

## **Wolf and Wolf Dog Body Language and more information on wolves.**

**Wolves also have a complex body language. Wolves clearly show what their feelings are to other members of the pack through body positioning, ear and tail position, and noises accompanying the postures. Wolves will raise their tail high to indicate that they are in charge, and tuck it between their legs to indicate fear or submission. Ears laying flat against the head accompanied by bared teeth indicate fear, but ears pointed forward accompanied by bared teeth indicate aggression without fear.**

**Wolves indicate their aggression by growling, pricking their ears forward, staring, and pointing their tail straight outwards. Wolves flatten their ears, tuck their tail between their legs, look away, and have their back arched outward when they are afraid. Wolves who roll on their back and showing their belly are showing submission. Those who are ambivalent (don't know how they feel, or have mixed feelings about a situation or wolf), will often mix up these signals. Wolves stick out their tongue at another wolf to tell him that they give up. The play bow, inviting other wolves to join in a romp, is shown by the wolf sticking his rump up in the air, wagging his tail, placing his front end flat on the ground, and giving a swift "bark".**

**Because of these very distinct signals, it is really easy to see, for instance, who is the alpha at a kill. The alpha pair will eat first at a kill, and will overtly assert their dominance over the lower ranking wolves until they are done eating.**

**Wolves also communicate through a series of gestures combined with vocalizations. One such moving example is that of grief. Wolves are very expressional about how they communicate grief. When, for instance, a pack member dies, once playful wolves will refuse to eat and play, mope around all the time with their ears down to the sides of their heads, their tail held limp, their heads hung low, and walking at a slow gait, moaning and whimpering. The wolves will hold group howls, which consist of a low, long mournful howl, with a low pitched bark in the middle, almost like they are crying. The following are examples of the most overt body and tail postures in wolf communication: **Snapping Attack:** Ears forward, teeth bared, tail bent, and body in a defensive posture. This wolf is signaling to the other wolves that he means business, and will attack other wolves if they do not obey him. This is most likely a dominant wolf displaying aggression towards a lower ranking pack member, possibly chasing it away from a kill. This is also used to scare away intruders. Basically, making himself look scary to avoid confrontation, the last step before actual physical combat.**

**Defensive Threat:** Ears laid back against head, tail tucked between legs, back arched, holding a submissive posture. This wolf feels threatened by another wolf's actions, and is not likely to give up easily. This wolf is preparing to fight off whoever is making him feel uncomfortable, but tries to scare him away first with flashing fangs.)

**Fighting Pin-Down:** Display of dominance. An alpha pack member will often assert his or her authority over other pack members by this form of ritualized aggression. Dominant members of the pack will pin down the lower ranking ones to make sure they understand they are lower in rank.

**Passive Submission:** Submissive wolf is laying on back, often with tail tucked between legs, curls up front paws and lays ears back against the head. Wolves do this to show submission without going to the full blown out active submission. Mostly done by lower ranking wolves to all members of the pack that are higher in rank.

**Active Submission:** submissive wolf has ears flattened against head, tail, curled downward, and head lowered, walking crouched. This wolf is demonstrating to higher ranking members

of the pack that he is no threat, and acknowledges their higher rank, mostly done by higher ranking wolves to the alpha pair.

**Running in Play:** Ears at resting position, tail arched, mouth parted in a relaxed smile, running normally. This wolf is running, possibly in play, and appears at ease.

**Running in Fear:** Ears flattened against the head, tail tucked between legs, clenched smile, running with back arched and legs folded. This wolf is running, fearing for its safety.

**Play Bow:** Ears normal position, tail relaxed, rear raised, upper body on ground. This wolf is attempting to lure other wolves into playing with him!

**Ambivalent Display: (mixed emotions) Fear and Aggression:** tongue sticking out indicates submission, bared teeth indicate aggression, ears laid back mean fear.

**Dominance:** Tail raised high in display of dominance, the first line in intimidation by higher ranking wolves.

**Relaxed:** Tail in normal resting position, indicates wolf is content and complacent.

**Humility:** shows a wolf is being non-threatening towards other non-alpha wolves. Used by higher ranking wolves towards other higher ranking wolves.

**Fear or Submission:** tail tucked firmly between legs.

**Attack Mode:** Tail pointing straight out at 180 degrees from body, this wolf is mad, and displaying his anger, often followed by a snapping attack.

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## **WOLF PUPPY MILL OR WOLF RESCUE FACILITY?**

The **CONDITION** of the breeder's property is a dead-give-away about how they take care of their animals. A place that is dirty and looks like a dump, probably means that they have never put back money into taking care of their animals.

The **DIET** and health of the animals is another dead-give-away about the **ETHICS** of the owner. If they have many animals that are not spayed or neutered and have many litters on the ground instead of in a sheltered kennel, they are what is called a **PUPPY MILL**. Do not buy from a puppy mills, these Cruelty Mills abuse their animals by never given the mothers a rest from constantly breeding them. They also abuse the puppies by inferior feedings that insure a profit. They do not take care or have any concern about the health or welfare of the animals. Their only concern is having more and more animals to make more and more money.

Buy from ethical breeders that put their money back into their animals. Reputable wolfdog breeders will not make a fortune, because they are improving things for their animals. There are also puppy mills that tell the public that they are "Wolf Rescue Centers" fraudulently, and they will ask you for donations. Legitimate rescues and sanctuaries have to be non-profit by law. Ask to see their non-profit 501(c)3 occupational licenses. If they don't have one, you are taking a chance that they will use the money for their own personal gain. You cannot deduct donations given to them since they are **NOT** a non-profit organization. You will be able to tell by appearances whether they are actually using the money for the care of the wolfdogs just by looking at their enclosures and the health of their adults and puppies.

A true "official" rescue center will have their rescued animals spayed and neutered. They will be a non-breeding facility. They should have a USDA license. They will have a board of directors. They will not breed the rescued animals. A puppy mill will take those rescues and breed them for profit, not knowing anything about the animal or if it is in fact even a wolfdog. A rescue center will have their animals in secure enclosures. They will never chain

**an animal up, especially when using a choke collar. Wolfdogs raised in captivity cannot survive on their own in the wild. Any "rescue center" that is happy to have their wolfdogs escape and run free is contributing to the banning of wolfdogs all over the state. This is a form of taking away your right to own the animal of your choice. If they are really an honest rescue centers for high percentage wolves or wolfdogs, they will have a current and valid license from the FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION. If they claim to have anything above 74 percent and don't have a FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION Class two license, they can be reported to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and they will be shut down. They will be investigated and if they do not have any wolves above 74 percent they will remain open but they will never again claim to sell very high contain wolves for fear of another investigation that will surely get them in deep trouble.**

