



SPOTTED SALAMANDER
JAMES DEBOER

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF CLASSROOM ANIMALS

- Any student contact with classroom animals should be under careful supervision of the educator.
- Instruct students on safety precautions regarding the handling of live animals.
- Plan ahead for future care or disposition of animals used in the classroom. **Remember, if an animal has been taken from the wild for more than 30 days it cannot be returned.**
- Take appropriate care of your classroom animal. Many reptile and amphibian species require special care in captivity and are a big responsibility.

Below is a brief description of what many common classroom animals require. This is not meant to be used as a complete care guide. Libraries and many pet stores have detailed books that should be used to care for classroom animals.

Aquatic Turtles: Require an aquarium with deep water, a place to bask and an incandescent reflector light. Aquatic turtles need a varied diet that includes fish, insects, produce and commercial turtle food.

Box Turtles: Require a dry terrarium with water provided in a small dish. The ground material should be made of a substance the turtle can dig under. Diet includes earthworms, crickets, mealworms and produce.

Snakes: Keep in a tightly closed terrarium with a water dish and a basking area. Only whole food should be offered to snakes and may include mice, rats and young birds.

Lizards: Keep in a tightly closed terrarium with a water dish and a basking area. Diet may consist of crickets, flies, mealworms and a calcium powder supplement.

Amphibians: Keep in a tightly sealed container with high humidity and a water source. Sphagnum moss is a good ground cover for amphibians. Diet should include earthworms and crickets.

WHERE CAN WILD ANIMAL PERMITS BE OBTAINED?

Applications and information regarding Education, Scientific Collection, Propagation Permits and PIT tags are available at wildohio.gov. Use the search box to find the appropriate topic (i.e. "education permit" or "PIT tag"). You may also call the ODNR Division of Wildlife Headquarters, Permit Coordinator or email: wildlife.permits@dnr.state.oh.us.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Wildlife/wild animal: Includes mollusks, crustaceans, aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and all other mammals. This does not include any domesticated animal species.

Native wildlife: Any species of the animal kingdom that is indigenous to this state.

Game species: Includes any birds and mammals that are managed under hunting and trapping regulations.

Take and possess: Any attempt to capture or kill a wild animal and take possession of such animal.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

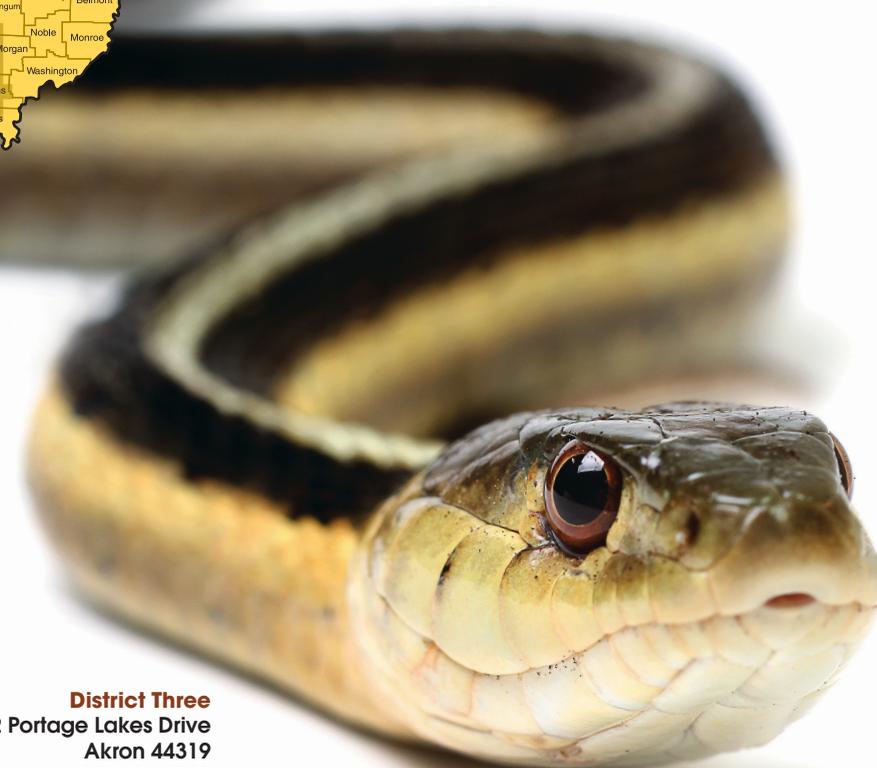
- Pub. 5326** Wild Animal Collecting Permits
- Pub. 5306** Laws: Wild Animal Propagation and Related Activities
- DNR 8953** Education Permit Application
- DNR 8954** Scientific Collection Permit Application
- DNR 8972** Educational Permit Annual Report
- DNR 8806** Wild Animal Propagation Permit Application



MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE (JUVENILE)
CRISTIAN VELA



ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM



The Division of Wildlife is pleased to provide educators with quality teaching aids about Ohio's wildlife. Our educational materials include Project WILD activity supplements, loaner trunks, posters, and various printed materials.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE Headquarters

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus 43229-6693
(614) 265-6300 (Voice)
1-800-WILDLIFE
Hearing Impaired call Ohio Relay

District Three
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron 44319
(330) 644-2293

District One
1500 Dublin Road
Columbus 43215
(614) 644-3925

District Four
360 E. State Street
Athens 45701
(740) 589-9930

District Two
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay 45840
(419) 424-5000

District Five
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia 45385
(937) 372-9261



INTRODUCTION

Many educators have or wish to have animals in their classroom to use as teaching tools for their students. Classroom animals can give students a unique connection to science that stimulates an understanding and appreciation of the natural world. But before deciding to keep animals in your classroom, or before you decide to collect specimens from the wild, it is important to understand the laws and regulations regarding native wildlife, the permits required for possession and proper care for the wildlife.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Revised Code 1531.02 State ownership of wild animals: Concludes that all wildlife is owned by the people of the state of Ohio and managed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. No person can take, possess, hunt, buy, sell or transport native wildlife unless permitted by the Revised Code or division rules.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Non-Commercial Propagation Permit allows a resident to possess any native animal that has been legally acquired. The law states that you must keep records of the animals acquired and the date of acquisition.

