



## PERMITS TO HOLD GAME IN CAPTIVITY

Issued under the authority of Parts 401 and 427, 1994 PA 451.

Applicants must read and retain this document for future reference. These rules and regulations pertain to the completion of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR or Department) *Application and Permit to Hold Game in Captivity* (formerly Game Breeder's License and Holding Wildlife in Captivity), PR1350. The state authority to regulate the possession of game animals lawfully possessed in captivity is under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, Part 427, Breeders and Dealers. Questions should be directed to the Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, Permit Specialist at 517-284-6210.

Permits to Hold Game in Captivity authorize the possession of animals reared in captivity only. They do not authorize the possession of animals taken from the wild in Michigan. Only licensed wildlife rehabilitators can possess injured or orphaned animals from the wild in Michigan. For more information regarding Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits, contact the Wildlife Division, Permit Specialist at 517-284-6210.

It is not legal to import into Michigan any of the following live animals or eggs: wild turkeys or their eggs, wild turkey hybrids or their eggs, mute swans or their eggs, skunks, raccoons, wild rabbits, and wild hares.

Applicants should contact their local unit of government and confirm that there are no restrictions on the possession of certain animals prior to applying for a permit. A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity does not provide any authorization to circumvent any Federal, State, local zoning, or any other local laws and ordinances. It is the applicant/permittee's responsibility to know and comply with Federal, State, and local laws.

### SPECIES COVERED

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity is required to possess, propagate, sell, transport, or make any other commercial or personal use of live animals defined as game in Michigan. In addition, a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity is required for the possession of live animals which closely resemble game species and can reasonably be confused with game species as determined by the Department.

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity is required for the possession of the following game animals: badger, bobcat, fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus* and *Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon, coyote, beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, squirrel, skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), woodchuck, opossum, pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, ducks, geese, and wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Michigan game animals not listed above may not be possessed under a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity.

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity is also required for the possession of the species listed within the following groups: ducks (all North American species except properly marked mallards), fox: there are several species of fox in North America but only red fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), including all color phases such as silver, and gray fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), geese (all North American species), and pheasants (ring-necked, Sichuan, and look-a-likes from the genus *Phasianus* per *Types of Pheasants Regulated*).

### DEER SPECIES

The possession of all deer species, including white-tailed deer, elk, moose, reindeer, and all other exotic deer, is regulated under a separate registration process. For more information, please contact: *Privately Owned Cervid Biologist, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909 (517-284-6184).*

### BLACK BEARS

The possession of black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is regulated by the Large Carnivore Act or under an USDA Exhibitor's license. Current permittees in possession of a black bear under this order may continue to possess the bear for the life of that animal pursuant to the provisions of this order. In addition, a black bear may not be bred or transferred unless the animal is transferred to an entity exempt from the provisions of this order. No new permits for the possession of black bear shall be issued under the authority of this order. Permit amendments to add black bear to the list of animals possessed by the permittee shall not be issued either. For more information, or to obtain a copy of Act 274, please contact the Permit Specialist (517-284-6210).

### PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

The following are exempt from the requirement of obtaining a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity:

1. Public zoological parks that are accredited by the American Zoological Association or American Sanctuary Association as defined in Public Act 49 of 2008.
2. Exhibitors Licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture.
3. Licensed falconers for raptors possessed under the authority of a State/Federal falconry permit.
4. Licensed game bird hunting preserve operators for game birds possessed under the authority of a Game Bird Hunting Preserve License.
5. People possessing 12 or fewer pheasants, bobwhite quail, or Hungarian partridge for personal use or dog training, provided the birds are not propagated or sold. Proof of purchase should be retained as permission to possess.
6. People possessing more than 12 pheasants, bobwhite quail, or Hungarian partridge under the authority of a Game Bird Release Permit.
7. Field dog trial permittees for the possession of game birds authorized under that permit.

### LEGAL ACQUISITION REQUIREMENT

Permits to Hold Game in Captivity authorize the possession of animals reared in captivity only. They do not authorize the possession of animals taken from the wild in Michigan. All Game held in captivity shall have been secured in a lawful manner. As evidence of such legal acquisition, the receipted invoice, bill of lading, official shipping tag, or other satisfactory evidence shall be presented for inspection upon request by any Conservation or Law Enforcement Officer.

### INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity does **not** authorize the possession of injured or orphaned animals from the wild. Only a licensed wildlife rehabilitator can care for or possess injured or orphaned animals from the wild. For more information please contact: Wildlife Division, Permit Specialist at 517-284-6210.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity does not authorize the possession of threatened or endangered species. A complete list of threatened or endangered species can be found on the DNR webpage at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). It is unlawful to possess, transport, buy, sell, import, or export threatened or endangered species unless under the authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection. For more information, please contact: Endangered Species Coordinator, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7944 or 517-284-6216.

### STEPS INVOLVED IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING A NEW PERMIT

1. Read this circular in its entirety. If you have questions, contact the Permit Specialist (517-284-6210).
2. Build, purchase, or acquire your cage, pen, or enclosure. You must possess holding facilities which meet or exceed the minimum enclosure specifications and amenities stated in this circular for each species to be acquired before submitting your application. You must possess an approved permit before acquiring animals per step seven below. You must own or lease the land on which the animals are to be held. Do **not** contact your local Conservation Officer or other local Department personnel to arrange an inspection of your facilities. The Department may or may not arrange an inspection per *Inspections* within this circular. In some cases pictures may be adequate for an inspection.
3. Complete the application. Application for a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity must be made on form PR1350, which is prepared and furnished by the Michigan DNR. The application must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, including specifically listing each species to be possessed. The Department is responsible for keeping records pertaining to permittee's current inventory of live animals. Therefore, it is important that an accurate starting number be reported on

initial permit applications. The application asks for the number of animals as of the application date. New applicants should not yet have obtained animals, therefore, the number of animals they list on the application should be zero. After permit approval, new applicants must report their initial acquisition of animals and any subsequent additions to, or subtractions from, their inventory on a Monthly Inventory Report in accordance with the instructions on that form per step eight below.

4. If, for whatever reason, a new applicant has obtained animals before obtaining an approved permit, the species and number of animals possessed as of the application date should be reported on the application. A letter explaining, in detail, the circumstances upon which the animals were obtained, including the name and address of the person from whom the animals were obtained, must be attached to the application.
5. Attach to the completed application, the fee (per instructions on application form and *Application Fee* within this circular), and, if necessary, any other attachments. Mail as instructed on the application form.
6. Allow 45 days to receive your approved permit. Depending on the species listed on your application and other circumstances, longer delays may occur; see *Inspections* within this circular.
7. After receiving your approved permit, you may acquire the species listed on the permit. Permits are not transferable. The purchaser of any licensed premises must have their own permit, if they plan to continue to hold game in captivity. A separate permit is required for each location, even when owned and operated by the same person or firm.
8. When you receive your approved permit, you will also receive one Monthly Inventory Report form and one Supply Order form. Submit the Monthly Inventory Report indicating your initial acquisition of animals. If necessary, submit the Supply Order form to acquire more Monthly Inventory Report forms and Official Shipping Tags. Additional Monthly Inventory Reports must be completed and submitted in accordance with the instructions on the form and *Monthly Inventory Reports* within this circular.
9. If any animals, living or dead, or parts of any animals, are removed from the licensed premises, Official Shipping Tags must be used in accordance with the instructions on the tag and *Official Shipping Tags* within this circular.
10. If you wish to add other species, or if you expect any other changes to any of the information on your permit, you must submit an amended permit application in accordance with the instructions on the form and *Amending Your Permit* within this circular.
11. You will receive renewal information prior to the expiration of your permit. If you wish to renew your permit, you must do so in accordance with the instructions on the form and *Renewing Your Permit* within this circular.

#### **YOUR SIGNATURE ON THE APPLICATION**

The applicant's signature on the application certifies that the applicant/permittee:

1. Has read and understands the regulations within this circular, and on the application form, and agrees to abide by those regulations including submitting Monthly Inventory Reports as required.
2. Has not falsified any information on the application.
3. Has enclosures which meet or exceed the minimum size and required amenities for the species listed on the permit.
4. Understands that his/her facilities and records are subject to inspection by Department personnel at any reasonable time.
5. Understands that this permit does not provide any authorization to circumvent any Federal, State, local zoning, or any other local laws and ordinances.
6. Understands it is his/her responsibility to know and comply with Federal, State and local laws.
7. Owns or leases the property on which animals listed on the permit will be held.