**Use your eyes and ears to identify who is a phony. These same PUPPY MILLS and FALSE WOLF RESCUE CENTERS also tell BUYERS that they are the only true and honest breeders in the area. They tell you this also because they have so many puppies, they can't find homes for them so they want people to only come to them. They have to tell you that so you don't look for a healthy, properly represented animal and enable them to continue making money from their forever breeding, ill kept animals. They tell buyers that they have the best puppies around but never feed them food-based vitamins or fresh meat or vegetables! These same un-ethical breeders will tell you that other breeders have bad or sick puppies, that no one wants the others' puppies. They will tell you many bad things and many lies about the good breeders to scare you away from them. Yet what they tell you is nonsense, if you just use your own eyes (and nose) and see who is a good breeder and who is a Puppy Mill. Many times these same people are themselves dirty, unkempt, and walk around on worm infested grounds barefooted when they know that they themselves have internal worms and parasites from their own bad habits. Look around their property and observe their behavior, visit several breeders and see the different temperaments of animals and facilities before you decide who to buy from.**

**The wolves in Puppy Mills are almost never very friendly when loose in their property. Puppy Mills hardly ever give their animals free time outside of their pens or enclosures.**

**Wolf dogs that are many generations removed are hardly ever dangerous and quite friendly to people they meet for the first time.**

**Remember your money will encourage puppy mills and bad breeders to continue to produce litter after litter of misrepresented and sick animals. Puppies deserve to be well fed, happy and healthy ensuring that you get the best puppy for your money and have a long happy life with it. If you buy from the puppy mills you are keeping them in the business of abusing the puppies and keeping the parents weak since they are constantly being bred.**

## **EDUCATION AND SECOND OPINIONS**

**Before you buy your puppy, learn as much as you can about both dog and wolf behavior. One organization to learn from is the Florida Lupine Association. Interact with as many wolves and wolfdogs as you can, get to know them first hand. I can send you to a legitimate wolf rescue that can show you the differences between 100% wolves and other contents of wolfdogs. I can also give you the name and phone number of one of the directors of the Florida Lupine Association that is familiar with reputable breeders of wolfdogs in Florida. When you go to buy a wolfdog, don't forget to check up on the breeder. The Florida Lupine Association is a non-profit educational organization that promotes education and reputable wolfdog breeding. They keep records on bad breeders. Bad and un-ethical breeders are not allowed to join them and have been thrown out for unethical treatment of wolfdogs and irresponsible breeding.**

**You can learn more about them here: [www.floridalupine.org](http://www.floridalupine.org). 5810-400 Monroe St. Tallahassee, Fl. 32303 Email: [info@floridalupine.org](mailto:info@floridalupine.org)**

**If you have any doubts about a breeder or about a wolf dog's percentages, please get in touch with them and possibly arrange for an educated 2nd opinion on percentages.**

## **REPUTATION OF THE BREEDER**

**I have proof of what I sell and claim. Many breeders do not, even if they are honest and very good breeders.**

**I can prove the actual wolf blood percentages from the papers of where I bought my original puppies from. They were listed in actual Wolf and Wolf Dog Registries that are stricter about their registrations than even AKC, UKC or the CKC. They know wolves and are not fooled by Un-reputable breeders that try to list their Malamutes, Huskies, Chow and German Sheppard Mixtures with them that have no actual wolf blood. Wolf Registries are experts about wolves and are never fooled, but you can be fooled by an Un-reputable breeder.**

**Most people are lied to about their first wolfdogs. They are told they are buying much higher contents when they are actually buying what amounts to a mutt of unknown heritage and unknown percentage. It happens to almost everyone the first time. The people that have more education and have done their breeder checks come to me. The others come back and buy what I have later. Check now before you buy.**

**The prices of both types of my puppies start high and go down as they get older and after bonding period is gone on the wolf dogs. After the Bonding Period is gone, the bonding is no longer automatic; it has to be earned by you, but will happen. Wolves, Wolf Dogs or wolf puppies sold for very little (\$50-\$100) may not even be a wolf or wolfdog if bought from a Un-reputable breeder, will be too old to automatically bond (past 14 weeks) with you or all of your family, or may be sold by Un-ethical and Un-reputable breeders that abuse their animals and have physical problems, or have too many mental or emotional problems to bond with or be safe around a family. Or they may be wolf rescues that even the rescue center do not want. They may be good for individuals that have a lot of time to spend on it. If you don't know what bonding means, it is a strong, loyal and loving attachment that Nature gives wolves towards humans or their pack. That is what produces the love, adoration and loyalty that the wolf or wolf dog has for you. If you buy an older puppy out of the Bonding Period and have children or un-experienced young adults supervising the children, never leave your child alone with it, especially if there is a litter of puppies near the Mother. A Bonded wolf or wolf dog will not attack your child but a Non-Bonded wolf dog will give what is called Fear-Bites. Either way, make sure that your whole family is bonded with your wolf dog, before you leave any child with any wolf dog. Better yet, don't leave any child alone with any type of animal! Even small dogs or cats have been known to kill children. And remember that all dogs, cats, wolves etc. are territorial; make sure that your animal knows all your family members. Socialize your animals to friends and family and to known visitors like the mailman.**

**Buying or selling a wolf higher than 74 percent is against the Law without a Class Two License. Sadly, you can be accused of having an illegal content wolf or pure wolf by your neighbor and Animal Control if they feel that it looks to be very high content and you can't prove that it is not so, and it will be confiscated and maybe destroyed if you can not prove that it is under the 74 percent rule. You may be fined or imprisoned by violations of the law. For sure, all your dogs and wolves will be investigated and maybe confiscated if just one dog is illegal. Animal Control Officers do not have the training that the officers from FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION do, therefore they will act from bad training and have your wolf dog killed before you are able to prove its wolf dog blood percentage or lack of it. This will cause you and your children emotional harm.**

**One thing to remember about a breeder, does he educate you or just tries to sell you? Most abandoned wolves and wolf dogs or even regular dogs, where sold without regard to the actual needs, non-bonding risks, capabilities, the risks and responsibilities of high percentages, education and breed information, containment requirements, information about**

county laws, etc of the purchasers. It is solely your responsibility to learn now before it is too late. Buying from breeders that don't help you increases your and your family's risks and danger. But you are the only one truly responsible for your purchase. We, as responsible breeders only ask you to slow down and learn before you buy.

