

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF STATE PENDING LEGISLATION

STATE	BILL NUMBER HOUSE SENATE ASSEMBLY	TITLE, SUMMARY, AND STATUS
ARIZONA	HB 2231	<p><u>BALD EAGLE; ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.</u> Amends ARS Title 17, Chapter 7 regarding endangered and threatened species of the state and wildlife pursuant to U.S. Endangered Species Act. Species of wildlife that are native to the state and that are found to be threatened or endangered shall be managed to maintain and, to the extent possible, enhance their numbers within carrying capacity of the habitat, including aiding in the protection of the habitat; shall assist in the management of species of wildlife that are considered to be endangered elsewhere by prohibiting the taking, possession, transportation, exportation, processing, sale or offering for sale or shipment in the state of species of wildlife listed under federal law unless those actions will assist in preserving or propagating the species; and for other purposes.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>01/20/2009</u> - HOUSE FIRST READING; ASSIGNED TO RULES; APPROPRIATIONS, NATURAL RESOURCES & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES. <u>01/21/2009</u> - HOUSE SECOND READING.</p>
CONNECTICUT	S 632	<p><u>AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF LARGE CATS AT PRIVATE RESIDENCE.</u> Amends general statutes to prohibit the possession of any mammal of the Felidae family weighing fifty pounds or more at a private residence.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>01/26/2009</u> - REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.</p>

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CONNECTICUT	S HB 6552	<p><u>AN ACT BANNING THE POSSESSION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND THE IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND LIBERATION OF CERTAIN WILD ANIMALS, AND BANNING INTERNET HUNTING.</u> Current law bans the possession of potentially dangerous animals. This bill increases the penalty for illegally possessing potentially dangerous animals, and increases the number of species considered potentially dangerous. (Currently bans: members of the cat family or any hybrid of lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, ocelots, jaguarundis, pumas, lynxes and bobcats; the new law will include: tigers, servals, caracals, jungle cats, and Savannah cats.) It exempts certain zoos, nature centers, and similar facilities but eliminates an exemption for people who legally owned a potentially dangerous animal on or before May 23, 1983. It increases penalties for importing or releasing in the state certain species without a permit; it specifies species that cannot be imported or possessed under any circumstances. It prohibits anyone from operating, providing, selling, using, or offering to operate, provide, sell, or use any computer software or service in the state that allows someone, when not physically present to remotely control a firearm or other weapon to hunt a live animal or bird.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>06/23/2009</u> - SENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE. <u>06/03/2009</u> - PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE.</p>
DELAWARE	304 EXOTIC ANIMAL REGULATIONS PROPOSED RULE; PUBLIC NOTICE FOR COMMENT.	<p>The Delaware Department of Agriculture proposes regulations (...) to specify the means by which citizens in the State of Delaware may obtain a permit from the Delaware Department of Agriculture to possess, sell, or exhibit, exotic animals within the state. These regulations do not supersede Delaware Code Title 7, Chapter 6 regarding Endangered Species. (Defines Carnivore as a flesh-eating mammal, which possess teeth and claws adapted for attacking and devouring its prey.)</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>11/01/2008</u> - DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS.</p>

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ILLINOIS	HB 4632	<p><u>WILDLIFE TRAPPING.</u> Amends the Wildlife Code to: 1) authorize the taking of bobcats; 2) authorizes Department of Natural Resources to require Bobcat Harvest Permit, pelt tags, and set fees; 3) deletes restrictions having green hides out of seasons; and 4) changes concerning pursuing fur-bearing mammals with dogs and illegal methods of trapping.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>03/14/2008</u> - HOUSE RE-REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE RULE 19(A). <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>01/13/2009</u> - SESSION SINE DIE; HOUSE ADJOURNED WITHOUT FIXING A DAY FOR FUTURE ACTION OR MEETING.</p>
IOWA	SF 2383	<p><u>HYBRID CATS.</u> Amends Code Chapter 717F to: 1) certain hybrid cats are no longer classified as dangerous wild animals; 2) a hybrid cat is (a) the offspring of a domestic cat and a lion, tiger, cougar, leopard, cheetah, ocelot, serval, or other non-domestic cat taxonomically known as a member of the Felidae family or (b) each subsequent generation of that offspring; 3) persons may possess, breed, or transport the hybrid cat so long as the offspring does not weigh more than 25 pounds at one year of age; 4) persons would still be prohibited from keeping the pure-stock parent of a hybrid cat; 5) persons may own or possess a lion, tiger, cougar, leopard, cheetah, ocelot, or serval, only under certain conditions.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>04/02/2008</u> - REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, S.J. 935. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>

