




Briefing on Proposed Rules Pertaining to Wild Animals, Subject 391-4-8

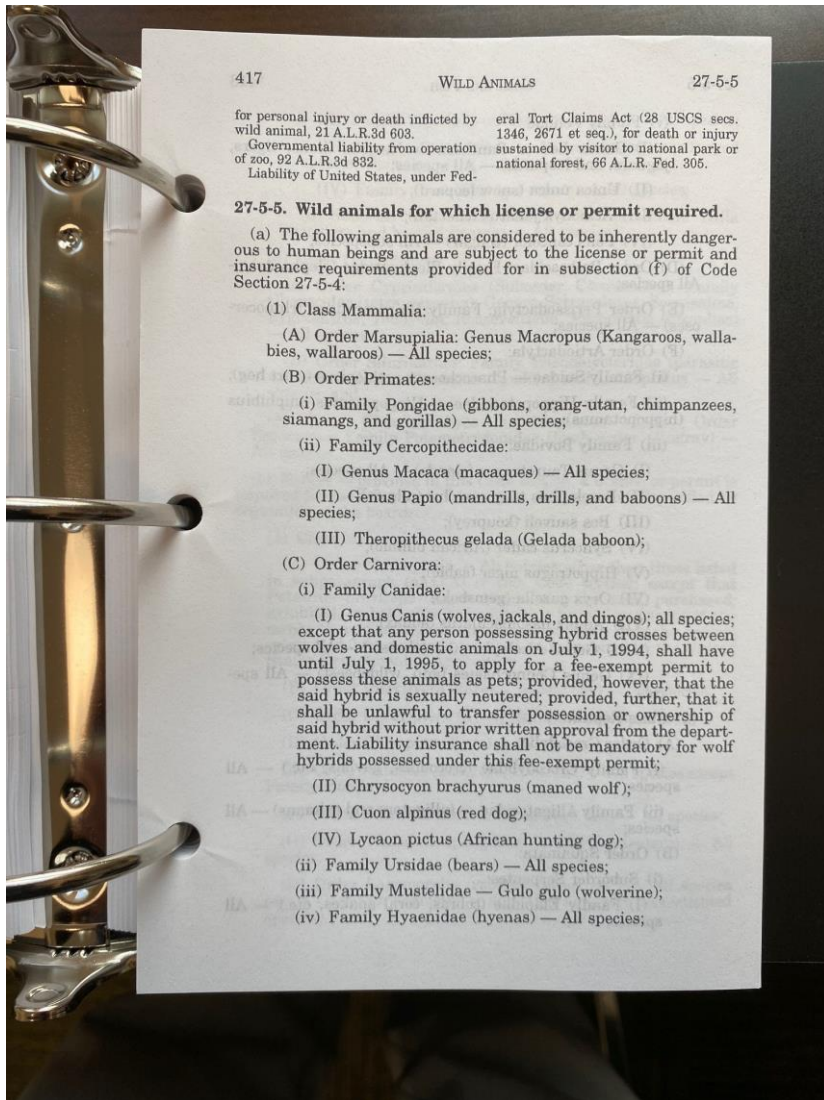


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Board of Natural Resources Meeting
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
August 23, 2022

Background

- **27-1-2 (75):** “Wild Animal” means any animal which is not wildlife and is not normally a domestic species in the state.
- **27-5-1.** “ The importation, transportation, sale, transfer, and possession of wild animals are privileges not to be granted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such actions can be accomplished in a manner that does not pose unnecessary risk to Georgia’s wildlife and other natural resources or the citizens of and visitors to this state”
 - Harmful competition for wildlife
 - The introduction of disease or pests harmful to wildlife
 - Problems of enforcing laws and regulations relative to wildlife
 - Threatening wildlife or other natural resources
 - Endangering the physical safety of human beings

Current Wild Animal List (27-5-5)



- 104 groups of species are listed
- Inherently Dangerous Wild Animals (Requires license and liability insurance)
- All other Wild Animals (Requires license only)

Regulatory Roles

Department

- LED Issues Wild Animal Licenses and Permits as described in 27-5-4
- Wholesale or Retail Wild Animal Business
- Scientific or Educational Purposes
- Licensed facilities are inspected every 2-3 years
- Currently ~ 100 organizations/individuals with licenses/permits

Board of Natural Resources

- **27-5-2. (b)** The board is specifically authorized to **supplement** the list of wild animals set forth in this chapter...
- The board also has the authority to prohibit wild animals

