

Possession Permits (draft four)

(a) Possession Permits. Where specifically provided by law or rule, individuals are required to apply for, and the Executive Director is authorized to issue, permits to possess live wildlife resources, or their parts, if the species are not listed as endangered, threatened or special concern, or subject to the provisions of the Holding Wildlife in Captivity regulations. Possession permits are required for the possession of 25 or more individual amphibians and/or 5 or more individual reptiles including turtles in excess of four individuals regardless of the source of the specimens. Such permits shall authorize the possession and transportation of the wildlife resources, but will not authorize the collection of any wildlife resources from the wild. The permit shall not authorize the taking or possession or transportation of any wildlife resources or their parts in violation of state or federal laws or regulations. At no time should permitted specimens be released to the wild, except under situations of research or rehabilitation when Wildlife Commission biologists have authorized written release protocols.

(b) Qualifications of permits. Permits may be issued to individuals or institutions with experience and training in handling and caring for the wildlife resource and/or in conducting a scientific study for the purpose of scientific investigation relevant to perpetuation or restoration of the species or as a part of a scientifically valid study or restoration effort. Permits may be issued to a public or private educator, exhibitor or citizen who demonstrates that he or she lawfully attained possession of a specimen or specimens and that he or she possesses the requisite equipment and expertise to care for such a specimen or specimens. Individuals with valid possession permits will be allowed to maintain in their possession offspring born of legally held specimens if proper records of births and deaths are kept and submitted to the Executive Director annually for review. No permit shall be issued to individuals who collect more than 4 turtle specimens from the wild in a given year, or to individuals who collect more than 4 specimens of other reptiles or more than 24 amphibian specimens from the wild in a given year without first having secured a valid Collecting License. Individuals found to be in violation of Collecting License or Endangered Species Permit requirements or in violation of other Wildlife laws or regulations may be denied Possession Permits.

(c) Term of Permit. The Executive Director may, pursuant to G. S. 113-274(c)(1c), impose time limits and other restrictions on the duration of any possession permit, but unless so restricted, the license shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(d) Reports of Permitted Specimens. Each individual licensed under this Rule shall submit a written report to the Executive Director within 15 days following the date of expiration of the permit. The report shall be on a form supplied by the Wildlife Resources Commission and shall show the numbers of each species held under the permit and the use or disposition thereof. The Executive Director may require additional information for statistical purposes such as the source and date of acquisition of additional specimens and the sex, size, weight, condition, reproductive success and approximate age of each specimen in possession. Such additional information may be required on the form of report or by a separate writing accompanying the form.

(e) Other Requirements and Restrictions. The Executive Director may, pursuant to G.S. 113-274(c), impose such other requirements and restrictions on persons licensed under this Rule as he may deem to be necessary to the efficient administration of the wildlife conservation laws and regulations.