**Remember the difference--The White Timber Wolf Dogs are mixed with White German Sheppards.**

**Remember the difference--The White German Sheppard puppies are 100% pure, massive, big boned and very healthy!**

**Wolf-dogs under 74% wolf blood are licensed as if they were just like any other dog. You don't need any special license for them. If you buy a wolf above 75% you do need a Class 3 license and a state approved kennel to legally have one. I don't sell, and I don't claim to have any wolves above 74 percent.**

**Remember-- Class 3 licenses are for wolves or wolf dogs above 74% or for pure wolves.**

### **Class One and Class Two Permits and the Law**

**It is unlawful for a person to possess any Class I Wildlife unless the animal was in possession prior to August 1, 1980. Class I Wildlife includes, but is not limited to the following: chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, baboons, leopards, jaguars, tigers, lions, bears, elephants, crocodiles, etc. Persons may possess Class II Wildlife if he or she obtains a permit from the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Class II Wildlife includes, but is not limited to the following: howler and guereza monkeys, macaques, cougars, bobcats, cheetahs, ocelots, servals, coyotes, wolves, hyenas, alligators, etc. All other wildlife in personal possession not defined as Class I or II Wildlife must obtain a no-cost permit. In addition, FL has promulgated regulations governing possession of Class II and III animals (caging requirements, etc.).**

### **372.922 Personal possession of wildlife.**

**(1) It is unlawful for any person or persons to possess any wildlife as defined in this act, whether indigenous to Florida or not, until she or he has obtained a permit as provided by this section from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (2) The classifications of types of wildlife and fees to be paid for the issuance of permits shall be as follows: (a) Class I—Wildlife which, because of its nature, habits, or status, shall not be possessed as a personal pet. (b) Class II—Wildlife considered to present a real or potential threat to human safety, the sum of \$100 per annum. (3) The commission shall promulgate regulations defining Class I and II types of wildlife. The commission shall also establish regulations and requirements necessary to ensure that permits are granted only to persons qualified to possess and care properly for wildlife and that permitted wildlife possessed as personal pets will be maintained in sanitary surroundings and appropriate neighborhoods. 4) In instances where wildlife is seized or taken into custody by the commission, said owner or possessor of such wildlife shall be responsible for payment of all expenses relative to the capture, transport, boarding, veterinary care, or other costs associated with or incurred due to seizure or custody of wildlife. Such expenses shall be paid by said owner or possessor upon any conviction or finding of guilt of a criminal or non-criminal violation, regardless of adjudication or plea entered, of any provision of chapter 828 or this chapter, or rule of the commission or if such violation is disposed of under s. 921.187. Failure to pay such expense may be grounds for revocation or denial of permits to such individual to possess wildlife. 5) Any person, firm, corporation, or association exhibiting or selling wildlife and being duly permitted as provided by s. 372.921 shall be exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under the provisions of this section. 6) This section shall not apply to the possession, control,**

care, and maintenance of ostriches, emus, and rheas, except those kept and maintained primarily for exhibition purposes in zoos, carnivals, circuses, and other establishments where such species are kept for display to the public. 7) Persons in violation of this section shall be punishable as provided in s. 372.83. History.—s. 1, ch. 74-309; s. 9, ch. 91-134; s. 3, ch. 93-223; s. 591, ch. 95-148; s. 6, ch. 98-333; s. 174, ch. 99-245.

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**(II) Additional facility requirements for the following Class II carnivores: cougars; panthers, clouded leopards, and Class II Canidae:**

**(A) The facility shall not be constructed on less than two and one-half (22) contiguous acres of property owned or leased by the applicant. If leased, the lease shall be for a term of not less than one year from the date of application and such lease is subject to initial and annual review and approval by the Commission as a condition of granting said license.**

**(B) The facility shall contain a "buffer zone" of not less than 35 feet between the caged wildlife and the facility property line.**

**(C) The cages of the facility shall be bounded by a fence of not less than eight (8) feet in height, constructed of not less than 112 gauge chain link, or equivalent, or, as an alternative, a fence of not less than six (6) feet in height, with a 2-foot, 45 degree, inward angle overhang. The inward angle fencing and vertical fencing shall be constructed of 12 gauge chain link or equivalent. This fencing is to prevent escape from the property of any wildlife that may escape from primary caging.**

**(D) The above requirements shall be effective July 1, 2000, but shall not apply to those facilities licensed to possess captive wildlife species prior to that date. After July 1, 2000, those licensees that desire to expand their inventory to include a family of Class I or Class II species not previously authorized at their facility location shall comply with the requirements herein. Requests to upgrade wildlife classification authorization shall be considered new applications for license purposes.**

**Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.921, 372.922 FS. HistoryBNew 7-1-90, Amended 7-1-90, 7-1-91, 2-1-98, Formerly 39-6.0022, Amended 4-30-00.**

**(2) Caging Requirements:**

**(a) All wildlife possessed in captivity shall, except when supervised and controlled in accordance with subsection (3) hereof, be maintained in cages or enclosures constructed and maintained in compliance with the provisions of Rules 68A-6.003 and 68A-6.004, F.A.C.**

**(b) Cages or enclosures housing captive wildlife shall be sufficiently strong to prevent escape and to protect the caged animal from injury, and shall be equipped with structural safety barriers to prevent any physical contact with the caged animal by the public, except for contacts as authorized under subsection (3) of this Rule. Structural barriers may be constructed from materials such as fencing, moats, landscaping, or close-mesh wire, provided that materials used are safe and effective in preventing public contact.**

**(c) All cages or enclosures less than 1,000 square feet shall be covered at the top to prevent escape (except paddocks, reptile enclosures and habitats specified below). Class I or Class II wildlife shall not be kept in uncovered enclosures that are less than 1,000 square feet, except as specified in Rule 68A-6.004, F.A.C. For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply:**

**68A-6.003 Structural Caging Requirements for Class I, II and III Wildlife.**

**(1) In addition to the standard caging requirements set forth in Rule 68A-6.004, F.A.C., Class I and Class II animals shall be caged in accordance with the following requirements:**

**(a) A fence sufficient to deter entry by the public, which shall be a minimum of five (5) feet in height, shall be present around the premises wherein Class I or Class II animals are housed or exercised outdoors.**

**(b) All cages or enclosures of Class I and Class II animals except paddocks, approved open air habitats, or outdoor reptile enclosures shall be equipped with a safety entrance. A safety entrance is defined as a protected, secure area that can be entered by a keeper that prevents animal escape and safeguards the keeper, or a device that can be activated by a keeper that prevents animal escape and safeguards entry. Such entrances shall include: A double-door mechanism, interconnecting cages, a lock-down area, or other comparable devices, subject to Commission approval, that will prevent escape and safeguard the keeper. Safety entrances shall be constructed of materials that are of equivalent strength as that prescribed for cage construction for that particular species.**

**(c) All cages or enclosures constructed of chain link or other approved materials shall be well braced and securely anchored at ground level to prevent escape by digging or erosion. Cages shall be constructed using metal clamps, ties or braces of equivalent strength as the material required for cage construction for the particular species.**

**3. Pure or above 75 % Wolves (e.g., gray wolf, except red wolf), maned wolf, hyenas, African wild dogs, Cape hunting dogs**

**a. For one or two animals, a cage 20 feet by 10 feet, 6 feet high. For each additional animal, increase cage size by 25 percent of original floor area.**

**b. Each cage shall have an elevated platform(s) that shall accommodate all animals in the enclosure simultaneously.**

**c. Outdoor cages over 1,000 square feet (uncovered) shall have vertical jump walls at least 8 feet high, with a 45 degree inward angle overhang 2 feet wide or, jump walls 10 feet high without an overhang.**

#### **68A-6.0041 Exceptions to Standard Caging Requirements for Captive Wildlife.**

**Wildlife may be temporarily housed in cages or enclosures smaller than the sizes set forth in Rule 68A-6.004, F.A.C., only under the following circumstances:**