Justification and Approach

- Has not been updated since 1994
- Scientific name changes creating confusion
- Many invasive species groups not covered on Wild Animal List are being introduced and established in Georgia
- Proposed rules supplement the current list of wild animals and lists them all in single subject under authority of the DNR Board
- Developed by species experts from WRD and CRD, WRD HQ staff, LED Special Permit Unit, with input from Georgia Dept. of Ag.
 - Reviewed invasive species literature
 - Reviewed invasive species regulated in nearby states

Proposed Rules

- Increases Wild Animal list from 104 to 133 groups of species
- Mammals
 - Prohibited: Mongoose
 - Inherently Dangerous: Expanded to include all non-domestic cat species
- Birds
 - Prohibited: Monk Parakeet and Purple Swamphen
- Reptiles
 - Inherently Dangerous: Mole Vipers
 - License: Added 6 species (2 pythons, 2 lizards, and 2 turtles)

Argentine Black and White Tegu (License)



[HUNTING](#) [FISHING](#) [BOATING](#) [BUY A LICENSE](#) [REGISTER A BOAT](#) [PROPERTIES](#) [EDUCATION](#) [BLOG](#)



Argentine Black and White Tegus



Invasive Lizards Threaten Native Georgia Wildlife

DNR and partners are working to eradicate a wild population of Argentine black and white tegus in Toombs and Tattnall counties in southeast Georgia.

- Established in Toombs and Tattnall counties, spreading elsewhere
- Omnivores that include eggs of tortoises and ground nesting birds in their diets
- Existing owners can keep their pets by tagging them and registering them with LED

Proposed Rules (continued)

- Amphibians—No Changes
- Fishes
 - Prohibited:
 - 3 carp species
 - Wels Catfish
 - All species of Snakeheads
 - Nile Perch and Barramundi
 - Inherently Dangerous: Added Stonefishes, Weever Fishes and Electric Eels
 - License:
 - Arapaima
 - Trahiras
 - Goonch Catfishes
 - Swamp Eels

Proposed Rules (continued)

- Invertebrates
 - Prohibited:
 - Dreissenidae (Zebra mussels and relatives)
 - Marbled Crayfish
 - Inherently Dangerous:
 - 5 groups of scorpions
 - License:
 - All families of crayfishes (except 3 species in food/aquarium trade)
 - Apple, Assassin, and Asian Mystery Snails
 - Penaeid Shrimps (exception for human consumption)
 - Four families and 2 genera of freshwater mussels
 - All other freshwater and marine invertebrates not held in aquaria or tanks

Marbled Crayfish (Prohibited)

HOME / FRESHWATER CRAYFISH / SELF-CLONING MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILES - AQUATIC ARTS



SELF-CLONING MARMORKREB CRAYFISH (PROCAMBARUS FALLAX CF. VIRGINALIS) - TANK-BRED!

Sold Out

Choose a Variant:

1 B-GRADE MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILE

1 MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILE

3 MARMORKREB CRAYFISH

[Notify me when available](#)

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The Self-Cloning Marmorkreb Crayfish (*Procamburus fallax* cf. *virginalis*, although this is a temporary species name at best) is an incredible anomaly of biology. It is an all-female mutation that continually produces its own fertilized eggs, which develop into exact clones of the mother. In fact, many of our specimens continually reproduce in our tanks at our facility! This crayfish was reportedly discovered in a German pet shop, but little is known about its natural origins. Many people believe it to be some sort of mutation of the true Marbled Crayfish (*Procamburus fallax*) or possibly a mutated hybrid of a *Procamburus* species and another unrelated crayfish.

Though most crayfish are often reclusive by nature, this particular crayfish is very active by comparison and spends plenty of time exploring the floor of the aquarium in search of food. The Self-Cloning Marmorkreb Crayfish is an omnivorous scavenger and will eat most any meaty or plant-based foods. This crayfish should not be kept with ornamental live plants as it will eat them at a surprising rate. It is a skilled climber, so extra care must be taken to ensure that it does not escape its enclosure.

Next Steps

Description of Action	Action Date
Virtual Public Meeting, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM Presentation and documents will be posted on https://georgiawildlife.com	September 13, 2022
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed rules	September 30, 2022
Present public comments and rules to the Board for action	October 25, 2022

Please send official comments and questions to: [wscscomments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:wcscomments@dnr.ga.gov)