NATIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

LIST A

Red-spotted Newt
Spotted Salamander
Marbled Salamander
Northern Dusky Salamander
Appalachian Seal Salamander
Mountain Dusky Salamander
Northern Two-lined Salamander
Longtail Salamander
Northern Spring Salamander
Four-toed Salamander
Redback Salamander
Slimy Salamander
Valley and Ridge Salamander
Eastern Mud Salamander
Northern Red Salamander
Eastern Spadefoot
American Toad
Fowler's Toad
Northern Cricket Frog
Cope's Gray Treefrog
Gray Treefrog
Green Treefrog
Northern Spring Peeper
Chorus Frog
Pickerel Frog
Northern Leopard Frog
Southern Leopard Frog
Wood Frog
Fence Lizard
Five-lined Skink
Broadhead Skink
Ground Skink
Six-lined Racerunner
Worm Snake
Black Racer
Ringneck Snake
Corn Snake
Black Rat Snake
Eastern Hognose Snake
Mole Kingsnake
Milk Snake
Coastal Plain Milk Snake
Eastern Kingsnake
Redbelly Water Snake
Northern Water Snake
Rough Green Snake
Smooth Green Snake
Queen Snake
(Dekay's) Brown Snake
Redbelly Snake
Eastern Ribbon Snake
Eastern Garter Snake
Copperhead

LIST B

Bog Turtle
Wood Turtle
Spotted Turtle
Eastern Box Turtle

LIST C

Eastern Tiger Salamander
Green Salamander
Jefferson Salamander
Wehrle's Salamander
Hellbender
Mudpuppy
Greater Siren
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad
Carpenter Frog
Mountain Chorus Frog
Barking Treefrog
Common Map Turtle
Leatherback
Loggerhead
Green Turtle
Atlantic Hawksbill
Atlantic Ridley
Spiny Softshell
Coal Skink
Rainbow Snake
Earth Snake
Scarlet Snake
Timber Rattlesnake

The following native species are not covered by these regulations: Bullfrog, Green Frog, Eastern Mud Turtle, Common Musk Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Painted Turtle, Redbelly Turtle, and Diamondback Terrapin. Contact DNR-Tidewater Administration.

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FUNDED BY THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND

WANT TO BUY A SNAKE?

A GUIDE TO POSSESSING, BREEDING, AND SELLING NATIVE REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS IN MARYLAND



Photo by Robert Rinker Jr.

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FISH, HERITAGE, & WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources adopted new regulations effective December 1, 1993 concerning the possession, breeding, and sale of reptiles and amphibians native to our state. The purpose of these regulations is to protect and conserve native reptiles and amphibians while maintaining the educational and economic benefits derived from them. This guide has been produced to aid you in understanding how you can legally own or possess reptiles and amphibians native to Maryland.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

You ***need*** a permit if you:

- breed, attempt to breed, sell, offer for sale, trade, or barter any reptile or amphibian native to Maryland (Lists A, B, and C) regardless of where you obtained it.
- possess more than 4 individuals of each reptile and salamander from List A except the Red-spotted Newt. Of these ***only 4 may have been taken from the wild.***
- possess more than 4 adults and 25 eggs or tadpoles of each frog, toad, or Red-spotted Newt from List A. Of these ***only 4 adults and 25 eggs or tadpoles may have been taken from the wild.***
- possess more than 1 individual of each reptile or amphibian from List B. ***Only Eastern Box Turtles may have been obtained from the wild. All turtles must have a carapace length of at least 4 inches.***

A permittee may possess an unlimited number of animals from Lists A and B that are captively produced or legally obtained from out of state, *with proper documentation*.

WHEN DON'T YOU NEED A PERMIT?

You do ***not*** need a permit to possess:

- any reptile or amphibian ***not*** native to Maryland.
- up to 4 individuals of each reptile and salamander from List A, except the Red-spotted Newt. These may have been obtained from the wild, captively produced, or legally obtained from out of state.
- up to 4 adults and 25 eggs or tadpoles of each frog, toad, or Red-spotted Newt from List A. These may have been obtained from the wild, captively produced, or legally obtained from out of state.
- 1 individual of each reptile or amphibian from List B. *Only Eastern Box Turtles may have been obtained from the wild. All turtles must have a carapace length of at least 4 inches.*
- up to 25 amphibians from List A for use as bait if you have a valid Maryland fishing license or are legally entitled to fish without a license.
- an unlimited number of any List A reptile or amphibian which is an albino, partial albino, or other color mutation as a result of captive breeding.

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

No reptiles or amphibians from List C may be possessed, bred, or sold. These animals may only be held in accordance with a Scientific Collection Permit or an Endangered Species Permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

Copperheads or any non-native poisonous snake may be possessed but not sold or imported as pets.

A reptile or amphibian that has been captively produced or is not native to Maryland may ***not*** be released into the wild. Only individuals that were taken from the wild may be released back into the wild (only at point of capture) if:

- they have ***not*** been held in captivity with any other reptile or amphibian; or
- they have ***not*** been in captivity for more than 30 days; or
- upon written authorization from the Department of Natural Resources.

In accordance with Maryland Health Department regulations, *turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches and viable turtle eggs cannot be imported, transported, sold, bartered, bred, or possessed.*

THE CANS AND CANNOTS OF BREEDING

Breeding of native reptiles and amphibians requires a permit. A permittee may collect from the wild for breeding purposes ***no more than***:

- 4 individuals of each reptile and salamander from List A except the Red-spotted Newt.
- 4 adults and 25 eggs or tadpoles of each frog, toad, or Red-spotted Newt from List A.

No breeding of turtles is allowed, in accordance with Health Department regulations.

No breeding of animals from List C is allowed under this permit.

MORE ABOUT COMMERCIAL TRADE

Commercial trade in native reptile and amphibians requires a permit. A permittee may sell, offer for sale, trade, or barter any reptiles or amphibians from Lists A and B (only turtles with a carapace length of at least 4 inches) if the animals are captively produced or legally obtained from out of state.

No animals taken from the wild in Maryland or from List C are allowed to be commercially traded.

HOW TO GET A PERMIT

A permit application and further information may be obtained by writing:

Permits Coordinator
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410-974-3195)

Violation of these regulations or the terms of the permit can result in fines, permit revocation and/or confiscation of animals, and is a misdemeanor under Maryland Natural Resource law.