8. Understands that failure to comply with all permit regulations may result in the revocation of this permit, fine, and/or imprisonment.
9. Hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Permittee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Permittee, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities authorized by this permit.
10. Hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) issuance of this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use or occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit by the permittee, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.

### **AMENDING YOUR PERMIT**

If you have, or expect to have, any change to any of the information on your current approved permit (other than number of animals), you must obtain an approved amended permit. If an amended permit is required, contact the Permit Specialist (517-284-6210). Amended permit applications must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, which includes indicating "Amended" and your permit number. The application must be signed and filled out completely, including all current information. The expiration date does not change when amending a permit. There is no charge for amending a permit. Amended permit applications must be mailed to: Permit Specialist, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7944 or reitzc@michigan.gov. Do not mail amended applications to the Cashier's Office. Allow 45 days to receive your approved amended permit. Depending on circumstances, longer delays may occur. Some reasons for amending a permit include minor changes such as a new name, telephone number, or address; or adding species not currently listed on your approved permit per below.

### **Adding Species**

Applicants wishing to add species which are not listed on their permit must construct holding facilities which meet or exceed the minimum enclosure specifications and amenities stated in this circular for each species to be added before submitting an amended application. When the amended application is approved, it will become the applicant's new permit. Therefore, the applicant must list the species currently possessed plus the species to be added. The applicant should not list only the species to be added. The application asks for the number of animals as of the application date, therefore, the number zero should be listed for the new species to be acquired. The approved amended permit must be obtained before the new species are acquired. The acquisition of the new species and the number of animals acquired must be reported on a Monthly Inventory Report. For species which are currently listed on a permit, additional animals may be acquired without amending the permit provided a Monthly Inventory Report is submitted indicating the number of additional animals and the total number of animals does not exceed the minimum space requirements for that species.

### **Exception for Ducks**

Permittees possessing ducks are not required to amend their permit prior to acquiring a type of duck not listed on their permit. Likewise, you may sell duck species to individuals who have permits listing ducks, even if the species being sold is not specifically listed on the buyer's permit. For example, if your permit lists only wood ducks and pintails, and you have the opportunity to acquire a canvasback, you may acquire that canvasback without amending your permit to include canvasbacks. This exception to the requirements for amending permits pertains only to transactions involving duck species; it does not pertain to geese, or any species other than ducks. A Monthly Inventory Report is required any time you have an addition to, or subtraction from, your live animal inventory. Your inventory report must specify the species, number of ducks involved in the transaction, and include the starting and ending balance of live animals held. Your duck numbers may not exceed the space requirements indicated within this circular. When it is time to renew your permit, you must list all species and animal numbers currently held.

### RENEWING YOUR PERMIT

Permits are valid from the date of issue to the third June 30 after issue. For example, a permit issued March 1, 2008, would be valid until June 30, 2010. If you no longer possess game species and you do not wish to renew your permit, you must notify the Permit Specialist in writing. Monthly Inventory Reports must account for your zero balance of animals held. Renewal information and an application will be mailed to you in the month of April of the year your permit expires. Renewal applications must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, which includes indicating "Renewal" and your permit number.

Do not contact your local Conservation Officer or other local Department personnel to arrange an inspection of your facilities. The Department may or may not arrange an inspection per *Inspections* within this circular. Attach a check or money order for the correct fee per *Application Fee* within this circular, and submit to the Cashier's Office as instructed on the form. It is recommended that you maintain a photocopy of your completed application for your records. Provided you submit a properly completed renewal application no later than June 1, you should receive your approved renewal permit prior to the June 30 expiration date of your permit.

Improper animal inventory reporting, or other violations of the terms of your permit, could cause delays in the renewal of your permit, or the denial or your permit renewal. Your permit file will be audited at renewal time. An audit may reveal:

- Failure to submit Monthly Inventory Reports per *Monthly Inventory Reports*.
- Monthly Inventory Reports submitted late.
- Monthly Inventory Reports which do not account for current animal numbers.
- A renewal application that indicates a species has been acquired without an amended permit on file.