**(1) For transport and for performing and non-performing animals as specified in Rule 68A-6.005, F.A.C.**

**(2) Wildlife being held for sale by those persons properly licensed pursuant to ss. 372.921 or 372.16, F.S., or for veterinary care, or quarantine may be temporarily housed or caged in smaller cages or enclosures for a period not to exceed 60 days. With written notification to the Commission, this period may be extended in circumstances where a licensed veterinarian has certified that a longer holding period is medically necessary in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of the subject animals or the public. Medical records concerning all animals for which an extension of the 60-day period is obtained shall be maintained at the facility and shall be made available for inspection, upon request, by Commission personnel. The caging or enclosure of all wildlife temporarily held under this section shall not be smaller than that required for the caged animal to stand up, lie down, and turn around without touching the sides of the enclosure or another animal. All wildlife thus caged or housed shall be permanently marked or their enclosures shall be permanently marked, so as to be traceable to written records indicating the date the wildlife was placed in temporary holding. Such records shall be maintained and made available for inspection by Commission personnel. Commission personnel shall direct dealers to mark wildlife temporarily if, upon inspection, there is no record indicating the date the wildlife was placed in temporary**

holding.

**(a) Class I and Class II Carnivores (i.e., lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, pumas, bears, hyenas, wolves)**

For a single animal, a cage which shall permit the animal to turn or stand on all-fours with head clearance, and confined in such a manner so that no animal can injure another. For Class I animals, cages shall be constructed of steel, case hardened aluminum, alloy, or strength equivalent material. If bars are used, bars shall be spaced no more than 2 inches apart. For Class II animals, cage construction shall not be less than 11½ gauge chain link or strength equivalent material. Cages of Class I and Class II animals that the public can access, shall be equipped with a physical barrier, which is made of a material to prevent the public from coming in contact with the animals. All cages shall have secure locking devices.

**(d) Class III animals (except reptiles)**

For a single animal, the cage length shall be double the body length (excluding tail), with a width that is equal to the body length, and a height that will permit the animal to stand on all fours, or stand erect, with head clearance. For two or more animals kept together, add one third more cage length for each additional animal.

**68A-5.004 General Regulations Relating to Licenses, Permits and Other Authorizations. (1) Applications for any license, permit or other authorization issued by the Commission shall be denied based upon any of the following grounds: (a) Submission by the applicant of materially false information in the application or other supporting documentation relating to the license, permit, or other authorization. (b) Failure of the applicant to meet eligibility requirements or criteria for issuance of the license, permit or other authorization. (2) Applications for any license, permit or other authorization issued by the Commission may be denied based upon any of the following grounds: (a) A conviction of any criminal or noncriminal violation, regardless of adjudication or plea entered, by the applicant of any provision of Chapter 372, F.S., or rules of the Commission, or similar laws or rules in another jurisdiction, that relate to the subject matter of the application sought. (b) Submission by the applicant of materially false information in any previously submitted application or supporting documentation relating to the application. (c) Failure by the applicant to comply with the provisions of subsection (3) in any previously issued license, permit or other authorization. In determining whether denial is appropriate based on the grounds listed in subsection (2)(a)-(c), the Commission shall consider the factors enumerated in subsection (5) hereof. (3) Those persons issued any license, permit or other authorization by the Commission shall: (a) Maintain complete and correct written records as required by Commission license, permit, other authorization or regulations. (b) Submit complete and correct reports as required by Commission license, permit, other authorization or regulations. (c) Open records and facilities of operation under the license, permit, or other authorization, to inspection by an authorized representative of the Commission. (d) Fully comply with the conditions set forth for operations under a license, permit or other authorization. (e) Fully comply with Ch. 372, F.S., and rules of the Commission. (4) Failure to comply with any of the provisions of subsection (3) may result in the suspension, revocation or non-renewal of any license, permit or other authorization. In addition, the Commission may suspend, revoke, or deny renewal of any license, permit or other authorization issued by the Commission if the licensee or permittee defaults on his appearance bond, is convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of a violation of Ch. 372, F.S., or the rules of the Commission, or if such violation is disposed of under s. 921.187, F.S., regardless of adjudication. A plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of disciplinary action imposed under Ch. 372, F.S., and the rules of the Commission. (5) Except for the denial of an application pursuant to subsection (1), the following factors shall be considered by the Commission in determining whether to deny, suspend, revoke or deny renewal of any license, permit or other authorization: (a) The severity of the conduct; (b) The danger to the public created or occasioned by the conduct; (c) The existence of prior**

violations of Ch. 372, F.S., or the rules of the Commission; (d) The length of time a licensee or permittee has been licensed or permitted; (e) The effect of denial, suspension, revocation or non-renewal upon the applicant, licensee, or permittee's existing livelihood; (f) Attempts by the applicant, licensee or permittee to correct or prevent violations, or the refusal or failure of the applicant, licensee or permittee to take reasonable measures to correct or prevent violations; (g) Related violations by an applicant, licensee or permitted in another jurisdiction; (h) The deterrent effect of denial, suspension, revocation or non-renewal; (i) Any other mitigating or aggravating factors. (6) The provisions of this rule shall not be construed so as to prohibit, limit, or otherwise affect any civil action or criminal prosecution, so as to limit the ability of the Commission to enter into binding stipulations with affected parties in accordance with s. 120.57(3), F.S., or so as to affect the authority of a court to require forfeiture of any license, permit or other authorization issued pursuant to Ch. 372, F.S., as provided by law. Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.021 FS. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 372.84 FS. HistoryBNew 8-1-79, Amended 6-21-82, 7-1-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-5.04, Amended 4-19-90, 6-20-90, 4-20-93, Formerly 39-5.004.

### **Florida Laws Governing Private Possession of Exotic Animals**

- **FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. §68A-6.002 - Categories of Captive Wildlife.**

**(1) The commission hereby establishes the following categories of wildlife:**

**(a) Class 1:**

- 1. Chimpanzees (genus Pan)**
- 2. Gorillas (genus Gorilla)**
- 3. Gibbons (genus Hylobates)**
- 4. Drills and mandrills (genus Mandrillus)**
- 5. Orangutans (genus Pongo)**
- 6. Baboons (genus Papaio)**
- 7. Siamangs (genus Symphalangus)**
- 8. Gelada baboons (genus Theropithecus)**
- 9. Snow leopards (Panthera uncia)**
- 10. Leopards (Panthera pardus)**
- 11. Jaguars (Panthera onca)**
- 12. Tigers (Panthera tigris)**
- 13. Lions (Panthera leo)**
- 14. Bears (family Ursidae)**

- 15. Rhinoceros (family Rhinocerotidae)**
- 16. Elephants (family Elephantidae)**
- 17. Hippopotamuses (family Hippopotamidae)**
- 18. Cape buffalos (*Syncerus caffer caffer*)**
- 19. Crocodiles (except dwarf and Congo) (family Crocodylidae)**
- 20. Gavials (family Gavialidae)**
- 21. Black caimans (*Melanosuchus niger*)**
- 22. Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*)**