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MISSOURI	HB 426	<p><u>LARGE CARNIVORE ACT.</u> The Act prohibits any person from owning, breeding, possessing, transferring ownership, or transporting a large carnivore unless they have a permit. A large carnivore, includes but is not limited to, any cat of the Felidae family that is nonnative to the state held in captivity, excluding common domestic or house cat. Any person who owns or possesses a large carnivore is liable in a civil action for the death or injury of a human or another animal and for any property damage caused by the large carnivore. If a large carnivore escapes or is released intentionally or unintentionally, the owner is required to immediately notify law enforcement and is liable for all expenses associated with the efforts to recapture the large carnivore. Beginning January 1, 2011, as a condition of being permitted to own a large carnivore, the owner is required to show proof of having liability insurance in an amount of not less than \$250,000 and annually provide verification to the department that the insurance is being maintained. Applications for a permit are to be accompanied by a fee not to exceed \$2,500 <u>for each large carnivore</u> with an annual renewal fee not to exceed \$500. Requirements for the confinement, handling, sanitation, feeding, transporting, identification, veterinary care, seizure, and euthanasia of large carnivores are specified. The requirements are in addition to any applicable state or federal law and do not preclude any local political subdivision from adopting more restrictive laws. The Division of Animal Health within the Department of Agriculture is required to implement and enforce provisions of the Act.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>05/07/2009</u> - PUBLIC HEARING - SENATE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURAL, FOOD PRODUCTION AND OUTDOOR RESOURCES.</p>

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MISSOURI	HB 1847	<p><u>WILD ANIMALS.</u> 1) prohibits a person from knowingly possessing, harboring, selling, bartering, transferring, exchanging, or importing any wild animal for use as a pet; 2) exemptions for federally licensed entities, state universities and agencies, and wildlife sanctuaries; 3) requirements regarding prior possession; 4) violations; and 5) any city, town or village may pass more restrictive provisions governing the possession of wild animals for use as pets.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>04/10/2008</u> - HOUSE REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE POLICY. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>

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MISSOURI	SB 227 (THIS BILL IS SIMILAR TO SB 1032; 2008)	<p><u>MODIFIES PROVISIONS RELATING TO DANGEROUS ANIMAL REGISTRATION.</u></p> <p>Under current law, certain dangerous wild animals may not be kept unless they are registered with local law enforcement except if the animals are kept in a zoo, circus, scientific or educational institution, research laboratory, veterinary hospital or animal refuge. The Act removes the exception for animal refuges. The Act also adds the criteria that research laboratories and scientific and educational institutions must be accredited, veterinary hospitals must be permitted by the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board, and zoos must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in order for the exemption to apply. Any such dangerous wild animal shall be registered within five days of being acquired or moved into any county or the city of St. Louis. The Act adds the requirement that registration of such animals must be renewed annually. The chief law enforcement official in each county or in St. Louis is required to maintain the registry of dangerous wild animals and make the registry available for disaster preparedness, emergencies, and to the general public via a website. The Act specifies the information that must be recorded as part of the animal's registration. Any animal required to be registered under the Act shall be identifiable by a microchip or other reliable identification device. The Act prohibits the bringing of any such dangerous wild animal to a public, commercial, or retail establishment unless it is a veterinarian or veterinary clinic. The animals shall not come into contact with anyone other than the owner, possessor, handler, or veterinarian.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>02/10/2009</u> - HEARING CONDUCTED BY SENATE GENERAL LAWS COMMITTEE.</p>

