



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

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Executive Director

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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for being a responsible owner. Enclosed you will find the Dangerous Wild Animal Certificate of Registration Package. This package consists of:

- Registration Application
- Synopsis of the requirements to keep and house a Dangerous Wild Animal
- Copy of the Dangerous Wild Animal Regulations.

Please read the material carefully. If you have any questions, please call us at 281/999-3191.

Sincerely,

HCPH Veterinary Public Health

www.hcphtx.org

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

As the owner of a dangerous wild animal, you are required to submit an Application for Registration to HCPH Veterinary Public Health. Animals cannot be possessed or transported without a Certificate of Registration.

- Registration application must include information on owner and person caring for animal. In addition information on an alternate person must be provided in case owner or caretaker can't be located.
- It must contain information about each animal, any identifying marks, tattoos, and microchips.
- Information about whether the owner plans to breed the animal or if the animal is spayed or neutered.
- Information about the enclosure where the animal will be housed.
- Proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000.00.
- Once all information is submitted to Animal Control, Certificate of Registration is issued within thirty (30) days.
- If registration is denied-applicant may request, in writing, an extension (see SECTION 6,D in the Regulation).
- The Certificate of Registration is valid for twelve (12) months from date issued.
- Application filing fee of \$50.00 per animal (maximum \$500.00). This non-refundable fee becomes the annual registration fee upon issuance of Certificate of Registration.
- Certificate of Registration is non-transferable. If animal is moved or transferred to a new owner, a new application and registration must be obtained.
- Before registration expires, the owner must submit a new application updating any changes. A veterinary inspection is needed for a renewal of an existing registration.

Application for Dangerous Wild Animal Registration

HCPH Veterinary Public Health
612 Canino Rd., Houston, Texas 77076 (281) 999-3191

OWNER INFORMATION

NAME:		TDL:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		ZIP:
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	
OWNERS SIGNATURE		DATE:

PRIMARY CARETAKER INFORMATION

NAME:		TDL:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		ZIP:
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	

EMERGENCY/ALTERNATE CONTACT

NAME:	PHONE:
NAME:	PHONE:

ANIMAL INFORMATION

SPECIES:		COLOR/MARKINGS:
AGE:	SEX:	SPAYED/NEUTERED?:
WEIGHT:	HEIGHT:	LENGTH:
IS ANIMAL GOING TO BE USED FOR BREEDING: _____ YES _____ NO		
List any distinguishing marks, tattoos, microchips, etc.		

ORIGIN OF ANIMAL

Where was animal obtained?	When
From whom?	

RENEWAL

YES	NO	CURRENT REGISTRATION NO.
YES	NO	VETERINARY STATEMENT ATTACHED

Additional Animal Information

ANIMAL INFORMATION

SPECIES:		COLOR/MARKINGS:
AGE:	SEX:	SPAYED/NEUTERED?:
WEIGHT:	HEIGHT:	LENGTH:
IS ANIMAL GOING TO BE USED FOR BREEDING: _____ YES _____ NO		
List any distinguishing marks, tattoos, microchips, etc.		

ORIGIN OF ANIMAL

Where was animal obtained?	When
From whom?	

ANIMAL INFORMATION

SPECIES:		COLOR/MARKINGS:
AGE:	SEX:	SPAYED/NEUTERED?:
WEIGHT:	HEIGHT:	LENGTH:
IS ANIMAL GOING TO BE USED FOR BREEDING: _____ YES _____ NO		
List any distinguishing marks, tattoos, microchips, etc.		

ORIGIN OF ANIMAL

Where was animal obtained?	When
From whom?	

ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED

- Application for Certificate of Registration
- Photograph of animal (include face, eyes, nose, ears, and neck)
- Signed Affidavit and applicable letters
- Photograph and/or plans of the enclosure in which the animal will be kept
- Proof of \$100,000.00 in liability insurance
- \$50.00 per animal non-refundable filing fee (\$500.00 max)

Failure to include these items will cause a delay in the processing of your application

Animals Needing to be Registered Under the Dangerous Wild Animal Regulations

- Non-domestic canines (including hybrids)
- Non-domestic felines (including hybrids)
- Non-domestic ungulates (hoofed animals)
- Non-human primates
- Ape
- Bear
- Binturong
- Cheetah
- Cougar
- Elephant
- Hyena
- Jaguar
- Leopard
- Lesser Panda
- Lion
- Ocelot
- Rhinoceros
- Tiger
- Wolf

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared _____
_____, who being by me duly sworn on his oath deposed and said:

“My name is _____, I am the owner of certain dangerous and/or wild animals which must be registered with the Veterinary Public Health Division of the Harris County Public Health pursuant to Harris County’s Rules to Regulate the Keeping of Certain Wild Animals in the Unincorporated Area of Harris County, Texas.

I will be keeping the dangerous/restricted animals I own at the following location.

and I swear/attest to the following statements concerning that location:

1. The location where I will keep my dangerous wild animal(s) is not within 1000 feet of a school, child care facility or residence (other than the owner) or
2. The location where I will keep the dangerous wild animals that I own is not subject to deed restrictions, or alternatively, if it is subject to deed restrictions, I have attached a letter from the community association for that location confirming that the keeping of my dangerous/restricted animals at that location is not a violation of those deed restrictions, or I have obtained a variance from the deed restrictions in order to keep my dangerous/restricted animals at that location.
3. I am the owner of the location where I will keep the dangerous wild animals I own, or alternatively, if I do not own the location, I have attached a letter from the owner of the location stating that I am authorized to keep my dangerous/restricted animals at that location.