**(b) Class II:**

- 1. Howler monkeys (genus *Alouatta*)**
- 2. Uakaris (genus *Cacajao*)**
- 3. Mangabeys (genus *Cercocebus*)**
- 4. Guenons (genus *Ceropithecus*)**
- 5. Bearded sakis (genus *Chiropotes*)**
- 6. Guereza monkeys (genus *Colobus*)**
- 7. Celebes black apes (genus *Colobus*)**
- 8. Idris (genus *Indri*)**
- 9. Macaques (genus *Macaca*)**
- 10. Langurs (genus *Presbytis*)**
- 11. Douc langurs (genus *Pygathrix*)**
- 12. Snub-nosed langurs (genus *Phinopithecus*)**
- 13. Proboscis monkeys (genus *Nasalis*)**
- 14. Servals (*Leptailurus serval*)**
- 15. European and Canadian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)**
- 16. Cougars, panthers (*Puma concolor*)**

- 17. Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*)**
- 18. Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*)**
- 19. Caracals (*Caracal caracal*)**
- 20. African golden cats (*Profelis aurata*)**
- 21. Temminck's golden cats (*Profelis temmincki*)**
- 22. Fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrina*)**
- 23. Ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*)**
- 24. Clouded leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*)**
- 25. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*)**
- 26. Gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) (including wolf x domestic hybrids which are 25 percent or less domestic dog)**
- 27. Red wolves (*Canis niger*) (including wolf x domestic hybrids which are 25 percent or less domestic dog)**
- 28. Asiatic jackals (*Canis aureus*)**
- 29. Black-backed jackals (*Canis mesomelas*)**
- 30. Side-striped jackals (*Canis adustus*)**
- 31. Indian dholes (*Cuon alpinus*)**
- 32. African hunting dogs (*Lycaon pictus*)**
- 33. Wolverines (*Gulo gulo*)**
- 34. Honey badgers (*Mellivora capensis*)**
- 35. American badgers (*Taxides taxus*)**
- 36. Old World badgers (*Meles meles*)**
- 37. Binturongs (*Arctictis binturong*)**
- 38. Hyenas (all species) (family Hyaenidae)**
- 39. Dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*)**
- 40. Alligators, cainans (except American alligator) (family Alligatoridae)**

**41. Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)**

**42. Cassowary (*Casuarius* spp.)**

**(c) Class III: All other wildlife not listed herein, except those for which a permit is not required pursuant to rule 68A-6.0022, F.A.C.**

**(2) Except as provided in s. 68A-6.0021, Class I wildlife shall not be possessed for personal use.**

**(3) Persons possessing any captive wildlife for purposes of public display or sale shall obtain a permit as specified in s. 372.921, F.S.**

**(4) Persons possessing Class II wildlife as personal use wildlife shall purchase a permit as provided in s. 372.922, F. S.**

**(5) Persons possessing Class III wildlife as personal use wildlife shall obtain a no-cost permit from the Executive Director American alligators shall not be possessed as personal use wildlife and shall be possessed only in accordance with permits issued under rule 68A-9.002, F.A.C., ss. 372.6673 or 372.921, Florida Statutes.**

**• FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. §68A-6.0021 - Possession or Transfer of Class I Wildlife as Personal Use Wildlife; Transfer of Wildlife.**

**(1) Any Class I wildlife possessed for personal use on August 1, 1980, shall be eligible for a permit in accordance with the provisions for Class II wildlife. No other Class I wildlife shall be kept for personal use.**

**(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to buy, sell, or transfer any wildlife to or from an unpermitted entity within Florida. The recipient's name, address and the permit or license number if required shall be entered in the transferer's records and made available for inspection upon request of commission employees for a period of one year after the transfer.**

**(3) Persons possessing Class I wildlife for personal use shall comply with all provisions of this chapter relating to the personal use of wildlife.**

**• FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. §68A-6.0022 - Possession of Wildlife in Captivity; Permits.**

**(1) Permits to possess wildlife in captivity, issued pursuant to ss. 372.921 or 372.922, F.S., and the provisions of the Chapter, shall authorize the keeping of captive wildlife, of the type and number specified in applications approved by the Commission, in accordance with law and Commission rules. Captive wildlife maintained under permit shall, unless otherwise authorized, be maintained only at the facility specified in the permit application and approved by the Commission.**

**(2) No permit shall be required to possess the following wildlife for personal use, unless possession of a species is otherwise regulated by other rules of the Commission:**

**(a) Reptiles, amphibians (nonvenomous, unprotected)**

**(b) Gerbils, hedgehogs**

**(c) Honey possums, sugar gliders, brushtailed possums**

**(d) Shell parakeets**

**(e) Rats and mice**

- (f) Canaries**
- (g) Moles; shrews**
- (h) Rabbits**
- (i) Squirrels; chipmunks**
- (j) Ferrets (domestic; European)**
- (k) Lovebirds**
- (l) Guinea pigs**
- (m) Cockadels**
- (n) Hamsters**
- (o) Parrots**
- (p) Finches**
- (q) Myna birds**
- (r) Toucans**
- (s) Doves; ringed, ruddy, and diamond**
- (t) Button quail**
- (u) Prairie dogs**
- (v) Chinchillas**

**(3) No permit shall be required for the sale of poultry, hamsters, guinea pigs, domestic rats and mice, gerbils, or chameleons (Anolis).**

**(4) No permit shall be issued to any person to possess Class III wildlife for personal use unless such person can provide documentation of the following:**

**(a) Be 16 years of age or older.**

**(b) Application for permits to possess Class III shall include the satisfactory completion of a questionnaire developed by the Commission that assesses the applicant's knowledge of general husbandry, nutritional, and behavioral characteristics. Applicants for permits to possess capuchin, spider, or woolly monkeys shall meet the experience and examination requirements for Class II primates and shall maintain such wildlife in cages or enclosures which meet the structural requirements as specified in Rule 68A-6.003 (2)(e), F.A.C.**

**(c) Be able to provide satisfactory caging facilities as required in the standard caging requirements, Rule 68A-6.004, F.A.C., within 30 days of notification of tentative approval for a permit**

**(d) Ensure that the conditions under which the wildlife will be held shall not constitute a threat to the public or to the animal.**

**(5) Qualification requirements for a permit to possess Class I and II wildlife:**

**(a) All applicants shall qualify for permits as follows:**

- 1. Age Requirement: Applicants to possess Class I or Class II wildlife shall be at least 18 years of age.**

**2. Applicants shall not have been convicted of any violation of captive wildlife regulations, any offense involving the illegal commercialization of wildlife, or offenses involving cruelty to animals, within three (3) years of the date of application.**

**3. Experience Requirement for Class I permits:**

**a. Applicants shall demonstrate no less than one (1) year of substantial practical experience (to consist of no less than 1000 hours) in the care, feeding, handling and husbandry of the species for which the permit is sought, or other species, within the same biological order (except ratites which shall be in the same biological sub-order) which are substantially similar in size, characteristics, care and nutritional requirements to the species for which the permit is sought.**

