

**As Introduced**

**127th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2007-2008**

**H. B. No. 45**

**Representatives Distel, Brown, Seitz, Fende, Okey, Setzer, Collier, DeGeeter,  
Harwood, Sayre, Gibbs, Combs, Yuko, Evans, Foley, Webster, Williams, S.,  
Healy**

—

**A BILL**

To enact sections 1534.01 to 1534.14 and 1534.99 of 1  
the Revised Code to require persons who possess 2  
dangerous wild animals or exotic animals to obtain 3  
a personal possession permit and to establish 4  
requirements regarding the possession and care of 5  
dangerous wild animals and exotic animals. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 1534.01, 1534.02, 1534.03, 1534.04, 7  
1534.05, 1534.06, 1534.07, 1534.08, 1534.09, 1534.10, 1534.11, 8  
1534.12, 1534.13, 1534.14, and 1534.99 of the Revised Code be 9  
enacted to read as follows: 10

**Sec. 1534.01.** As used in this chapter: 11

(A) "Dangerous reptile" means all of the following: 12

(1) A species in the family Atractaspidae; 13

(2) A species in the family Colubridae with rear fangs, 14  
including, but not limited to, tree and mangrove snakes, 15  
boomslangs, Argentine blackhead snakes, South American false water 16  
cobras, montpelier snakes, African grass and sand snakes, keelback 17  
snakes, culebra listrada, African tiger snakes, and twig snakes; 18

<u>(3) A species in the family Elapidae;</u>	19
<u>(4) A species in the family Helodermatidae;</u>	20
<u>(5) A species in the family Hydrophiidae;</u>	21
<u>(6) A species in the family Viperidae;</u>	22
<u>(7) A species in the order Crocodylia.</u>	23
<u>(B) "Dangerous wild animal" means a coyote, black bear,</u>	24
<u>mountain lion, wolf, bobcat, or wild boar or a hybrid of such</u>	25
<u>animals.</u>	26
<u>(C) "Exotic animal" means any of the following animals,</u>	27
<u>including hybrids of them, that due to their inherent nature may</u>	28
<u>be considered dangerous to humans:</u>	29
<u>(1) A lion;</u>	30
<u>(2) A tiger;</u>	31
<u>(3) A cougar;</u>	32
<u>(4) A leopard;</u>	33
<u>(5) A serval;</u>	34
<u>(6) An ocelot;</u>	35
<u>(7) A nonhuman primate, except a nonhuman primate that</u>	36
<u>provides support or assistance for a mobility impaired person;</u>	37
<u>(8) A jackal;</u>	38
<u>(9) A hyena;</u>	39
<u>(10) A martin;</u>	40
<u>(11) A coati;</u>	41
<u>(12) A civet;</u>	42
<u>(13) A genet;</u>	43
<u>(14) A mongoose;</u>	44
<u>(15) A binturong;</u>	45

<u>(16) An anteater;</u>	46
<u>(17) An armadillo;</u>	47
<u>(18) A sloth;</u>	48
<u>(19) A kangaroo;</u>	49
<u>(20) A wallaby;</u>	50
<u>(21) A rhinoceros;</u>	51
<u>(22) A tapir;</u>	52
<u>(23) An elephant;</u>	53
<u>(24) A prairie dog;</u>	54
<u>(25) A hippopotamus;</u>	55
<u>(26) A giraffe;</u>	56
<u>(27) A camel;</u>	57
<u>(28) A dangerous reptile.</u>	58
<u>(D) "Humane society" means an organization that is organized</u> <u>under section 1717.05 of the Revised Code.</u>	59 60
<u>(E) "Law enforcement agency" means any organization or unit</u> <u>that is comprised of law enforcement officers.</u>	61 62
<u>(F) "Possess" means own, keep, harbor, or have in a person's</u> <u>custody.</u>	63 64
<u>(G) "Serious physical harm to a person" means any of the</u> <u>following:</u>	65 66
<u>(1) Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of</u> <u>death;</u>	67 68
<u>(2) Any physical harm that involves some permanent</u> <u>incapacity, whether partial or total, or that involves some</u> <u>temporary, substantial incapacity;</u>	69 70 71
<u>(3) Any physical harm that involves some permanent</u>	72

disfigurement or that involves some temporary, serious 73  
disfigurement; 74

(4) Any physical harm that involves acute pain of such 75  
duration as to result in substantial suffering or that involves 76  
any degree of prolonged or intractable pain. 77