For each species, the number of animals held that you list on your renewal application should match the number on your current permit, or the number reported on your last Monthly Inventory Report. If not, you should attach a Monthly Inventory Report, or other document, accounting for the current number of animals held.

### APPLICATION FEE

Normally, the fee for new or renewal applications is \$45. However, if an applicant has more than 500 animals or more than 40 acres enclosed, the fee will be determined as described below:

- The fee shall be \$45 for any number of animals not to exceed 500, plus \$15 for each 500 or portion thereof in excess of 500, or
- The fee shall be \$45 for the number of enclosure acres not to exceed 40 acres, plus \$15 for each 40 acres or portion thereof in excess of 40 acres.
- The fee to be charged shall be the larger one that can be charged for either animal numbers or acres enclosed. The maximum fee which can be charged for a single location is \$150.

A check or money order should be made payable to the "State of Michigan," stapled to the completed application, and mailed to: Cashier, Michigan DNR, PO Box 30451, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7951.

There is no fee for amended applications. Amended applications should be mailed to: Permit Specialist, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909-07944 or reitzc@michigan.gov.

### ENCLOSURES AND SANITATION

All cages and enclosures must meet the specifications and contain the amenities described within this circular. Animals must be held within the square footage requirements listed, except newborn mammals may remain with their parents until weaned. **All enclosures shall be of sufficient structural strength and designed to prevent the escape of the captive animals (and their offspring) and to prevent the entrance of free individuals of the same species.** Permittees must keep all fences and enclosures properly repaired. Each enclosure shall be provided with rain-proof dens, nest boxes, shelters, shade, and bedding as may be necessary for the comfort of the animals. All animals shall be handled in a sanitary and humane manner. At no time shall animals be chained or otherwise tethered to stakes, posts, trees, buildings, or other anchorage.

## INSPECTIONS

Do not contact your local Conservation Officer or other local Department personnel to arrange an inspection of your facilities. These inspections may or may not be arranged by the Department in accordance with the application process. Whether an inspection occurs will be decided upon by the Department based on the species, circumstances, past history, and renewal status of the permittee. **Pictures** are an acceptable form of inspection. Suitable images of the constructed facility with dimensions may be accepted. For more information on this process please contact the permit specialist at [reaitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reaitzc@michigan.gov) or 517-284-6210.

## MINIMUM ENCLOSURE SIZE AND REQUIRED AMENITIES

The minimum enclosure size and required amenities for the species designated in this section shall be as follows, except that newborn mammals may remain with their parents until weaned:

1. **Badger, bobcat, fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus* and *Vulpes vulpes*), or raccoon; enclosure requirements:**
  - a. The enclosure size for a single animal: shall be a minimum of 8 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet high.
  - b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 24 square feet.
  - c. Clawing logs and a den site 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet high shall be provided for each animal.
  - d. A climbing tree with 3 or more 4-inch diameter branches shall be provided for each raccoon or bobcat.
  - e. A 14-inch by 36-inch protected shelf area shall be provided for each animal. Bobcat or raccoon platforms shall be at least 3 feet above the floor; fox and badger platforms shall be 1 foot above the floor.
2. **Coyote; enclosure requirements:**
  - a. The enclosure size for a single animal shall be a minimum of 10 feet by 8 feet by 6 feet high.
  - b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 40 square feet.
  - c. A den site 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet high shall be provided for each animal.
3. **Beaver or otter; enclosure requirements:**
  - a. The enclosure size for a single animal shall be a minimum of 10 feet by 8 feet by 6 feet high, with a pool 4 feet by 6 feet by 3 feet deep at one end.
  - b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 40 square feet and pool size by 10 square feet.
  - c. A variety of climbing surfaces, a slide, and a dry place for sleeping and retreat shall be provided for otter.
  - d. Gnawing logs and a nest box or retreat 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet high shall be provided for beaver.
4. **Muskrat or mink; enclosure requirements:**
  - a. The enclosure size for a single animal: shall be a minimum of 8 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet high, with a pool 2 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet deep at one end.
  - b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 16 square feet and pool size by 4 square feet.
  - c. Gnawing material and a den site 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet high shall be required for muskrat.
  - d. A tree for climbing, an elevated shelf for loafing, and a den site 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet high shall be provided for mink.
5. **Squirrels; enclosure requirements:**

- a. The enclosure size for a single animal shall be a minimum of 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet high.
- b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 1 square foot.
- c. One nest box 1 foot by 1 foot by 2 feet high, elevated 5 feet off the ground, shall be provided for each animal.
- d. A central climbing tree with at least 3 or more 3-inch branches shall be provided.

