



NEBRASKA TO AMEND “CAPTIVE WILDLIFE PERMIT” LAWS

The Issue:

[Nebraska Legislative Bill 64](#) proposes amendments to current law by listing new species that would require “captive wildlife permits”. The bill provides new definitions, in the form of a list of species, for “wild mammals” and “wild reptiles” that include some species that could be considered as pets. This legislation also provides insurance provisions, display requirements and release/escape protocol for permit holders.

The Impact:

“Captive Wildlife Permits”.

The bill provides that a person must first obtain a “captive wildlife permit” to “purchase, possess, propagate or sell” any of the following:

- Wild birds;
- Wild mammals;
- Wild reptiles;
- Nongame; and
- Wildlife determined to be an endangered or threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act or by the State of Nebraska.

A person must apply with the Game and Parks Commission for a “captive wildlife permit”. The commission will promulgate all rules and regulations regarding the permits. Fees are not to exceed \$30 and must be renewed annually.

“Wildlife” is defined as “any animal that cannot be kept in captivity without a permit in accordance to Nebraska statute”. The bill provides new definitions including a list of “wild mammals” and “wild reptiles”. NOTE: Some listed species are considered pets by some people and would require a permit.

LB 64 also provides that anyone who keeps “wildlife” in captivity prior to the enactment date of this legislation must obtain a permit within 60 days after the date of enactment.

NOTE: Any person who wishes to auction captive wild birds, captive wild reptiles, captive wild mammals or other captive wildlife must obtain a “captive wildlife auction permit” from the commission. These permits are \$65.

Liability Insurance.

This bill requires all “captive wildlife permit” holders to maintain liability insurance for at least \$250,000 for each occurrence regarding liability damages for destruction of or damage to property and death or bodily injury to a person caused by the wild animal.

Display Requirements.

A “captive wildlife permit” holder would be required to continuously post and display, at each possible entrance onto the premises where a wild animal is kept, a conspicuous sign, clearly legible and easily readable, stating that a wild animal is on the premises. They must also conspicuously display a sign with a warning symbol that informs children of the presence of a wild animal.

Release/Escape.

If a captive wild bird, captive wild mammal, captive wild reptile, or other captive wildlife escapes, either intentionally or unintentionally, the owner or possessor of the wild animal must immediately report the escape to law enforcement. The owner or possessor is liable for all expenses associated with efforts to recapture the wild animal.

The bill also bans any intentional release of a captive wild bird, captive wild mammal, captive wild reptile, or other captive wildlife. If such animal is intentionally released, the person releasing the wild animal is liable for all expenses associated with efforts to recapture the wild animal.

PIJAC Position:

This *PetAlert* is for informational purposes only. Anyone affected by [LB 64](#) should read it carefully and be aware of new permit requirements.

Recommended Action:

This bill has been assigned to the [Legislative Committee on Natural Resources](#), but a committee hearing has yet to be held. Please check the [“Breaking News” page](#) of the PIJAC website to monitor its progress.

If you have any additional questions feel free to contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-1525 or via email at bambi@pijac.org.