

IMPORTATION RULE FAQs

In an effort to address many of the questions coming from the public, the Department developed the following list of frequently asked questions:

- **Is this a new rule?** No. The Department is updating the existing importation rule, which has been in place for 10 years. The associated law has been on the books since the 1960s (17-3-32 NMSA).
- **What is the purpose of this rule?** To protect public health and safety, and native wildlife, particularly from dangerous animals and diseases borne by non-native wildlife.
- **What animals do not need an importation permit?** Domestic animals like dogs, cats and livestock. Livestock is regulated by the New Mexico Livestock Board (www.nmlbonline.com).
- **Do I have to get an importation permit for animals already in New Mexico?** No. The Department is updating the rule for animals being legally imported into the state.
- **Is there an animal possession permit?** Some protected wild-by-nature species do have possession limits, but most common pet animals do not.
- **If I buy an animal from a local pet store do I need an importation permit?** No, if the pet store imported the animal, they were responsible for the importation permit. Just keep your receipt.
- **Do pet stores need to get a permit for each animal they import into New Mexico?** No, pet stores may obtain an annual permit that covers multiple animals.
- **If I am given an animal, do I need an importation permit?** Not if it's an animal already in New Mexico.
- **Do I need an export permit to leave the State of New Mexico?** No.
- **Do I need a permit to travel through the state with my animals?** No
- **Who can apply for a prohibited species in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S. Group IV) list on your web site?** Those animals are typically held by zoos and qualified experts like professional animal handlers.
- **How can I suggest changes to the species lists?** The agency is taking public comment about this regulation right now at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/.