**6. Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), woodchuck, or opossum; enclosure requirements:**

- a. The enclosure size for a single animal: shall be a minimum of 8 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet high, with a denning box 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet high.
- b. For each additional animal, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 16 square feet.
- c. Several logs at least 2 feet long and 6 inches in diameter for clawing and/or gnawing shall be provided for each animal.

**7. Black bear (*Ursus americanus*); enclosure requirements; grandfather clause**

- a. The enclosure size for a single animal shall be a minimum of 25 feet by 12 feet by 8 feet high with a pool 4 feet by 6 feet by 3 feet deep.
- b. For each additional bear, increase the cage floor space and pool surface area shall be increased by 50 percent.
- c. Each bear shall be provided with a den site 4 feet by 4 feet by 6 feet high.
- d. Several logs at least 5 feet long by 10 inches in diameter for clawing shall be provided for each bear.
- e. Amended permits to add black bear or new permits to possess black bear in captivity shall not be issued pursuant to 20.3(6)(a).

**8. Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), bobwhite quail, and Hungarian partridge; enclosure requirements.**

- a. The enclosure size for birds older than 14 weeks shall be a minimum of 100 square feet.
- b. For more than four pheasants without specs, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 25 square feet per bird.
- c. For more than six pheasants with specs, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 15 square feet per bird.
- d. For more than 100 bobwhite quail, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 1 square foot per bird.
- e. For more than 12 Hungarian partridge, the horizontal cage size shall be increased by 8 square feet per bird.
- f. Bobwhite quail and Hungarian partridge may be held in smaller breeder pens during the breeding season.
- g. In order to reduce direct confrontation and interaction between birds, cover shall be provided in enclosures which hold pheasants and Hungarian partridge. Cover may be provided by growing vegetation, brush piles, old Christmas trees, corn shocks, bales of hay or straw, or other cover forms placed into or grown within each pen.

**9. Ducks; enclosure requirements:**

- a. The enclosure size for not more than 2 pairs, or 1 pair and their offspring of the year, shall be a minimum area of 100 square feet.
- b. A minimum of 10 square feet of water, 1 foot or greater in depth, shall be provided.

- c. For each additional adult bird, the horizontal area shall be increased by 20 square feet of land and 5 square feet of water surface.
- d. Ducks shall be prevented from comingling with wild waterfowl.

**10. Geese; enclosure requirements:**

- a. The enclosure size of not more than 2 pairs, or 1 pair and their offspring of the year, shall be a minimum area of 500 square feet.
- b. A minimum of 50 square feet of water, 1 foot or greater in depth, shall be provided.
- c. For each additional goose, the horizontal area shall be increased by 100 square feet of land and 25 square feet of water surface.
- d. Geese shall be prevented from comingling with wild waterfowl.

**11. Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*); enclosure requirements:**

- a. The enclosure size for not more than 5 birds, shall be a minimum of 150 square feet of horizontal space.
- b. For each additional bird, the horizontal area shall be increased by 15 square feet of floor space.

**12. The enclosures and amenities required by this order shall be separate from any human dwelling.**

**13. A conservation officer or other representative of the department of natural resources may inspect the premises, pens, animals, records, and facilities of a permittee at any reasonable time.**

**TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS OFF LICENSED PREMISES**

A person may transport an animal held under permit in a temporary cage or other suitable means of confinement directly to and from a facility only for the following reasons:

- 1. Veterinary treatment of the animal.
- 2. Sale or transfer of ownership of the animal.
- 3. Exhibition of mammals to the public, provided a United States Department of Agriculture license specifically authorizing this activity is possessed.
- 4. Use of fox or raccoons in Department authorized field dog trials, provided the fox or raccoons are not dragged, led on a leash, submerged in water, or allowed to come into contact with dogs.