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STATE	BILL NUMBER HOUSE SENATE ASSEMBLY	TITLE, SUMMARY, AND STATUS
NEW YORK	A02750	<p><u>NON-COMMERCIAL PERMITS FOR THE POSSESSION AND OWNERSHIP OF FELIDAE.</u> Amends the Environmental Conservation Law to: 1) regulate the issuance of class permits for the possession of Felidae including demonstration and documentation of knowledge and handling depending on class; 2) renewal of permits and revocation of; 3) facility, caging, food and water, health conditions, and escape (including liability for damages as a result of an escape) requirements including written plans of each requirement; 4) inspections; and 5) applicants and licensees will be held accountable for full compliance with regulations and failure to comply with requirements may result in legal action and/or revocation of authorization to possess wildlife.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>05/13/2008</u> - HELD FOR CONSIDERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>
NEW YORK	<p>A04796</p> <p>(THIS BILL IS SIMILAR TO A09535; 2008)</p>	<p><u>HYBRID CATS.</u> Amends the Environmental Conservation Law to exempt cats considered hybrids from the definition of wildlife.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>02/06/2009</u> - REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.</p>

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STATE	BILL NUMBER HOUSE SENATE ASSEMBLY	TITLE, SUMMARY, AND STATUS
NORTH CAROLINA	SB 807	<p><u>PUBLIC SAFETY REGULATION: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS THAT CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICALLY WILD ANIMALS POSE TO THE COMMUNITY.</u> The General Statutes to be amended by adding a new Chapter to read: Chapter 19B Characteristically Wild Animals. The new Chapter provides definitions including “Characteristically Wild Animal” (CWA) means, including but not limited to, types of animals of the order Carnivora, and any hybrids, unless otherwise specified such as Family Felidae, lions, tigers, and leopards; “Wildlife Sanctuary” means a nonprofit organization that cares for animals as defined as CWA and within whose facilities none of the following activities occur: activity that is not inherent to the animal’s nature, natural conducts, or the animal in its natural habitat is conducted. Commercial activity involving an animal occurs including, but not limited to, the sale of or trade in animals, animal parts, animal by-products, or animal offspring, or the sale of photographic opportunities involving an animal, or the use of an animal for any type of entertainment purpose. Unescorted public visitations or direct contact occurs between the public and an animal. Breeding of animals. Other provisions define: exemptions; direct contact and photo opportunities; grandfather clause; confiscation; city or county ordinances; enforcement; penalties; and severability.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>07/01/2009</u> - SENATE PASSED SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.</p>

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STATE	BILL NUMBER HOUSE SENATE ASSEMBLY	TITLE, SUMMARY, AND STATUS
NORTH CAROLINA	SB 1788 (HB 2403)	<p><u>POSSESSION OR HARBORING OF INHERENTLY DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS.</u> Amends Article 6 Chapter 153A of the General Statutes by: 1) inherently dangerous animal means (<i>including but not limited to</i>) Family Felidae but only lions, tigers, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars, leopards, snow leopards, and clouded leopards; 2) USDA license holders remain in good standing with USDA; 3) county ordinances, registration with county, and notification requirements including: number of wild animals held, obtaining and maintaining liability insurance, escapes, changes in ownership or death; 4) compliance with other laws; 5) inspections; and 6) penalties ranging from misdemeanor fines to Class H felony.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>05/21/2008</u> - SENATE REFERRED TO JUDICIARY I (CIVIL), IF FAVORABLE, RE-REFER TO APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. (SEE SB 807)</p>

