

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Title of Rule:** Rules and Regulations Governing Importation and Possession of Wild Animals (250-RICR-40-05-3)

**Rule Identifier:** 250-RICR-40-05-3

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: 04/12/2021

Hearing Date: 05/11/2021

End of Public Comment: 05/17/2021

**Authority for this Rulemaking:**

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 4-18 and R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 20-1-18, 20-1-22, 20-37-3 and 42-17.1-2(19)

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

This amendment is to establish a procedure for the issuance of permits for the importation and possession within Rhode Island of those exotic or native wild animals that are free of diseases and that do not pose a threat to humans, livestock and other domesticated animals, and native wildlife. These regulations also ensure that endangered and threatened species are not imported / possessed in the State of Rhode Island without a permit. The Importation regulations also allow importation / possession by only those persons who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the DEM that they have adequate facilities, adequate knowledge of, animal health and husbandry, and the ability and resources to care for the subject animals in order to ensure public safety as well as the health and well-being of the imported / possessed exotic or native wild animal.

**Additional Information and Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 17, 2021 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Ashley Schipritt  
Department of Environmental Management  
3 Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02908  
ashley.schipritt@dem.ri.gov

**Public Hearing:**

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held on May 11, 2021 at 12:00 pm at Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83162210050?pwd=VU84bzNRSmZ>, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-423-1928 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

1. 3.6(12) – Changes to the Hybrid definition
2. 3.6(20)and(21) – New definitions for regulation
3. 3.7(A,B,C) – Addition of short term exhibition added to possession
4. Clarification to the common and scientific names of species throughout document
5. 3.9(F) – Additional language for possession of wild animals
6. 3.17(A)(6)(c) – additional species added
7. Clarification of language in document in regard to non-resident and resident and short-term exhibition

In the development of the proposed rule/amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory

provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.