(H) "Veterinarian" means an individual who is licensed under 78  
Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code. 79

(I) "Wildlife sanctuary" means a nonprofit organization as 80  
described in section 170 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 81  
100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 170, as amended, that operates a place 82  
of refuge where abused, neglected, unwanted, impounded, abandoned, 83  
orphaned, or displaced exotic animals are provided care for their 84  
lifetime or released back to their natural habitat and, with 85  
respect to an animal possessed by the organization, that does not 86  
do any of the following: 87

(1) Use the animal for any type of entertainment; 88

(2) Sell, trade, or barter the animal or the animal's body 89  
parts; 90

(3) Breed the animal. 91

**Sec. 1534.02.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 92  
chapter, no person shall possess a dangerous wild animal or an 93  
exotic animal. 94

(B) This chapter does not apply to any of the following: 95

(1) The division of wildlife; 96

(2) A facility that is an accredited member of the American 97  
zoo and aquarium association or that is under mentorship of the 98  
association; 99

(3) An accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium 100  
association or an entity that is under mentorship of the 101

association that is conducting educational or other activities 102  
with dangerous wild animals or exotic animals outside of the 103  
facility that is operated by the member. 104

(4) A humane society; 105

(5) A veterinary hospital or clinic; 106

(6) A wildlife sanctuary; 107

(7) A research facility as defined in the "Animal Welfare Act 108  
of 1966," 80 Stat. 350, 7 U.S.C. 2131, as amended; 109

(8) A vocational school, college, university, or other 110  
educational institution; 111

(9) A traveling public show or circus that uses dangerous 112  
wild animals or exotic animals as an integral part of the show or 113  
circus performance and that keeps the animals in this state only 114  
during the time period when the traveling public show or circus is 115  
performing in this state; 116

(10) An individual who does not reside in this state and is 117  
traveling through this state with a dangerous wild animal or an 118  
exotic animal, who has the animal confined in a cage at all times, 119  
and who is in this state not more than ninety-six hours. 120

**Sec. 1534.03.** (A) No person shall possess a dangerous wild 121  
animal or an exotic animal on or after the effective date of this 122  
section without a personal possession permit issued by the chief 123  
of the division of wildlife under section 1534.05 of the Revised 124  
Code. 125

(B) A person who possesses a dangerous wild animal or an 126  
exotic animal on the effective date of this section shall apply 127  
for a personal possession permit not later than ninety days after 128  
the effective date of this section. If such a person subsequently 129  
is issued a personal possession permit, the person shall not be 130  
found guilty of violating this section during the period of time 131

beginning on the effective date of this section until the issuance 132  
of the permit. 133

Sec. 1534.04. (A) An applicant for a personal possession 134  
permit shall file an application for a permit with the chief of 135  
the division of wildlife on a form provided by the chief. An 136  
applicant need apply for only one permit regardless of the number 137  
of dangerous wild animals or exotic animals that are possessed by 138  
the applicant. The application shall include all of the following: 139

(1) The name, date of birth, address, and telephone number of 140  
the applicant; 141

(2) If different from the information provided under division 142  
(A)(1) of this section, the name, address, and telephone number of 143  
the location where each dangerous wild animal or exotic animal 144  
will be confined; 145

(3) A description of each dangerous wild animal or exotic 146  
animal, including the scientific name, the name that the applicant 147  
has given the animal, the animal's sex, age, color, and weight, 148  
and any distinguishing marks or coloration that would aid in the 149  
identification of the animal; 150

(4) Any additional information that the chief determines is 151  
necessary to administer and enforce this chapter. 152

(B) The applicant shall submit with the application a permit 153  
fee in an amount established by the chief in rules adopted under 154  
section 1534.10 of the Revised Code. If a permit is not issued, 155  
the permit fee shall be retained by the chief as payment for the 156  
reasonable expense of processing the application. The fee shall be 157  
deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the dangerous 158  
wild and exotic animals fund created in section 1534.14 of the 159  
Revised Code. 160

Sec. 1534.05. (A) Not later than ninety days after receipt of 161

an application, the chief of the division of wildlife shall issue 162  
or deny a personal possession permit. The chief shall issue a 163  
permit to an applicant only if all of the following apply: 164