**b. For purposes of demonstrating compliance, applicants shall submit documentation of such experience, including:**

**i. A description of the specific experience acquired.**

**ii. The dates the experience was obtained and the specific location(s) where acquired.**

**iii. References of no less than two (2) individuals having personal knowledge of the applicant's stated experience. Additional documentation may include records of prior permits for the keeping of captive wildlife, employment records, and any other competent documentation of the requisite experience.**

**c. Documented educational experience in zoology or other relevant biological sciences, obtained at the college or technical school level or above, may substitute for up to six months or 500 hours of the required experience.**

**4. Experience and examination requirements for Class II permits:**

**a. Applicants may qualify for a permit for Class II wildlife by documenting one year of experience (to consist of no less than 1000 hours) as defined in 68A-6.0022 (5)(a)3.a. - c. above. If the applicant is unable to document such experience, as an alternative, the applicant may take a written examination. The successful completion of a written examination for the particular species or family, administered by the Division of Law Enforcement together with the documentation of not less than 100 hours of substantial practical experience (with documentation and compliance procedures as noted in 68A-6.0022 (5)(a)3. above) in the care, feeding, handling and husbandry of the species or family for which the permit is sought may be substituted for the one-year/1,000-hour requirement. Upon receipt of an application, the Commission shall notify the applicant of the time and place of the next examination. Applicants scoring at least 80 percent correct on the examination shall be deemed as meeting the examination requirement for the particular species or family.**

**b. The above requirements shall not apply to applicants for permits to possess ostriches, rheas, emus, cassowaries or coyotes when possessed for purposes other than public exhibition or personal use.**

**5. Facility Requirements:**

- a. Applicants for permits to possess wildlife in captivity shall specify the location of the facility at which captive wildlife shall be maintained, and such facility shall be inspected and approved by the Commission prior to issuance of the permit.
- b. Applicants shall submit documentation verifying that the construction of the facility, its cages and enclosures is not prohibited by county ordinance and, if willing a municipality, municipal ordinance.
- c. Class I wildlife shall not be possessed in multi-unit dwellings or in any premises consisting of less than one-quarter acre of land area. Class II wildlife shall not be possessed in multi-unit dwellings unless the dwelling in which they are housed is equipped with private entrance, exit, and yard area.

### Glossary of Terms

#### A:

**Aberrant:** Deviating from the expected course, in relation to behavior, physical attributes, or other characteristics.

**Abundism:** An animal that has markings that are more prolific than usual. Also known as pseudo-melanism. (IMAGE)

**Adaptation:** A physical or behavioral characteristic that arose and evolved by natural selection to benefit a species, and improve a species' chances of survival and procreation.

**Agouti:** A pattern on the individual hair shaft where the hair itself has bands of multiple color in alternating patterns. This is caused by the melanin production in the follicle of the hair being turned off and on sporadically throughout the growth of the hair shaft. (IMAGE)

**Albinism:** An albino individual, which completely lacks pigmentation in its fur, flesh, and eyes. True mammalian albino individuals are white or pink with pinkish red eyes. (IMAGE) Albinism can also occur in patches over the body, known as a piebald pattern. (IMAGE) Partial albinism is when the animal still retains some markings, though they may be faint. In snakes, they are still able to synthesize yellow and red pigments, so albino snakes have red and yellow markings, but lack the normal black pigmentation. In fish, red markings are often preserved, as in the albino red-tailed shark (*Labeo bicolor*). White animals that retain most markings and have blue eyes are not albinos, but are leucistic (ex: White German Shepherd dogs, white lions, white or snow white tigers)

**Allopatric:** Species with non-overlapping geographic distribution. Often in reference to populations of the same species that are separated by geographic barriers such as rivers, oceans, mountain ranges, or islands. The North American and Eurasian wolf subspecies are a good example. Allopatry is how subspecies arise.

**Alpine:** Region of high mountains.

**Ambulatory:** Able to walk.

**Anal Gland:** A scent gland located in the opening of the anus.

**Anoestrus:** The period of time between active sexual behavior; between breeding seasons.

**Anterior:** Towards the front.

**Aposematic:** Warning coloration

**Aquatic:** Living mostly or entirely in the water.

**Arboreal:** An animal that lives or spends a great deal of time in the trees.

**Artiodactyl:** An ungulate with an even-number of toes on each foot (cattle, pigs, sheep).

**Auditory Bulla:** Bony capsule enclosing the middle and inner ear. Plural: bullae

**B:**

**Baculum:** A bony structure commonly found in the penis of mammals. This os-penis, as it is often referred, serves to "lock" the mating pair in a copulatory tie.

**Binomial Nomenclature:** The standard system of giving an animal 2 names (Genus species). Often called the scientific name, it consists of Latin and Greek words that in some way describe the animal.

**Blastocyst:** The second stage of embryonic development, when the zygote begins to divide into multiple cells, clumped to one side of a hollow sphere. This is formed before it implants itself to the uterine wall.

**Boreal:** Relating to the forests of the northern temperate zone, often dominated by coniferous trees.

**C:**

**Canid:** Of or referring to the dog, canine; possessing traits similar to dogs; also, a member of the Canidae family.

**Canine Teeth:** The long, pointed, cone-shaped teeth commonly found in carnivorous animals. Used for gripping prey, and delivering a killing bite. (IMAGE)

**Canoidea:** Also known as Arctoidea, the superfamily of animals with dog-like features (dogs, bears, weasels, and raccoons).

**Carnassial:** Large, shear-like premolars that are found in the order Carnivora; used for shearing meat. (IMAGE)

**Carnivore:** Animals that feed almost exclusively on meat; also referring to animals of the order Carnivora.

**Caudal:** Referring to the tail or rear end.

**Caudal Gland:** A scent gland located on the base of the tail, often on the dorsal side. Often referred to as a precaudal gland.

**Cervical:** When referring to the spine, the neck region. Refers to the neck region of any organ or structure.

**Chinchilla:** When referring to the hair coloration, means the hair lacks the normal agouti banding pattern, instead being solidly colored except at the tips. Also known as the smoke coloration, especially in Persian cats. (IMAGE)

**Chromatophore:** Cells responsible for holding pigmentation. In plants, these are chloroplasts, which produce chlorophyll (green coloration). Animals have many different types of pigmentation cells, and can produce any number of compounds that produce color. Xanthophores produce yellow pigment; erythrophores produce red pigment; melanophores produce melanin (black pigment). Two types of chromatophores are "colorless", unable to produce pigmentation, instead producing color by reflection of light off of the surface of purine crystals. Iridophores are packed with large highly-reflective non-motile purine crystals, which produce a silvery iridescent reflection in fish, amphibians, and invertebrates; these give blue poison dart frogs their color. Leucophores contain small motile purine crystals, is often referred to as "white pigment". Combinations of any number of these five

