



## **“DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL” PERMITS AND BREEDING BAN PRESENTED IN INDIANA**

### **The Issue:**

Indiana is the most recent state to introduce legislation to regulate the ownership of “dangerous wild animals”. [House Bill 1288](#) requires a permit for “dangerous wild animal” ownership and bans the breeding of such animals after July 1, 2012. This bill also provides strict penalties and fines for violators.

### **The Impact:**

This legislation defines the following as “dangerous wild animals”:

- Except for domesticated and feral cats, all species in the family Felidae, including hybrids;
- Except for domesticated dogs, all species in the family Canidae, including hybrids;
- All species in the family Ursidae (bears);
- All species of family Hyaenidae (hyena and aardwolf);
- Nonhuman primates;
- All species of family Procyonidea (raccoons, kinkajous, and coatimundis);
- Elephants;
- Crocodilians;
- Venomous reptiles;
- All species in the family Boidae (anacondas, pythons, boa constrictors); and
- Any other animal classified as a prohibited animal by the department.

HB 1288 calls for the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to establish a permit system in order for a person to possess a dangerous wild animal before July 1, 2012. Anyone who obtains an ownership permit must comply with the following:

- Not breed or replace a dangerous wild animal;
- Notify the department immediately if the animal escapes;
- Notify the department before moving the animal or when a change of address;

- Not allow the animal to come in physical contact with any person other the owner, a designated handler, employee of the department/law enforcement or a veterinarian;
- Not have been convicted of animal abuse;
- Not had a previous government issued animal license revoked or suspended;
- Must maintain records for each dangerous animal owned;
- Must obtain liability insurance of a minimum of \$100,000; and
- Must notify the department at least three days prior to the sale or transfer of such animal.

In order to obtain a permit, a person must submit an application to the department that includes:

- A fee (**NOTE:** This bill calls for the department to establish a fee. Wild animal permit fees in the state are currently \$10 per permit, but the bill does not provide a fee amount for a “dangerous wild animal” permit.)
- Name, address and telephone number;
- Description of the animal (including scientific name, common name and identification information); and
- Exact location where the animal will be kept.

Permits are valid for one year. The director may also suspend an issued permit if he/she believes an emergency is apparent. Please refer to the attached text of the bill to see a list of possible emergency conditions.

Anyone who violates these provisions is guilty of a Class B infraction and subject to fines up to \$2000. Also, HB 1288 **DOES NOT** prohibit a county or city from adopting an ordinance concerning dangerous wild animals that is more restrictive than its provisions.

If this legislation is enacted, anyone who possesses a dangerous wild animal must apply for a permit by September 1, 2012 and the department will issue or deny permits by December 31, 2012.

### **PIJAC Position:**

PIJAC supports reasonable regulation of animals that may threaten public health and safety. Outright breeding bans on such animals, however, are both counterproductive and inappropriate. Such bans drive ownership underground, thereby depriving the government of effective regulation, and eliminate the safe and responsible ownership of animals by those with the knowledge and resources necessary for such ownership. Furthermore, not all so-called “dangerous wild animals” do in fact represent a significant health or safety risk to the public.

### **Recommended Action:**

Anyone who owns and/or breeds an animal classified as a “dangerous wild animal” by this legislation should read the [text of the bill](#) carefully and contact committee members ([Sean Eberhart](#), [Richard Dodge](#), [Ron Bacon](#), [Bob Cherry](#), [Bob Heaton](#), [Mike Karickhoff](#), [Thomas Saunders](#), [Matt Ubelhor](#), [Dave Cheatham](#), [Kregg Battles](#), [Nancy Dembowski](#), [F. Dale Grubb](#), [Phil Pflum](#)) with questions and concerns. HB 1288 is currently in the Committee on Natural Resources, and has not yet been set for hearing. PIJAC will update the status of this bill on the [“Breaking News” page](#) of the PIJAC website.

If you have any questions, please contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-1525, ext. 105, or by email at [bambi@pijac.org](mailto:bambi@pijac.org).