A Wild Animal Propagation Permit Application and License, Form DNR 8806 must be requested from the Division of Wildlife within 10 days after taking possession of a native wild animal. In Ohio, there are restrictions to the total number of animals you can take or possess from the wild:

- Up to four individuals of “collectible” reptile and amphibian species may be taken from the wild. A list of these species is available in the Division of Wildlife Reptiles and Amphibians Licensing and Regulations (OAC 1501:31-02).
- No state threatened or endangered species, mammals, birds, aquatic nuisance species or mussels may be taken from the wild for non-commercial or commercial propagation.
- There is no limit on the number of animals you can possess if they are captively produced or legally obtained from out of state, with proper documentation.

Wild Animal Permits for scientific research or educational study are issued by the Law Enforcement Section’s Permit Coordinator. In order to qualify for these permits, one must be affiliated with an educational or scientific institution.

LETTER PERMITS

Possession of any state-listed endangered or aquatic nuisance species requires a letter of permission from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Contact the Division of Wildlife’s Permit Coordinator for information. For federally-listed species, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for additional permitting.

PIT TAGGING

Native snakes with a snout to vent length greater than 18 inches, and native turtles with a carapace 4 inches or larger must be permanently marked with a unique passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag. Regardless of size or permit type, all native snakes and turtles must be PIT tagged before selling, gifting, bartering or trading with the exception of snapping or softshell turtles held solely for consumption.

This permit is for persons desiring to collect wild animals for **scientific** or **educational** purposes and is separated into these categories:

Education Permits are a mechanism designed to permit qualified educators to possess Ohio native wild animals. Activities covered by an Education Permit include: Possession of dead wild animal parts, nests, eggs, mounts or study skins and live wild animals for educational programming or display. Any animal taken from the wild may not be returned back to the wild after being in possession for 30 days. While in possession, the following records must be kept:

- Previous owner’s name (if applicable),
- Dates of possession and relinquishment,
- Where animal was originally acquired.
- And, if not returned to the wild, the date of death or name of person animal was given to.
- How animals are being used for education

Scientific Collecting Permits allow the collection of wild animals in Ohio that would otherwise be prohibited. These are primarily used for surveys and inventories of wildlife species that are protected (i.e., migratory birds, raptors and mussels, including shells), being collected during the closed hunting or trapping season, collected in excess of daily bag limits or collected with devices or techniques (i.e., electroshocking) otherwise prohibited.

LIVE NATIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

MAMMALS

- May be acquired after approval of an Education Permit from a licensed commercial propagator or transferred from a rehabilitation facility (with approval from the Division of Wildlife).

BIRDS

- Birds may be acquired after approval of an Education Permit from a licensed commercial propagator or transferred from a rehabilitation facility (with approval from the Division of Wildlife).
- Migratory birds require an Education Permit and a Federal Migratory Bird Permit.

AQUATIC ANIMALS

- Minnows, crayfish and hellgrammites may be legally acquired by hand, legal seine and/or hook and line fishing with a current fishing license.
- Other methods of acquiring fish, such as electroshocking, gill netting and trap netting may only be done after approval of an Education or Scientific Collecting Permit.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- Only “collectible” reptiles and amphibians may be taken from the wild and possessed with a propagation permit or an education permit. Refer to OAC 1501:31-1-02.

INSECTS

- All aquatic insects and state-listed threatened or endangered species of insects require an Education Permit, Scientific Collecting Permit or a Letter Permit.



NATIVE DECEASED ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PARTS

MAMMALS

- Hides of furbearers may only be legally acquired during hunting/trapping season.
- Salvaged (e.g., roadkill) mammals may be acquired with an Education Permit.
- Hides may be bought at any time, though it is recommended that receipt of purchase be kept.
- Tanned hides may be possessed at any time.
- Deer:
 - Carcasses may be taken if given a receipt from a law enforcement officer.
 - Sheds may be possessed at any time, no receipt needed.
 - Any other body part (skulls, skeletons, hides, feet, etc.) may only be kept with an Education Permit or a receipt from a wildlife officer.

BIRDS

With the exception of legally acquired game birds, possession of any part of a bird (whole, feathers, skull, talons, nest and eggs) requires a permit.

Game Birds:

- Whole birds may be legally taken during hunting season. Skeletons and skulls may be used from these birds. Game tags must remain with specimens if applicable.
- Migratory Birds:
 - In addition to a state Education Permit, a Migratory Bird Permit issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is required.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- Reptile sheds do not require permits.

INSECTS

- All aquatic insects and state-listed threatened or endangered species of insect require an Education Permit, Scientific Collecting Permit or a Letter Permit.