**pigment cells produce the variety of colors seen in the animal kingdom. Pigmentation in some species, like the flamingo and goldfish, is not synthesized from pigment cells, but instead synthesized from food. The colors disappear when their diet lacks carotenoids. Pigmentation of a chemical compound is often secondary to function, such as the red pigmentation hemoglobin in red blood cells. Mammals only have melanophores, while other animals usually have more than one type of pigmentation cell. More about pigmentation can be found here.**

**CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. <http://www.cites.org>**

**Clavicle: Collarbone.**

**Coniferous Forest: A forest containing mostly cone-bearing trees; evergreens.**

**Conspecific: Member of the same species. Often refers to scientific names, such as when an animal is known by two scientific names, we say the two names are conspecific, or synonymous, with each other. Also, when a species was previously thought to be its own separate species and was found to be actually a variation of another species, these two species are said to be conspecific.**

**Coronoid Process: The coronoid process of the mandible is the triangular projection that fits into the zygomatic arch. Provides attachment for the temporal muscles of the jaw. (IMAGE)**

**Cranial: Referring to the head.**

**Crepuscular: Being active in the early dawn or twilight.**

**Cursorial: Having legs adapted for running (ie: cheetah)**

**D:**

**Deciduous teeth: Primary or "baby" teeth.**

**Deciduous Forest: A forest containing broad leaved trees that lose their leaves in the autumn. Example, maple or oak.**

**Delayed Implantation: Where the fertilized ovum will sit in the fallopian tubes for an extended period of time before it implants itself in the uterus. In most mammals, this is done almost instantaneously, but some mammals, like bears, procyonids, and some mustelids, the time is extended several months.**

**Dental Formula: This is a numerical representation of the number of teeth in an animal's mouth. This is represented by the number of a type of tooth in one quadrant of the mouth on the top, and one quadrant of the mouth on the bottom. The number is multiplied by 2 to get the total number of teeth in the mouth. For example, the dental formula for a Eurasian river otter is:  $I \frac{3}{3} C \frac{1}{1} P \frac{4}{3} M \frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 36$ , where I is incisors, C is carnassials, P is premolars, and M is molars.**

**Dewclaw: "thumbs"; the fifth inner digit present on the front paws of most carnivores.**

**Diestrus: The last stage of estrus, immediately following ovulation. Progesterone is at its peak in this stage. This stage is the period of sexual inactivity that follows ovulation, and characterized by the female being non-receptive. Also known as the luteal phase. If a female mammal is not mated, the cycle will return to the anestrous, or period of sexual and hormonal inactivity between estrus cycles.**

**Digit: Finger or toe.**

**Digitigrade: An animal that walks on its toes without the heel or hock touching the ground, like cats and dogs. (IMAGE)**

**Dilution:** Washed out, sparse. When referring to coloration, when the color is dull, almost pastel.

**Dimorphism:** Two distinct forms in a species; most commonly "sexual dimorphism", which refers to the differences in the sexes.

**Diphyodont:** The development of teeth come in two phases, the deciduous, or baby teeth, and the permanent, or adult teeth.

**Diurnal:** Being active during the day.

**Dorsal:** The back (along the spine) of an animal.

**E:**

**Endangered Species Act:** a legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1973, which grants legal protection for listed endangered and threatened species.

**Endemic:** Native to an area.

**Erythristic:** When the coloration of an animal is unusually red. Usually in reference to black pigmentation, like markings, but can apply to ground coloration as well. (IMAGE) (IMAGE)

**Estrus:** The second stage of estrus when the female is receptive to mating. This stage immediately precedes ovulation. Progesterone is increasing in this stage, and estrogen levels decrease. The luteinizing hormone peaks at this stage, and this is when ovulation occurs. (also spelled 'oestrus')

**Estrus Cycle:** The hormonally-controlled cycle in female mammals where the body prepares for mating and pregnancy. The stages of estrus are: anestrus, proestrus, estrus, and diestrus. Ovulation usually occurs between estrus and diestrus. If not mated, females will revert back to the anestrus stage. More detail about this cycle can be found here. (also spelled 'estrous cycle')

**F:**

**Fecundity:** The birth rate, or however many offspring over the course of an animal's lifetime; not to be confused with litter size.

**Felid:** Of or referring to cats, feline; possessing traits similar to the cat; also, a member of the Felidae family.

**Feloidea:** Also known as Aeluroidea, the superfamily of carnivores that have cat-like features (cats, hyenas, mongooses, civets).

**Flavistic:** When the background coloration of the animal is sepia-toned. (IMAGE)

**Foramen:** A hole or opening in bone that allows the passage of nerve bundles and blood vessels through bone. Plural: foramina

**Fossorial:** Having legs adapted for digging (ie: mole)

**Frugivorous:** An animal that feeds mainly on fruits.

**G:**

**Gestation Period:** Pregnancy.

**Geologic Time Scale:** List of eons, eras, periods, and epochs in time. (VIEW CHART)

**Gregarious:** An animal that is very social and thrives in groups.

**Guard Hairs:** The thick, hard hairs that carry the color of an animal's coat and provide protection. (IMAGE)

**H:**

**Hectare:** Metric unit of measure that equals 100 ares (2.471 acres).

**Herpestid:** Of or referring to the mongoose, herpestine; possessing traits similar to the mongooses; also a member of the Herpestidae family.

**Hertz (Hz):** One cycle per second. Often used in reference to sound waves.

**Home Range:** An individual animal's territory.

**Horizontal:** Side-to-side.

**Hybrid:** An offspring of parents of two different species. (IMAGE)

**I:**

**Incisors:** The small teeth located at the very front of the mouth, used for gripping prey or bits of food. (IMAGE)

**Induced Ovulator:** A female mammal that will not ovulate unless stimulated to do so by mating.

**IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature <http://www.iucn.org>

**J:**

**Jacobson's Organ:** The vomeronasal organ, a secondary olfactory receptor found on the roof of the mouth in reptiles and carnivores. It is used to detect certain chemicals in the air, such as pheromones.

**K:**

**Keratin:** Tough, water-resistant protein found in the epidermal layer of the skin. Comprises hair, hooves, nails, claws, beaks, etc.

**L:**

**Lactation:** The production of milk.

**Lagomorph:** Rabbits and hares.

**Lateral:** Referring to the sides.

**Leucistic:** An animal that is white or light in color that is not naturally so. Not albino, because the animals still have some pigmentation, such as markings, and have blue eyes, not red, like in albinos. Leucistic individuals lack, or partially lack, chromatophores, the skin cells that are responsible for holding pigmentation. Snakes that are leucistic appear solid white, whereas albino snakes still retain red and yellow pigmentation. (IMAGE) (IMAGE)

**Litter:** When a group of offspring are born at the same time, as a characteristic of the species.

**Lumbar:** Region of the lower back, between the thorax and the pelvis.

**M:**

**Maltese:** When pigments dilute into a bluish color. (IMAGE)

**Mammae:** Mammary glands; teats; nipples.

**Mandible:** The lower jaw.

**Maxilla:** The upper jaw.

**Melanistic:** An animal that is dark or black in color that is not normally so. These animals are usually not pure black, as any markings can still be seen. (IMAGE)

**Molar:** The flattened teeth found at the back of the mouth that are used for grinding. (IMAGE)

**Mollusc:** Any animal in the Phylum Mollusca, including but not limited to snails, clams, and octopuses. (also: mollusk)

**Monogamous:** Having one mate at a time, often for a period of time.

**Morphology:** Form and structure of an animal. also: Morphological.

**Mustelid:** Of or referring to the weasel family, musteline; possessing traits similar to the weasels; also a member of the Mustelidae family.

