

USDA-APHIS Animal Care Permit Requirements

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife is responsible for the management and issuance of permits relative to the possession of exotic and nongame species and captive game species in New Jersey.

Please be advised and/or reminded all exotic and nongame permittees and captive game permittees holding mammals and/or birds for the purpose of sale, exhibit, education, experimentation, and/or zoological purposes, are also subject to the licensing/registration requirements by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The only exception being those animals held for food and/or fiber.

If you are the owner or person in charge of a regulated business, the law requires you to be licensed or registered with the USDA. Failure to become licensed or registered is a punishable violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Please contact the Regional USDA office for additional information and/or an application package.

USDA, APHIS – Animal Care

920 Main Campus Dr.

Suite 200

Raleigh, NC 27606

Telephone: 919-855-7100

Fax: 919-855-7123

You may also visit their website for more information: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-care>.

Additionally, please remember that New Jersey is a **NO CONTACT STATE**. Wildlife must be exhibited in such a manner as to prevent any possibility of public contact. Examples of prohibited contact include, but are not limited to the following:

Taking pictures of the public holding wildlife

Hand feeding of regulated wildlife by the public

Exhibition of any potentially dangerous wildlife outside of approved enclosure

Non-compliance with any regulation could result in fines, penalties, and revocation of the permit. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Wildlife Permits Unit at 609-292-9591 or email NJWildlifePermits@dep.nj.gov.