(1) The applicant is eighteen years of age or older. 165

(2) The applicant has submitted the permit fee required under 166  
division (B) of section 1534.04 of the Revised Code. 167

(3) The applicant has submitted a complete application that 168  
meets the requirements established in section 1534.04 of the 169  
Revised Code. 170

(4) The facility and the conditions in which each dangerous 171  
wild animal or exotic animal will be kept are in compliance with 172  
this chapter and rules adopted under it. 173

(5) The applicant has complied with the liability insurance 174  
requirements established in section 1534.07 of the Revised Code. 175

(B)(1) A personal possession permit shall contain all of the 176  
following: 177

(a) The name, date of birth, address, and telephone number of 178  
the permit holder; 179

(b) If different from the information provided under division 180  
(B)(1)(a) of this section, the name, address, and telephone number 181  
of the location where each of the permit holder's dangerous wild 182  
animals or exotic animals will be confined; 183

(c) The number of dangerous wild animals and exotic animals 184  
that are possessed by the permit holder at the time that the 185  
permit is issued; 186

(d) The species of, age of, sex of, and name that the permit 187  
holder has given to each dangerous wild animal or exotic animal 188  
that is possessed by the permit holder at the time that the permit 189  
is issued together with any distinguishing marks or coloration 190  
that would aid in the identification of each animal; 191

(e) The name, address, and telephone number of the veterinarian who provides veterinary care for each dangerous wild animal or exotic animal that is identified on the permit; 192  
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(f) Any additional terms, conditions, or information that the chief determines is necessary. 195  
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(2) If the information contained in the permit changes, the permit holder promptly shall notify the chief. The chief shall issue a revised permit containing the new information. 197  
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(C) Not later than the first day of December of each year, a permit holder shall apply to the chief, on a form provided by the chief, for a renewal of the permit if the holder intends to retain possession of the animal or animals that are identified in the permit. Not later than thirty days after receipt of an application for renewal, the chief shall renew or deny the renewal of the permit. The chief shall renew the permit if the permit holder meets the requirements of this chapter and pays a renewal fee in an amount established by the chief in rules adopted under section 1534.10 of the Revised Code. If a renewal permit is denied, the renewal fee shall be retained by the chief as payment for the reasonable expense of processing the application. The fee shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the dangerous wild and exotic animals fund created in section 1534.14 of the Revised Code. 200  
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(D) If the chief denies an application for a permit or a renewal of a permit, the chief shall notify the person of the denial, the grounds for the denial, and the person's right to a hearing under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. Notwithstanding section 119.12 of the Revised Code, the decision of the court under that section is final and nonappealable. 215  
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(E) If a person does not appeal the determination of the chief or if the court affirms the determination of the chief, the 221  
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person shall do one of the following regarding the dangerous wild animals or exotic animals that are possessed by the person: 223  
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(1) Transfer the dangerous wild animals or exotic animals to a humane society, wildlife sanctuary, or facility that is an accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium association; 225  
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(2) Have a veterinarian euthanize the dangerous wild animals or exotic animals. 228  
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The person is responsible for all costs associated with the transfer or euthanization of the animals. 230  
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(F) The chief shall maintain records for each holder of a permit that is issued under this section. 232  
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**Sec. 1534.06.** (A) On and after ninety days after the effective date of this section, the chief of the division of wildlife shall confiscate a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal if the person that possesses the animal does not have a personal possession permit issued under section 1534.05 of the Revised Code or has not submitted an application for a permit under section 1534.04 of the Revised Code. The chief immediately shall send written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person stating that the person has five business days after the receipt of the notice to deposit money with the chief in an amount determined by the chief in rules adopted under section 1534.10 of the Revised Code to pay all reasonable expenses expected to be incurred in caring and providing for the dangerous wild animal or exotic animal for ninety days. 234  
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(B) After depositing money in accordance with division (A) of this section, the person shall submit an application for a personal possession permit in accordance with section 1534.04 of the Revised Code. 248  
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(C) If the chief denies an application for a permit and the 252

person files an appeal pursuant to division (D) of section 1534.05 253  
of the Revised Code that extends beyond the time for which money 254  
is required to be deposited under division (A) of this section, 255  
the person shall deposit additional money in an amount determined 256  
by the chief in rules adopted under section 1534.10 of the Revised 257  
Code to pay all reasonable expenses expected to be incurred in 258  
caring and providing for the dangerous wild animal or exotic 259  
animal for thirty days. 260