Owner

Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on this the ____ day of _____, _____, to certify which witness my hand and official seal.

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the
STATE OF TEXAS
Commission Expires _____

CAGE SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS IN HARRIS COUNTY

Enclosures for animals to be registered in Harris County shall be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the containment of the species of animal to be housed. The enclosure must be kept in good repair to contain the animal securely, and to protect the animal from illness, injury, and inclement weather.

1. CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

- At least 9-gauge chain link.
- Chain link enclosures shall be braced and securely anchored by metal corners, clamps, ties and braces of equivalent strength.
- Frames shall be securely bolted or welded to provide maximum strength at braces, corners and top and bottom rails.
- Refer to regulations for information on elephants and rhinoceros etc.

2. PERIMETER FENCE:

- Must be at least 8 feet in height.
- At least 3 feet distance from each primary enclosure.
- Must be kept securely locked at all times.
- Warning signs must be posted at all entrances.
- A diagram of the perimeter area, showing the location of the enclosure where animal is kept, must be posted on the fence

3. ENCLOSURES:

- Must be sufficiently lighted.
- Reliable and adequate electrical power.
- Reliable and adequate potable water.
- Equipped with locks and locking mechanisms equivalent to the strength of the enclosure material.
- Floor space at least 6 times the area occupied by the animal when in a standing or reclining position.
- All enclosures shall be covered at the top equivalent to the strength of the enclosure material.

Once again the facilities must be kept in good repair to prevent animal from escape, injury, illness, and inclement weather.

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL GENERAL CARE REQUIREMENTS

- The enclosure in which the animal is kept must be clean and sanitary.
- The enclosure will be well drained so it won't attract mosquitoes, rodents or anything else that might pose a health problem to humans.
- The owner shall not allow animal waste and old food to accumulate. Old food, bedding, animal waste, trash and debris must be removed regularly. Disposal of these items must comply with all Federal, State, and County laws relating to pollution, public health and protection of the environment.
- Dangerous Wild Animals will be kept in a way to maintain their individual health.
- The animal(s) will be provided appropriate food for their size, weight, age and condition.
- The animal's food must be wholesome and something they are able to eat.
- The food must contain normal daily nutritional requirements
- Food and dishes must be clean and kept out of the animals' waste and insects.
- Fresh, drinkable water must be available at all times and the water and bowls must be kept clean.
- Failing to maintain a clean, sanitary enclosure is a class C misdemeanor

NEWBORN ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS

- The birth of any animal needing registering must be reported within 30 days.
- Within 12 weeks after birth the owner of the parent animal must report, in writing and under oath, the location and ownership of each of the young.
- Each offspring remaining in Harris County must be registered by 12 weeks of age.
- Failing to report or register young is a class C misdemeanor.

INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

- HCPH Veterinary Public Health is authorized to make reasonable inspections of the enclosures where the animal is kept.
- Failure to allow HCPH Veterinary Public Health to inspect enclosures may result in denial of the Registration Application or Renewal.
- Failure to allow HCPH Veterinary Public Health to inspect the registered enclosures is a class C misdemeanor.

**PHYSICAL LOCATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR
DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS IN HARRIS COUNTY**

No Dangerous Wild Animal shall be kept within 1000 feet of a residence other than the owner of the Dangerous Wild Animal.

No Dangerous Wild Animal shall be kept within 1000 feet of a school or child-care facility.

No Dangerous Wild Animal shall be kept:

- Without a proper registration as determined by HCPH Veterinary Public Health.
- In an enclosure unless this enclosure meets or surpasses the standards for size and strength as set out in the rules of Harris County.
- Without properly posted warning signs in order to notify emergency response personnel of the presence of the animal. These warning signs shall include a diagram of the building showing the location of the enclosure where the animal is kept.
- Without a sworn statement that location is not subject to deed restrictions. If location is subject to deed restrictions the owner shall attach a letter from the community association confirming that keeping the animal is not in violation of the deed restrictions. Otherwise the owner must obtain a variance from the deed restrictions in order to keep the animal at that location. A copy of the variance must be submitted to Veterinary Public Health.
- Without a sworn statement that the applicant owns the location at which the animal is to be kept or, if the applicant does not own the location, a letter from the owner of the property stating that the applicant is authorized to keep the animal at that location.
- Without proof of \$100,000.00 in liability insurance.

**TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR
DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS IN HARRIS COUNTY**

- Any dangerous wild, registered or unregistered animals, being moved from one locale to another must be confined in an escape-proof enclosure.
- Enclosure must not have any sharp points or edges that stick out that may injure animal.
- Cage must be strong enough to withstand normal travel and keep animal secure and comfortable.
- Enclosure must be so that none of the animal's body parts are sticking out to cause injury to it or other animals or people.
- Cage must be so that in an emergency animal can be removed safely and quickly.
- Doors or openings to cage must have fasteners that will prevent the animal from opening the cage or the cage accidentally opening.
- Cage must provide proper ventilation and temperature controls for the animal while being transported.
- The cage must be large enough so that animal may turn around in it and be able to stand without the head touching the top of the cage. There are some restrictions on the larger breeds of animals where freedom of movement would be dangerous to animal, handler or other people. See the complete regulations for these animals.