not and whether raised in captivity or not.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: Any person who introduces or releases wildlife into the state is required, by law, to obtain the written consent and approval of the Department prior to the release or introduction. A “release permit” is required whenever a release is not specifically authorized under the authority of another type license or permit issued to the applicant by the Department. Such license or permit types might include: Private or commercial shooting preserve; importation; dog or falcon training; possession of live wildlife; competitive field trials; or certified triploid grass carp.

WHERE TO OBTAIN APPLICATIONS: An application is available at any office of the Department of Wildlife.

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

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS

SOURCE OF WILDLIFE TO BE RELEASED: Wildlife must be obtained from lawful sources such as commercial or private breeders holding proper licenses. A separate importation permit may be required for shipments from outside the state.

UNAUTHORIZED RELEASES: Any species of wildlife that is released from confinement without the prior written authorization of the Department may be captured, seized, or destroyed by the Department if the Department determines that such actions are necessary to protect wildlife and the habitat of wildlife in this state. The owner or possessor of such released wildlife is liable for the costs incurred by the Department to capture, maintain, and dispose of the wildlife and for any damage caused by the wildlife. It is unlawful to release wildlife without the written authorization of the Department.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES: If the Department determines that the condition of the wildlife to be released could pose potential harm to the existing wildlife of this state, the applicant will be required to submit a health certificate issued by a license veterinarian or a fish pathologist approved by the Department, as appropriate, attesting to the health of the wildlife to be released.

PERMITS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE: Only the person named on the permit is authorized to conduct activities authorized by the permit.

PERMIT CANCELLATION: A violation of a stipulation is cause for the cancellation of the permit.

PERMIT EXPIRATION: The permit expires immediately upon release of the wildlife, unless indicated otherwise.

PERTINENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

NRS 503.597 Importation or exportation of 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 503.135 Permit to release wildlife: Application; contents; certificate of health; special conditions; cancellation.

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.

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION AND FEES

An application will be accepted at any Department office, however, as a rule, the application is approved by the appropriate bureau (game or fish) in Reno. Address and mail your application to the following Department office:

For fish and aquatic species:
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Fisheries Bureau
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

For birds and terrestrial species:
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Game Bureau
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

Phone Numbers:
Western Region (Fallon) (775) 423-3171
Eastern Region (Elko) (775) 777-2300
Southern Region (Las Vegas) (702) 486-5127
Headquarters (775) 688-1500