**N:**

**Natal:** Relating to birth

**Neotony:** A process where the normal course of physical maturation is retarded, producing an animal that carries the appearance of a juvenile while still able to reach sexual maturity. This often occurs to animals during domestication, such as the dog.

**Niche:** A species' functional role in an ecosystem. Examples: predator; pollinator; seed-disperser.

**Nocturnal:** Being active primarily during the night.

**O:**

**Olfactory:** Relating to scent.

**Omnivorous:** Eating both plant and animal matter.

**Ovulation:** When a mature ovum ("egg") is released from the ovaries to be fertilized.

**P:**

**Parturition:** The act of giving birth.

**Pectoral:** Referring to the chest area.

**Pelage:** Fur.

**Pelvic:** Referring to the hip area.

**Perianal:** Near the anus.

**Perianal gland/ Perineal gland:** The scent glands found near the genitals of civets and genets, often used for marking territory.

**Perineal:** Referring to the perineum, which is the region between the thighs; more specifically, between the genitals and anus.

**Perissodactyl:** An ungulate with an odd-number of toes on each foot (horse, rhino).

**Piebald:** Having patches of white fur.

**Pinnae:** The flap of skin and cartilage that constitutes the outer ear in mammals.

**Plantar:** The bottom of the foot.

**Plantigrade:** An animal that walks on the entire sole of its feet, like humans or bears, where the heel touches the ground. (IMAGE)

**Premolar:** The larger molars found behind the canine teeth. (IMAGE)

**Polyandrous:** Female mates with more than one male in the mating season.

**Polyestrus:** A female that comes into estrus more than once a year.

**Polygamous:** Having more than one mate per breeding season.

**Polygynous:** Male mates with more than one female in the mating season.

**Polymorphic:** Having a variation within a species, ie: fur color.

**Posterior:** Towards the rear.

**Poultry:** Birds; most often refers to domestic fowl such as chickens and turkeys.

**Procyonid:** Of or referring to the raccoon, procyonine; also, a member of the Procyonidae family.

**Proestrus:** The first stage of estrus, also known as the follicular phase. The female is not ready to mate in this stage, although interest by males increases. In this stage, the body is preparing for mating. The ovarian follicle (or follicles) undergo maturation, the development of the endometrium occurs, and the vaginal mucosa thickens. This stage is characterized by the beginning of an increase in progesterone, as well as a marked increase in estrogen. Estrogen will continue to increase in production until the beginning of the estrus stage, when it will rapidly decline as it is replaced by progesterone.

**Q:**

**Quadruped:** An animal that walks on all four legs.

**R:**

**Recessive:** A gene that can be masked, or hidden, in the presence of a dominant gene. This is how two brown-eyed parents can have a blue-eyed child.

**Resilience:** The ability to recover from destructive events.

**Rhinarium:** The nose, specifically the area surrounding the nostrils

**Rostrum:** The muzzle or snout.

**S:**

**Sagittal Crest:** Large, pointed structure found at the base of the skull that is used for anchoring the large jaw muscles. (IMAGE)

**Scapula:** Shoulder blade.

**Sexual Dimorphism:** The distinct differences between the male and female of a species. Often this is height and weight. In birds, coloration is usually key. In some animals it the presence or absence of a specific feature, like the mane in lions.

**Species:** An animal, etc, that is genetically unique and only able to create fertile offspring with members of its own species.

**Sternal:** On the belly.

**Subcutaneous:** Just underneath the skin.

**Subspecies:** A race of a species, often characterized by a specific geographic population or physical characteristics. Example, the Arctic wolf and Mexican wolf are subspecies of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*). Subspecies' names are written in what is called Trinomial Nomenclature (three names), as Genus species subspecies. Example: *Canis lupus baileyi* for the Mexican grey wolf.

**T:**

**Tapetum Lucidum:** A layer of cells on the retina of some mammals that reflects light back onto the retina, amplifying light in low-light conditions.

**Taxonomy:** The classification of organisms in a system that indicates relationship. This includes the Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species, and subsets thereof. Names are usually in Latin or Greek or a combination of both. Generally, an animal's scientific name is referred to by its genus and species name only, called Binomial Nomenclature (two names). These names are in italics, with the genus capitalized and species in lowercase. The scientific name is considered the standard, since it is the same no matter the locality, and since common names can be numerous and confusing.

**Temporal Muscles:** The large muscles that work the jaw. (also, temporalis)

**Terrestrial:** Living primarily on the ground.

**Territory:** A specific area occupied by an individual animal or population of animals

**Thoracic:** Pertaining to the chest/thorax. When in reference to the spine, the vertebrae which carry the ribs.

**Trunk:** The chest.

**Tyrosinase-Negative Albinism:** An albino whose cells lack tyrosinase (an enzyme which synthesizes melanin), usually producing a pale yellowish or cream animal with pink-eyes. (IMAGE)

**Tyrosinase-Positive Albinism:** An albino not able to synthesize melanin, but able to synthesize tyrosinase, often resulting in a fawn or lavender (platinum) color. This ("partial albinism") is the most common form of albinism. (IMAGE)

**U:**

**Undercoat:** Fluffy, downy, crimped hairs that provide insulation. There are hundreds of undercoat hairs in each guard hair follicle. (IMAGE)

**Ungulate:** Hoofed mammal.

**Unguligrade:** Walking on the very tips of the toe, like deer. (IMAGE)

**Ursid:** Of or referring to the bear, ursine; possessing traits similar to bears; also, a member of the Ursidae family.

**V:**

**Ventral:** The belly-side of an animal.

**Vertical:** Up-and-down.

**Vestigial:** A structure that is rudimentary (undeveloped) or degenerate

**Vibrissae: Whiskers. The three main types of whiskers are mystical (muzzle), superciliary (above the eyes) and gular (throat).**

**Viverrid: Of or referring to the civet, viverrine; possessing traits similar to civets; also, a member of the Viverridae family.**

**W:**

**Wean: When an animal starts to feed on food besides its mother's milk; an animal is fully weaned when it no longer depends on milk.**

**X:**

**Xanthic: Having more yellow color than usual. (IMAGE)**

**Y:**

**Z:**

**Zoonosis: A disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans, or vice-versa.  
Example: Rabies.**

**Zygomatic Arch: The cheekbones . (IMAGE)**

**Zygote: The first stage of embryonic development, consisting of the single fertilized ovum, just before it splits into two cells. After it starts to divide, it is referred to as a blastocyst.**