(D) If the chief approves an application for a permit, the 261  
chief shall release the confiscated dangerous wild animal or 262  
exotic animal to the person. The person immediately shall comply 263  
with divisions (A)(1) and (2) of section 1534.04 of the Revised 264  
Code. 265

(E) If the person that possesses a dangerous wild animal or 266  
an exotic animal that is confiscated under this section does not 267  
submit an application for a personal possession permit under 268  
section 1534.04 of the Revised Code, if the person that possesses 269  
a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal that is confiscated 270  
under this section cannot be located by the chief, or if a 271  
confiscated animal remains unclaimed for more than fifteen days 272  
after its confiscation, the chief shall do one of the following 273  
regarding the dangerous wild animal or exotic animal: 274

(1) Transfer the dangerous wild animal or exotic animal to a 275  
humane society, wildlife sanctuary, or facility that is an 276  
accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium association; 277

(2) Transfer the dangerous wild animal or exotic animal to a 278  
person who has been issued a personal possession permit under 279  
section 1534.05 of the Revised Code; 280

(3) Have a veterinarian euthanize the dangerous wild animal 281  
or exotic animal. 282

Sec. 1534.07. (A) No person applying for or holding a permit 283  
issued under section 1534.05 of the Revised Code shall possess a 284  
dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal in this state unless the 285  
person has obtained and maintains a liability insurance policy 286  
with an insurer authorized or approved to write such insurance in 287  
this state that covers claims for injury or damage to persons or 288  
property caused by such an animal. The policy shall be in an 289  
amount of not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars. 290

(B) The insurance policy shall not be canceled by the permit 291  
holder or the insurer except upon notice to the chief of the 292  
division of wildlife by certified mail, return receipt requested. 293  
The cancellation shall not be effective prior to thirty days after 294  
the chief receives the notice. 295

Sec. 1534.08. (A) The holder of a permit issued under section 296  
1534.05 of the Revised Code shall do all of the following: 297

(1) For each dangerous wild animal or exotic animal, comply 298  
with the American zoo and aquarium association's husbandry 299  
guidelines for animal care and maintenance for that animal; 300

(2) Comply with rules adopted under section 1534.10 of the 301  
Revised Code; 302

(3) Post and display at intervals of ten feet along the 303  
boundary of the property where each dangerous wild animal or 304  
exotic animal is confined signs warning the public that a 305  
dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal is on the property. The 306  
signs shall comply with standards established in rules adopted 307  
under section 1534.10 of the Revised Code. 308

(4) Have a plan for the safe recapture of a dangerous wild 309  
animal or an exotic animal if the animal escapes from the permit 310  
holder's control. The permit holder also shall have a plan for the 311  
destruction of an escaped dangerous wild animal or exotic animal 312

if the recapture of the animal would endanger the life of the 313  
person who is trying to capture the escaped animal. 314

(5) If a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal escapes 315  
from the permit holder's control, immediately inform the nearest 316  
wildlife officer employed by the department of natural resources 317  
under section 1531.13 of the Revised Code. The permit holder is 318  
responsible for all costs associated with the recapture or 319  
destruction, if applicable, of the dangerous wild animal or exotic 320  
animal. 321

(6) Keep a log of all dangerous wild animals or exotic 322  
animals possessed by the permit holder. The log shall be kept in 323  
accordance with rules adopted under section 1534.10 of the Revised 324  
Code. 325

(7) Notify in writing each law enforcement agency and fire 326  
department with jurisdiction over the property where the permit 327  
holder keeps dangerous wild animals or exotic animals of the 328  
species of dangerous wild animals or exotic animals possessed by 329  
the permit holder and the number of each species possessed by the 330  
permit holder; 331

(8) Not later than thirty days after receipt of the permit, 332  
publish notice of the receipt of the permit in a newspaper of 333  
general circulation in the county where the permit holder keeps 334  
dangerous wild animals or exotic animals. The notice shall include 335  
information concerning the species of dangerous wild animals or 336  
exotic animals possessed by the permit holder and the number of 337  
each species possessed by the permit holder. 338