**LIVE ANIMAL SALES**

It is unlawful for live animals to be removed from the licensed premises unless the animals are being shipped directly out-of-State or the person receiving the live animals:

- 1. has a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity listing the species being acquired, or
- 2. has a Game Bird Hunting Preserve License listing the species being acquired, or
- 3. has a Game Bird Release Permit listing the species being acquired, or
- 4. has a Field Dog Trial Permit listing the species being acquired, or
- 5. Is receiving 12 or fewer pheasants, bobwhite quail, or Hungarian partridge for personal use.

It is the permittee's responsibility to verify that anyone receiving live animals has the necessary permit.

**SUPPLY ORDER FORMS**

Applicants will receive a Supply Order form (PR1350-7) with their approved permit. This form may be used to order Monthly Inventory Reports at no charge and Official Shipping Tags at a cost of six dollars per hundred. This form may also be used by permittees possessing pheasants, bobwhite quail, and Hungarian partridge to order Game Bird Release Permits at no charge. Supply Order forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form.

**MONTHLY INVENTORY REPORTS**

A Monthly Inventory Report of Game in Captivity (PR1350-2) is due by the 15th day of the month following any calendar month in which you had any addition to, or subtraction from, your live animal inventory. This includes animals hatched or born and animals that die, as well as animals sold or purchased. This report must be completed and submitted in accordance with the instructions on the form. No report is required for any month in which you had no additions to, or subtractions from, your live animal inventory. Your copy of all the reports submitted must be retained for at least five years and are subject to Department inspection. Failure to submit this report is a violation of the terms of your permit and could result in the issuance of a citation and revocation of your permit. New applicants will receive one Monthly Inventory Report with their approved permit. This form should be used to report their initial acquisition of animals.

### **Exception for Pheasants, Bobwhite Quail, and/or Hungarian Partridge**

Permittees possessing pheasants, bobwhite quail, and/or Hungarian partridge are exempt from the requirement of submitting a Monthly Inventory Report for activities involving those species. Such permittees are required to maintain live animal inventory records pertaining to pheasants, bobwhite quail, and Hungarian partridge in accordance with the instructions on the report form. Those records include:

1. The names, addresses, and permit or license numbers of persons whom you sold or transferred live animals or eggs to, or purchased or received live animals from.
2. The names and addresses of persons whom you sold or transferred carcasses or parts thereof to.
3. The dates, species, and numbers of birds hatched, found dead, purchased, acquired, sold, or transferred.

You may use the report form for recording these required records; however, you are not required to use the form. For example, by keeping your copy of all properly completed Official Shipping Tags (add permit number of persons receiving live birds), and any other purchasing, hatching, and mortality records, you will meet record keeping requirements. These records are subject to Department inspection and must be retained by you for at least five years. A report must be submitted for all species except pheasants, bobwhite quail, and Hungarian partridge.

### **OFFICIAL SHIPPING TAGS**

All products produced under the authority of this permit shall be identified with an Official Shipping Tag (PR 2309) prior to removal from licensed premises. The tags shall be completed in accordance with the instructions on the tag. The tags shall identify the products as having been produced and sold legally. The shipping tags are constructed in two sections: one part (hard copy) shall accompany the shipment; the other section (soft copy) is to be retained by the shipper for at least five years.

### **GAME BIRD RELEASE PERMITS**

Permittees possessing pheasants, bobwhite quail, or Hungarian partridge are authorized to issue Game Bird Release Permits (PR 2200) to their customers wishing to purchase more than 12 live pheasants, bobwhite quail, or Hungarian partridge (or their eggs) for release or personal consumption. Birds held under the authority of a Game Bird Release Permit may not be propagated or sold. All surviving birds must be released within the county indicated on the permit, or consumed, within six months of the issue date of the permit. The permit must be obtained before, or at the same time as, the birds are acquired. A Game Bird Release Permit must be issued in strict accordance with the procedures stated on the form. Permittees wishing to use Game Bird Release Permits should submit a Supply Order Form requesting a supply of the permit forms. With that supply you will receive a letter explaining in detail the procedures for issuing this permit. The Permit Specialist may issue Game Bird Release Permits to people acquiring birds from outside of the State, or for transactions within the State, if necessary.

