

# Game Breeder License Checklist



## Game Breeder Applicants Should Receive:

- \_\_\_ Game Breeder License Summary and Application Procedures
- \_\_\_ Facility application
- \_\_\_ Commercial License application (not included in this packet, see application procedures for an explanation)
- \_\_\_ Copy of Game Breeder Rule including animal housing requirements (Sept. 2002)
- \_\_\_ Copy of Game Breeder Statutes

## Game Breeder Applicants Should Return:

- \_\_\_ Signed commercial license application for a Game Breeder License
- \_\_\_ Completed facility application
- \_\_\_ Cashier's check or money order for Game Breeder License fees

## Game Breeder License Summary and Application Procedures



- A game breeder license is required of any person who keeps certain species of wildlife in captivity. The game breeder license covers those species classified as game animals (waterfowl, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, squirrels, and others). *Licenses will not be issued for deer or domesticated wild turkeys.*
- A game breeder license will not be issued to keep any animal taken or obtained from the wild. A game breeder license will not be issued for orphaned wildlife. Only animals obtained from another licensed breeder will be allowed. Therefore, it is important that bills of sale or other documentation indicating the seller and his/her license number, be obtained at time of purchase and maintained for the life of the animals.
- If you are interested in obtaining a game breeder license, you should first read the rules and pen specifications. If you decide to apply for a license, construct your pens to meet or exceed the minimum specifications. If you are uncertain about the suitability of your pens or facility, contact the Wildlife Division before you begin construction.
- Once your pens are constructed, apply for the license. There are two application forms. The first is a commercial license application form that is obtained by calling 225/765-2350. You will be asked some questions over the phone and a completed application will be sent to you for your signature. The second application is a facility application and is included with this packet. This application requests additional information not included on the commercial license application. Bring both applications with your money order or cashier's check (personal checks not accepted) to the Baton Rouge headquarters or one of the regional offices (see attached list). It is required that you apply in person and present valid identification when you apply for the first time.
- You will not receive your license at the time of application. A regional biologist will then contact you regarding the application. The biologist will request information about your pens and where you plan to obtain your animals. In some cases, a physical inspection of your pens will be required. Once approved, your license will be mailed to you.
- Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis and you will receive a renewal notice prior to expiration.

## LDWF Regional Offices

MINDEN (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
9961 Hwy. 80  
Minden, LA 71055  
Phone (318) 371-3050

MONROE (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
368 Century Tel Dr.  
Monroe, LA 71203  
Phone (318) 343-4044

ALEXANDRIA (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
1995 Shreveport Hwy  
Pineville, LA 71360  
Phone (318) 487-5885

FERRIDAY (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
261 Wildlife & Fishery Road  
Post Office Box 1640  
Ferriday, LA 71334-1640  
Phone (318) 757-4571

LAKE CHARLES (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
1213 North Lakeshore Dr.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
Phone (337) 491-2575

OPELOUSAS (Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
5652 Highway 182  
Opelousas, LA 70570  
Phone (337) 948-0255

BATON ROUGE (Hours 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.)  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
Phone (225) 765-2350

## Game Breeder License Rule (Sept. 2002)

### 107. Game Breeder's License

A. This commission regulation established general requirements, minimum pen specifications and animals that will be permitted under the Game Breeder's License to read as follows:

B. Minimum pen specifications and requirements for game quadrupeds and birds. The pen dimensions and specifications described herein are minimum requirements for permanent exhibit and commercial facilities. It must be emphasized that these are minimum standards and the optimum conditions for most animals would include dimensions several times greater than those cited. Game breeders should also recognize and provide for any unique requirements of the species they possess. In addition to the following pen specifications, all pens must have adequate sanitation as well as appropriate feeding and watering facilities.

1. WATERFOWL (Ducks, geese, swans and coots endemic to North America)

a. Ducks and Coots:

i. Exhibit Purposes: 100 square feet with 25 percent in water area for up to 4 birds; increase pen size by 25 square feet for each additional bird with one-fourth of this increase being in water area.

ii. Commercial Operation: Up to six weeks old; 1 square foot per duck. Over six weeks old; 3 square feet per duck.

b. Geese: 150 square feet per goose.

2. DOVES (Order Columbiformes endemic to North America, except Rock Dove, i.e. domestic pigeon)

a. Single Bird: 3 feet x 2 feet x 5 feet high.

b. Community Group: large enough to fly or at least 8 feet in diameter.

3. GAME BIRDS (Ringneck Pheasant, Chukar, and various quail, grouse and partridge endemic to North America)

a. Exhibit Purposes: 20 square feet per bird.

b. Commercial Operation:

i. Quail

1-10 days old: 9 chicks per square

foot;  
square foot; 10 days - 6 weeks old: 6 chicks per  
foot; 6 weeks and older: 3 birds per square  
foot; 1 breeding pair per square foot.

NOTE: If only Pharaoh Quail are to be kept then the Game Breeder's License is not required.

ii. Pheasants, Chukar, Grouse and Partridge  
1-10 days old: 6 chicks per square  
foot;  
square foot; 10 days - 6 weeks old: 4 chicks per  
6-14 weeks old: 1 bird per 4 square  
feet;  
1 breeding pair per 8 square feet.

4. \*WILD TURKEYS (LICENSE WILL NOT BE ISSUED). It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state (R.S. 56:20).

5. HAWKS, FALCONS. Refer to federal raptor facilities specifications.

6. SQUIRRELS (Gray, Fox, Red, Flying and others endemic to North America)

a. Single Animal: 3 feet long x 3 feet wide x 4 feet high;

b. Additional Animals: add 6 inches more in length per additional animal; several limbs, nest box.

c. Due to the inherent tendency of these animals to bite people, it is further required that applicants provide a certificate of good health from a licensed veterinarian stating that the squirrels do not show symptoms of rabies.

