

## Wolf Issues

The Department is in the process of reclassifying wolves as 'big game' animals. This regulatory change is currently under review with the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). The next step will be to address the issue of captive wolves and privately owned wolf-like canids. This second step requires both removing wolves from the list of 'exempt' species, and developing additional guidelines. With regard to additional guidelines, there are two options. In particular, the possession of wolves and wolf-like canids could either be **prohibited** (with grandfathering of existing owners) or they could be **licensed** as a regulated species (allowing for more individuals to possess wolves). Both options place a financial burden on the department and the owners. Currently, license fees for possession of regulated species are \$15 (non-commercial) and \$500 (commercial). License fees for the possession of prohibited species are \$40 (non-commercial) and \$500 (commercial).

At present, the Department believes that the **prohibited** option is preferable. This option already is exercised for the possession of captive elk. **If the prohibited option were chosen, then the following conditions would apply:**

- \*Only existing owners would be eligible for permits;
- \*A license would be required;
- \*Tattooing would be required;
- \*Required fencing and facility standards would be established (placing an additional financial burden on owners);
- \*Facilities inspection by departmental personnel would be required;
- \*Escapes, transfers out-of-state and births must be reported;
- \*Owners could not sell, barter or trade within Nevada.

**If the licensed option were selected, the following conditions would apply:**

- \* New owners could apply for possession of wolves or wolf-like canids;
- \* A license would be required;
- \* Applicants would be required to show a purpose for possessing wolves or wolf-like canids;
- \* Minimum husbandry standards would be required for handling and care;
- \* Tattooing would be required;
- \*Required fencing and facility standards would be established (placing an additional financial burden on owners);
- \*Escapes, transfers out-of-state and births must be reported;
- \*Facilities inspection by departmental personnel would be required;