

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Notice of Intent to Amend Regulations and Notice of Public Hearing

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, pursuant to Sections 4-168 and 22a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, hereby gives notice of her intention to

include new regulation section 26-55-6 and repeal section 26-66-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The proposed regulation as authorized pursuant to CGS section 26-55 is to add a new section which effectively replaces section 26-55-2 and addresses the importation, possession of wild birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. More specifically, the proposal will: 1) establish a list of wild animals that, due to their inherent threat to public health and safety may not be imported or possessed in Connecticut except by zoos, aquaria, circuses, laboratories, research facilities, municipal parks, museums, nature centers, exhibitors or, for purposes of care and treatment, veterinarians, 2) establish a list of wild animals that, due to their inherent threat to agricultural crops or native plants and animals, may not be imported into Connecticut except by zoos, aquaria, circuses, laboratories, research facilities, municipal parks, schools, museums, nature centers or exhibitors, or as otherwise provided for pursuant to state law, 3) establishes that importation, possession or liberation of wild animals defined as endangered, threatened or of special concern under state law shall be subject to permits issued by the commissioner, 4) add definitions for domestic animal, wild animal, hybrid animal, import, zoos, aquaria, circuses, laboratories, research facilities, municipal parks, museums, nature centers, exhibitors, schools and veterinarians for purposes of these regulations, 5) establishes permit duration and revocation standards, 6) establishes explicit criteria for what constitutes a museum, nature center and exhibitor, and 7) establishes requirements for notification in the event of wild animal escape, 8) establishes wild animal disease reporting and prevention requirements.

All interested persons are invited to express their views on the proposed regulations at the following public hearing:

Date: February 15, 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Location: Department of Environmental Protection
Phoenix Auditorium
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Persons may also choose to present their views regarding the proposed regulations in writing and submit them to the Department of Environmental Protection by March 1, 2011, 4:30pm. Based on public comment, proposed measures may be adjusted to meet the objective of the proposal.

Copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained online at www.ct.gov/dep, by writing the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, or by calling (860) 424-3011. The Department has prepared a fiscal note that is available upon request for review.

Amey W. Marella
Commissioner