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OHIO	HB 45	<p><u>PROHIBITION AGAINST POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL OR EXOTIC ANIMAL.</u> To enact Sections 1534.01 to 1534.14 and 1534.99 of the Revised Code to: 1) define dangerous wild animal (<i>including but not limited to</i>) mountain lion, bobcat, or hybrid and exotic animal (<i>including but not limited to</i>) lion, tiger, cougar, leopard, serval, ocelot or hybrid; 2) requirements for applications and fees for personal possession permit, issuance or denial, appeals, revisions, and renewal; 3) confiscation requirements; 4) obtaining and maintaining liability insurance; 4) other requirements to which permit holders must comply; 5) requirements on transfer to another permit holder; 6) enclosures; 7) inspections; 8) prohibitions governing the keeping of dangerous wild or exotic animals; 9) suspension or revocation of permit for any violations; 10) actions for civil or other penalties; 11) exemptions; and 12) establishment of Dangerous Wild and Exotic Animal Fund.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>02/20/2007</u> - ASSIGNED TO AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>
OKLAHOMA	HB 1665	<p><u>EXOTIC ANIMAL REVIEW ACT.</u> Shell bill; text not yet available.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>02/02/2009</u> - FIRST READING; AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVE DORMAN <u>02/03/2009</u> - SECOND READING; REFERRED TO RULES.</p>

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OKLAHOMA	SB 505	<p><u>WILDLIFE: RELATING TO PERMITS TO CONTROL DAMAGE BY WILDLIFE REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION FOR NIGHT HUNTS.</u> Amends 29 O.S. 2001, Section 4-135 to: 1) issuance of permits to control nuisance or damage by wildlife (<i>including but not limited to</i>) bobcats; 2) clarifying scope of certain permits; 3) requiring authorization for certain night hunts; and 4) modifying duration of certain permit.</p> <p>STATUS: <u>02/06/2007</u> - SENATE SECOND READING REFERRED TO TOURISM AND WILDLIFE. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>
OKLAHOMA	SB 721	<p><u>WILDLIFE: SPECIFYING SCOPE OF PERMIT REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION FOR NIGHT HUNTS.</u> Amends 29 O.S. 2001, Section 41-135 to: 1) issuance of permits to control nuisance or damage by wildlife (<i>including but not limited to</i>) bobcats; 2) clarifying scope of certain permits; 3) requiring authorization for the use of certain lights to hunt at night; and 4) clarifying right of landowner to use firearm on property in certain circumstances.</p> <p>STATUS: <u>03/08/2007</u> - HOUSE SECOND READING REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>

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OKLAHOMA	SB 1702	<p><u>GAME AND FISH: PROHIBITING TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIONS INVOLVING CERTAIN ANIMALS.</u> New section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7-505 of Title 29: 1) definitions (<i>including but not limited to</i>) Possess - means to own, harbor, or have custody or control of a prohibited animal. Prohibited animal means - (<i>including but not limited to</i>) any lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars or cougars or any hybrids. Wildlife sanctuary means (<i>including but not limited to</i>) does not conduct any commercial activity with respect to prohibited animals; 2) except as provided it is unlawful for a person to import into the state, offer for sale, sell, buy, trade, barter, possess, or breed a prohibited animal; 3) exemptions; 4) enforcement and confiscation; 5) regulations regarding prior possession of prohibited animals on effective date; and 6) violations and penalties.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>02/06/2008</u> - SENATE SECOND READING REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>
WEST VIRGINIA	HB 2774	<p><u>NONNATIVE SPECIES REGULATION ACT.</u> Amends the Code of West Virginia, 1931 by adding new Article §19-9B1 to §19-9B21 to: 1) regulating the sales, possession and breeding of nonnative animals; 2) definitions; 3) creation of the Nonnative Species Regulation Board; 4) provisions regarding owner liability and bonding requirements; 5) pet shop regulations and requirements; 6) regulations and requirements for issuance of permit(s) to possess or breed nonnative species; 7) exemptions; 8) identification numbers; 9) caging, care and treatment requirements; 10) liability insurance requirement; 11) inspections; 12) confiscation; and 13) establishing civil and criminal penalties.</p> <p><u>STATUS:</u> <u>01/09/2008</u> - HOUSE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES THEN THE JUDICIARY. <u>10/16/2008</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED. <u>06/30/2009</u> - NO FURTHER ACTIONS REPORTED.</p>