

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations of Furbearing Animals

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-60-00-13

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 13, 2026

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026

End of Public Comment: May 20, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-18

R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-16-1

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-17.1

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The purpose of these regulations is to establish the definition and classification of furbearing animals and their protections as defined under R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 20-1 and 20-16.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 20, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

David Kalb
Department of Environmental Management
277 Great Neck Rd
West Kingston, RI 02892
david.kalb@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: DFW Outdoor Education Office
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place
Exeter, RI, 02822

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-284-3427 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. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The purpose of these regulations is to establish the standards under which “Wildlife Rehabilitators” may be permitted to conduct the handling, care for, dispatch of, release of, and other activities as related to wildlife protected by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

- 13.4(A)4 Added definition for Domestic animal,
- 13.4(A)7 Added definition for livestock,
- 13.5(B) Updated species scientific names,
- 13.5(C) Add special protections for special carnivores.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.