(B) No person shall fail to comply with this section. 339

**Sec. 1534.09.** If the holder of a permit issued under section 340  
1534.05 of the Revised Code no longer can care for a dangerous 341  
wild animal or an exotic animal identified in the holder's permit, 342

the permit holder shall notify the chief of the division of 343  
wildlife of the permit holder's desire to transfer the animal. The 344  
permit holder may submit the name or names of persons who hold a 345  
valid personal possession permit and who are determined by the 346  
transferring permit holder to have the necessary facilities to 347  
care for the animal. The chief shall investigate those persons to 348  
verify that they have the necessary facilities to care for the 349  
animal and that they are in good standing with the division of 350  
wildlife. The chief shall approve or deny the transfer. 351

If the chief denies the transfer of a dangerous wild animal 352  
or an exotic animal to another permit holder, or if the 353  
transferring permit holder does not request such a transfer, the 354  
permit holder shall transfer possession of the animal to a humane 355  
society, wildlife sanctuary, or facility that is an accredited 356  
member of the American zoo and aquarium association. If that 357  
transfer cannot occur, a veterinarian shall euthanize the animal. 358  
The permit holder is responsible for all costs associated with the 359  
transfer or euthanization of the animal. 360

**Sec. 1534.10.** The chief of the division of wildlife shall 361  
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 362  
that do all of the following: 363

(A) Establish the amount of the fee that must be submitted 364  
with an application for a personal possession permit under 365  
division (B) of section 1534.04 of the Revised Code. The fee shall 366  
not be more than one hundred dollars for each dangerous wild 367  
animal or exotic animal identified in an application, but shall 368  
not exceed one thousand dollars for each person applying for a 369  
permit regardless of the number of dangerous wild animals or 370  
exotic animals possessed by the person. 371

(B) Establish the amount of the renewal fee for a personal 372  
possession permit that is required under division (C) of section 373

1534.05 of the Revised Code; 374

(C) Establish the amount of money that is required to be 375  
deposited under section 1534.06 of the Revised Code. The amount 376  
shall be based on the cost of feeding and providing medical care 377  
and housing for a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal for 378  
each of the time periods specified in that section. The chief 379  
shall review the costs on an annual basis. 380

(D) Establish the content and size of the signs that are 381  
required to be posted under division (A)(3) of section 1534.08 of 382  
the Revised Code; 383

(E) Establish requirements regarding perimeter fencing around 384  
the primary enclosure facilities that are used to house dangerous 385  
wild animals or exotic animals. The rules shall require that 386  
perimeter fences be at least eight feet in height for all 387  
dangerous wild animals and for those exotic animals that are 388  
determined by the chief to be dangerous. For all other exotic 389  
animals, the rules shall require perimeter fences to be not less 390  
than six feet in height. The rules shall require perimeter fencing 391  
to be constructed in a manner that prevents an animal from going 392  
through, under, or over the fence in order to function as a 393  
secondary containment system should animals escape from the 394  
primary enclosure facilities that are used for housing. The rules 395  
shall require a perimeter fence to be constructed at least three 396  
feet in distance from those primary enclosure facilities. Finally, 397  
the rules shall authorize the chief to issue written exemptions 398  
from the requirement to install perimeter fencing in any of the 399  
following situations with respect to a dangerous wild animal or 400  
exotic animal: 401

(1) If the outside walls of the primary enclosure facility 402  
that is used to house the animal are made of sturdy, durable 403  
material, such as concrete, wood, metal, or glass and are high 404  
enough to and constructed in a manner that restricts ingress and 405

egress by animals and unauthorized persons; 406

(2) Where the primary enclosure facility that is used to 407  
house the animal is protected by an effective natural barrier that 408  
restricts ingress and egress by animals and unauthorized persons; 409

(3) If appropriate alternative security measures are 410  
employed; 411

(4) If the animal that is being housed in the primary 412  
enclosure facility does not constitute such a threat to people or 413  
other animals that perimeter fencing is necessary. 414

(F) Establish a requirement that the primary enclosure 415  
facility that is used to house a dangerous wild animal or exotic 416  
animal be not less than five hundred feet from the property line 417  
of the property on which the enclosure facility is located; 418

(G) Establish the form of and procedures for keeping the log 419  
that is required under division (A)(6) of section 1534.08 of the 420  
Revised Code; 421

(H) Establish any other provisions that are necessary to 422  
administer and enforce this chapter. 423