### **COMMERCIAL VERSUS NONCOMMERCIAL PERMITS**

Applicants who indicate "Commercial Purposes" on the permit application form, will have their names, addresses, and telephone numbers included on the "Commercial Breeder's List" which will be sent to the public upon request. Applicants who indicate "Noncommercial Purposes" will not be included on this list. If you do not wish to be included on this list, you should indicate "Noncommercial Purposes". Applicants who intend to propagate and/or sell Game, either alive or as dressed products, and wish to be included on this list, should indicate "Commercial Purposes" as instructed on the permit application. The designation as commercial or noncommercial is for Department information purposes only. There is no legal difference

between a commercial permittee and a noncommercial permittee. Both must adhere to exactly the same permit requirements. For example, a noncommercial permittee may sell Game species in accordance with all permit regulations including the use of Monthly Inventory Reports and Shipping Tags.

#### **GAME FOR PROPAGATION**

As of January 16, 2009, unless the premises to be used for the purpose of propagation are zoned agricultural, the Department shall notify in writing the city or the township and, if applicable the village where the premises are located and application has been filed under this section. The notice shall include a copy of the application. The Department shall deny the license application if the local unit of government notifies the Department within 30 days of notice that the use designated on the application:

- Violates a local ordinance that prohibits the captivity of the game animal desired; and
- Is not protected by the Michigan Right to Farm Act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.471 to 286.474.

#### **WILDLIFE SPECIES AS PETS**

The Department of Natural Resources does not recommend or encourage the possession of game or any wildlife species as pets. Some of the reasons for this are:

1. There is no rabies vaccine approved for use for wildlife. Immunizations that protect dogs and cats do not necessarily protect wild animals. Vaccines that immunize domestic animals may even prolong or mask existing rabies infections in wild animals. The progress of rabies and its clinical signs in domestic animals is fairly predictable. Rabies in wild animals is considerably less predictable. An infected animal can undergo a variable incubation period where the virus remains dormant in the wound for over a year. Furthermore, when the animal does become infected, it may not show any symptoms of the disease, while still spreading great amounts of virus. There is no ten-day waiting period, as with a dog. By the time the animal becomes ill, a person who has been bitten could be beyond help. Therefore, if a pet wildlife species bites someone, the animal must be euthanized so that the brain can be tested for rabies.
2. Wildlife pets can pose a serious threat to human safety. Wild animals, even when raised for generations in captivity, are still wild animals. As they grow older, they can unpredictably revert back to their wild instincts, sometimes biting and attacking for no apparent reason.
3. The commercial pet trade can encourage the illegal taking of animals from the wild.
4. Some people acquire wildlife species as pets for the wrong reasons. Some may think that having an unusual animal as a pet is chic, or that possessing these animals will improve some image they have of themselves, rather than truly caring for the welfare of the animal. Others acquire young wildlife species because they are cute and cuddly, but are not prepared for the responsibility of caring for the wild animal as it grows older and larger and sometimes becomes dangerous and deadly. Certain species of wild animals should be appreciated in their natural habitat without being owned as pets, and people in the market for a pet should strongly consider a homeless, domestic, dog or cat.

#### **SWANS-SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

Only those permitted prior to February 12, 2016 will be able to request a letter of authorization for the swans currently possessed. No new permits will be issued and no additions will be allowed once the swans possessed die. The authority given only allows possession of game species and swans are not game.

#### **WILD TURKEYS-SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

Special regulations apply to the possession and selling of live wild turkeys or wild turkey hybrids. Wild turkeys and wild turkey hybrids must be pinioned (rendered incapable of flight by the removal of the wing tip of one wing) before reaching 14 days of age. Fertile eggs of wild turkeys or wild turkey hybrids shall not be removed from the licensed premises, unless they are being shipped directly out-of-State. Non-pinioned turkeys and hybrids may be shipped out-of-State prior to reaching 14 days of age.

Because of the inability to maintain control of the offspring, the Department does not allow turkeys held under permit to roam free within large unroofed enclosures. Turkeys may be held in unroofed pens small enough to insure that the offspring can be captured and pinioned as required. Also, wild turkeys, and any game birds held under the authority of a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity, shall not be harvested by shooting.

