Ohio Governor John Kasich signed Senate Bill 310, a law regulating the possession of dangerous wild animals and restricted snakes, into law on June 5, 2012. Acquiring, buying, selling, trading, or transferring possession of a dangerous wild animal without a proper permit is prohibited.

The law allowed for existing animal owners to obtain a permit for a limited time in the three months before and after January 1, 2014 provided they met the permit requirements. The law does not allow for any new permits to be issued to existing animal owners.

### Dangerous wild animals

| Large cats | Rhinos |
| Bears      | Alligators |
| Elephants  | Crocodiles |
| Most monkeys |

### Restricted snakes

| Anacondas and pythons (longer than 12 ft.) |
| Certain vipers |
| Certain venomous snakes |

### Regulation

**Effective September 05, 2012,** the law generally prohibits any person from:

- Acquiring, buying, selling, trading, or transferring possession of a dangerous wild animal (permit required);
- Trading, selling or offering for sale a dangerous wild animal or a venomous snake;
- Knowingly removing a microchip that is implanted in a dangerous wild animal;
- Allowing a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake to roam off the property where it is confined;
- Removing any teeth or claws from a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake;
- Failing to comply with signage requirements; and
- Knowingly releasing a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake into the wild.

### Timeline

**Oct 2011** Incident at Thompson farm in Muskingum County serves as catalyst for stricter regulations on dangerous animal ownership

**June 2012** Governor Kasich signs the Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Act, Ohio’s first law regulating the ownership of dangerous animals

**Sep 2012** Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Act goes into effect; buying and selling dangerous animals now prohibited, ownership regulated

**Nov 2012** Deadline for first-ever registration of dangerous wild animals by owners

**Mar 2013** Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Dangerous Wild Animal Temporary Hold Facility completed; first animal receives care by state until its permanent relocation

**Oct 2013** Ohio Department of Agriculture begins mailing/dropping off permit application packets to registered animal owners

**Jan 2014** Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Act requires private owners to be permitted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture

**Mar 2014** In an effort to permit as many animal owners willing to meet the requirements as possible, the Ohio Department of Agriculture offers a one-time 90 day grace period for applicants to submit completed applications without considering them tardy; **final deadline Mar 31, 2014**

**Oct 2014** Ohio Department of Agriculture begins seizure proceedings with unpermitted owners

Updated: 10/16/15
Types of Permits

- **Wildlife shelter permit** – Owner does not intend to breed the animal(s) or acquire new animal(s)
  - Permit application fee: $250 - $1,000 (+ $125 for every animal over 15 animals)
  - Liability insurance or surety bond requirement: $200,000 - $1 million

- **Wildlife propagation permit** – Owner intends to breed the animal(s) solely for the purposes of an approved species survival program and does not intend to acquire new animal(s)
  - Permit application fee: $1,000 - $3,000
  - Liability insurance or surety bond requirement: $200,000 - $1 million

- **Restricted snake possession permit** – Owner does not intend to breed, sell, or trade
  - Permit application fee: $150
  - Liability insurance or surety bond requirement: $100,000 - $500,000
  - **Note:** Financial responsibility requirement only applies to species of the following families:
    - Atractaspidae; Elapidae; Viperidae. Boomslang snakes; Twig snakes

- **Restricted snake propagation permit** – Owner intends to breed, sell, trade or otherwise transfer the animal(s)
  - Permit application fee: $300
  - Liability insurance or surety bond requirement: $100,000 - $500,000

- **Rescue facility permit** – Designated as a rescue facility where abused, neglected, unwanted, impounded, abandoned, orphaned, or displaced dangerous wild animals are provided care for their lifetime or released back to their natural habitat
  - Permit application fee: $500 - $2,000
  - Liability insurance or surety bond requirement: Not defined in statute
  - Rescue facility permit holders are prohibited from:
    - Purchasing animal(s)
    - Selling or trading animal(s) or their body parts
    - Using the animal(s) in any manner for profit
    - Breeding the animal(s)
    - Allowing the public to come into contact with the animal(s)

Exemptions

- Accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums facility
- Accredited Zoological Association of America facility
- Research facility as defined in federal Animal Welfare Act
- Research facility accredited by Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International
- U.S.D.A. licensed Circus
- Veterinarians providing temporary care
- Wildlife shelters accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
- Individuals travelling through the state who are not in the state for more than 48 hours and who do not exhibit the animal(s) or allow them contact with the public
- Educational institution that displays a single dangerous wild animal as a mascot
- Persons or facilities possessing certain Ohio Department of Natural Resources permits
- Service spider monkey trained by non-profit organizations

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