**Sec. 1534.11.** (A) At least annually, the chief of the 424  
division of wildlife or the chief's designee shall inspect each 425  
premises concerning which a personal possession permit has been 426  
issued under section 1534.05 of the Revised Code in order to 427  
determine whether all dangerous wild animals and exotic animals at 428  
the premises are being cared for according to the standards and 429  
requirements that are specified in or established under this 430  
chapter and rules adopted under it. In addition, the chief or the 431  
chief's designee may enter any premises where dangerous wild 432  
animals or exotic animals are confined in order to determine if 433  
the animals are being cared for according to the standards and 434  
requirements that are specified in or established under this 435

chapter and rules adopted under it. If refused entry, the chief or 436  
the chief's designee may apply for and the court of common pleas 437  
having jurisdiction may issue an appropriate warrant. 438

(B) The chief may suspend or revoke a permit issued under 439  
section 1534.05 of the Revised Code after a hearing in accordance 440  
with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for any violation of this 441  
chapter or any rule adopted under it. If the chief revokes a 442  
permit, the dangerous wild animals or exotic animals that are 443  
possessed by the permit holder shall be confiscated and 444  
transferred to a humane society, wildlife sanctuary, or facility 445  
that is an accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium 446  
association. If a humane society, wildlife sanctuary, or facility 447  
that is an accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium 448  
association refuses to accept a dangerous wild animal or an exotic 449  
animal, a veterinarian shall euthanize the animal. The permit 450  
holder is responsible for all costs associated with the transfer 451  
or euthanization of the animal. 452

**Sec. 1534.12. No person shall do any of the following:** 453

(A) Allow another person that does not have a permit issued 454  
under section 1534.05 of the Revised Code to possess a dangerous 455  
wild animal or an exotic animal on the person's property; 456

(B) Tether, leash, or chain a dangerous wild animal or an 457  
exotic animal outside a cage or allow a dangerous wild animal or 458  
an exotic animal to roam; 459

(C) Mistreat, neglect, or abandon a dangerous wild animal or 460  
an exotic animal or deprive a dangerous wild animal or an exotic 461  
animal of necessary food, water, shelter, or veterinary care; 462

(D) Except for visits to a veterinarian or veterinary clinic, 463  
bring a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal to a commercial 464  
or retail establishment or onto real property owned by, or under 465

the supervision of, a state agency or political subdivision; 466

(E) Transport a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal in 467  
a motor vehicle without keeping the animal in a secured cage or 468  
enclosure in the vehicle during the period of transport; 469

(F) Release a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal into 470  
the wild; 471

(G) Keep a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal in an 472  
unsecured environment at any time; 473

(H) Fail to notify in writing the chief of the division of 474  
wildlife, a wildlife sanctuary, or a facility that is an 475  
accredited member of the American zoo and aquarium association 476  
prior to euthanizing a dangerous wild animal or an exotic animal. 477

**Sec. 1534.13.** If the chief of the division of wildlife 478  
determines that any person has violated or is violating this 479  
chapter, a rule adopted under it, or a term or condition of a 480  
permit issued under it, the chief may request in writing that the 481  
attorney general, the prosecuting attorney of the county, or the 482  
city director of law where the violation has occurred or is 483  
occurring bring an action for civil penalties in a court of 484  
competent jurisdiction. The court may impose on the person a civil 485  
penalty of not less than two hundred dollars and not more than two 486  
thousand dollars with respect to each animal concerning which 487  
there is a violation of this chapter and for each day of each 488  
violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under it, or a term or 489  
condition of a permit issued under it. 490

Money resulting from civil penalties imposed by an action 491  
brought under this section shall be credited to the dangerous wild 492  
and exotic animals fund created in section 1534.14 of the Revised 493  
Code. 494

**Sec. 1534.14.** The dangerous wild and exotic animals fund is 495

hereby created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of 496  
fees collected under this chapter and all money resulting from 497  
civil penalties imposed pursuant to section 1534.13 of the Revised 498  
Code. All money in the fund shall be used to carry out the 499  
purposes of this chapter and rules adopted under it. 500

**Sec. 1534.99.** (A) Whoever violates this chapter is guilty of 501  
a misdemeanor of the first degree. However, if the violation 502  
results in serious physical harm to a person, whoever violates 503  
this chapter is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree. 504

(B) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a 505  
violation of this chapter, the court may order the dangerous wild 506  
animal or exotic animal that is the subject of the violation to be 507  
 euthanized by a veterinarian or an appropriate animal control 508  
 authority. 509

(C) A violation of this chapter is a nuisance. 510