### TYPES OF PHEASANTS REGULATED

As indicated on page one, a permit is required for the possession of ring-necked pheasants, Sichuan pheasants, and look-a-likes from the genus *Phasianus*. There is no legal source for the possession of true Sichuan pheasants by private individuals. The State of Michigan owns the entire flock and has not authorized any private ownership. However, people sometimes incorrectly refer to black-necked pheasants, or other types of pheasants with black heads and no white ring around the neck, as Sichuans. The Department considers black-necked pheasants as look-a-likes of Sichuan pheasants; therefore, a permit is required for their possession. If the bird looks similar to, or can be reasonably confused with a ring-necked or a black-necked pheasant, it is regulated by the Department. Considering all the different types of pheasants and cross-bred pheasants that exist, sometimes a judgment must be made regarding whether or not the bird is a "look-a-like." Following are lists of some of the more common types of pheasants that do and do not require a permit:

**The possession of the following types of pheasants requires a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity:**

Ring-necked, Chinese ring-necked, Korean ring-necked, Manchurian ring-necked, Manchurian ring-necked cross, extra large ring-necked, jumbo ring-necked, white-winged, Afghan white-winged, Sichuan, black-necked, and (true) green pheasants.

**The possession of the following types of pheasants does not require a Permit to Hold Game in Captivity from the DNR.**

Melanistic mutant, black mutant, green mutant, blue mutant, buff, buff Isabel, Alaskan snow, Reeves, silver, Impeyan, Lady Amhearst, golden, red golden, white, and jumbo white pheasants.

### IMPORTATION

Any person wishing to import live animals not listed on page one must obtain importation requirement information from: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Animal Industry Division, PO Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909 (Telephone: 800-292-3939).

Any person wishing to import any live animal listed on page one, or the eggs of birds on this list, must secure a Veterinarian's Certificate of Health from an accredited veterinarian in the State of origin before the stock is shipped into Michigan. This regulation is to prevent diseased or otherwise undesirable birds and mammals from being shipped into Michigan. The Veterinarian's Certificate of Health shall accompany the animals while in transit to their new home and be available for inspection by a Conservation Officer while in transit and for a minimum of one year at the location where the animals are being held. Pheasants, quail, grouse, and partridge must be certified pullorum free.

It is illegal to import into Michigan any of the following live animals or eggs: skunks, raccoons, wild rabbits, wild hares, wild turkeys, wild turkey hybrids, the eggs of wild turkeys, the eggs of wild turkey hybrids, mute swans, or the eggs of mute swans.

A Permit to Hold Game in Captivity does not authorize the importation of threatened or endangered species. Threatened and endangered species include, but are not limited to: cougar, lynx, and trumpeter swans. It is unlawful to possess, transport, buy, sell, import, or export any threatened or endangered species unless under the authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection. For more information, please contact: Endangered Species Coordinator, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7944 (Telephone: 517-284-6216).

A person wishing to import wild bird eggs or wild animals into Michigan from a foreign country should contact: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (800-358-2104). The United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare may also require permits.

### MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

Both State and Federal permits are required in order to purchase or sell most live migratory waterfowl. It is the responsibility of an individual wishing to keep waterfowl in captivity, including mallard ducks, to understand Federal regulations. Also, a Federal permit is required for the possession of other live migratory birds including

crows. These permits will not be issued for the possession of migratory birds as pets. For more information please contact: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region, Migratory Bird Permits, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990 Bloomington, MN 55437-1458 (Telephone: 612-713-5360).

#### **EXHIBITION OF GAME**

A United States Department of Agriculture license is required for the exhibition of wild mammals per *Federal Regulations* below. The Permit to Hold Game in Captivity does not authorize exhibition.

#### **FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

In addition to State rules and regulations identified herein, Federal regulations developed as part of the Animal Welfare Act, U.S. Code, 7 U.S.C. Sections 2131 to 2159, may also be imposed upon any facility which sells wild animals as pets, for breeding or research purposes, or exhibits animals at any time. Annual inspection of all facilities which house such animals will be carried out by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Section. For more information please contact: Eastern Regional Office for Animal Care, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Unit 304 "O", Raleigh, North Carolina 27606 (Telephone: 703-812-6609).

#### **QUESTIONS?**

For more information regarding the possession of Game, or the application and permit process, please contact: Permit Specialist, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7944 (Telephone: 517-284-6210) or [reitzc@michigan.gov](mailto:reitzc@michigan.gov).

Questions regarding game bird husbandry can be directed to the Michigan Association of Game Bird Breeders and Hunting Preserves <http://www.michiganhuntingpreserves.com>.