7. RABBITS (Cottontail, Swamp and wild hares endemic to North America)

a. Single Animal: 6 feet long x 3 feet wide x 3 feet high; gnawing logs; den or retreat.

b. Additional Animals: add 1 foot in length per animal.

8. WHITETAIL DEER OR OTHER NORTH AMERICAN DEER

a. Except as specified herein, licenses will not be issued. Persons with valid licenses issued prior to this prohibition (before October 4, 2002) will be "grandfathered" and licenses may be renewed if all requirements are met. Licenses cannot be transferred beyond immediate family (father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son and daughter). A license may be transferred to an immediate family member only if the pen remains in the original location. Qualified zoos, educational institutions and scientific organizations may be exempted on a case by case basis.

b. No license will be issued in metropolitan or urban areas. A rural environment is required to keep these animals. Qualified zoos, educational institutions and scientific organizations will be exempted on a case by case basis.

c. Single Animal: 5000 square feet paddock or corral (For example: 50 feet wide x 100 feet long); increase corral size by 2,500 square feet for each additional animal; shelter required. Pen site must be well drained so as to prevent extended periods of standing water.

d. Materials: Chain link or other satisfactory woven wire, 12 gauge minimum, 8 feet high minimum. Welded wire is not acceptable.

e. Licensed game breeders are required to report all deaths of deer to a regional Wildlife Division office within 48 hours of the time of death and preserve the carcass as instructed by the Wildlife Division, but are encouraged to report the death sooner if possible.

9. \*ELK (LICENSE WILL NOT BE ISSUED)

a. Single Animal: 5000 square feet paddock or corral; increase corral size by 50 percent for each additional animal; barn, shaded or protected area attached to or adjoining corral fence, 9 gauge chain link or woven wire; 8 feet high. Welded wire is not acceptable.

NOTE: Regulation of elk is under jurisdiction of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry by Act 41 of the 1992 Legislative Session.

\*NOTE: Valid Game Breeder's License holders for these species legally possessed prior to October 1, 1988, will be "grandfathered" and renewed annually until existing captive animals expire, or are legally transferred out of state or to a suitable public facility. No additional animals may be acquired. This position by the Department is necessary

due to the ability of these animals to cause serious physical injury to the owner or other innocent bystanders and/or their potential to transmit disease to wildlife or livestock. Qualified educational institutions, municipal zoos or scientific organizations will be exempted to this provision on a case by case basis.

10. OTHER GAME QUADRUPEDS AND BIRDS: Other game quadrupeds and birds endemic to North America may not be kept without approval of the Wildlife Division. Pen specifications for animals not listed will be developed by the Wildlife Division as needed.

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. General Rules

a. Game quadrupeds and birds cannot be taken from the wild, nor can domesticated game quadrupeds or birds be released into the wild except as provided on licensed hunting preserves and as provided by valid bird dog training permit, field trial permit or federal falconry permit.

b. Game Breeders can only keep those classes of animals for which they have been approved. If an applicant desires to keep additional classes of animals, the facilities for those animals must be approved prior to obtaining the new animals.

2. Application Requirements

a. A game breeders license must be issued before any game quadrupeds (deer, rabbits, squirrels, etc.) are obtained. In the case of game birds, waterfowl, or doves a buyer has 30 days after acquisition of the first bird to either apply for a license or slaughter all the birds. In either case, the buyer must possess a valid bill of sale containing the seller's permit number, date of sale, and number of birds sold. The buyer cannot resell live birds until a game breeders license is obtained. If the application for a game breeders license is denied, the applicant must dispose of any birds in possession as instructed by the Department.

b. An applicant or licensee must comply with pen specifications. Applicants for waterfowl, doves, game birds, squirrels and rabbits must submit a form verifying their facilities meet or exceed the described pen specifications. Their facilities may require inspection at the biologist's discretion. All pens built for raising deer, birds of prey and potentially dangerous animals are required to be inspected prior to issuance of a license.

c. All applicants for a Game Breeder's License for deer and potentially dangerous animals must submit:

i. a signed waiver statement holding the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and its employees harmless for liability as a result of issuing a Game Breeder's License. Licenses will only be issued to those applicants who are willing to accept full responsibility and liability for any damages or injuries resulting from their animals or activities as a licensed game breeder of domesticated wildlife in Louisiana;

ii. a written plan of action for the recapture of an escaped animal must be submitted and approved by the Department before the application is processed. The plan of action should include:

(a). equipment;

(b). personnel;

(c). recovery techniques; and

(d). method of mitigation payments for damages caused by the escaped animal.

d. This information is necessary because the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will not provide these services.

### 3. Records and Inspections

a. All applicants and licensees are required to have a bill of sale for each animal acquired. Except for sales of game birds, waterfowl, or doves of 10 or fewer birds per buyer, per 24 hour period, license holders must keep records of all animals sold or transferred including names and addresses of the persons to whom they were sold or transferred. An annual report detailing animals in possession and all transactions must be submitted annually with license renewal application.

b. License holders must allow inspections of premises by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries employees for purposes of enforcing these regulations. Inspections may be unannounced and may include, but are not limited to, pens, stalls, holding facilities, records, and examination of animals as necessary to determine health and/or identification of species.

4. Hunting. Hunting or killing of confined deer or other big game animals held under a game breeder's license by individuals other than the licensee must conform to all hunting regulations including season and hunting license requirements

for the area in which the animals are confined. A game breeder licensee may at any time, during daylight hours, kill a confined deer or other big game animal at the licensee's own facility.

5. Administrative Fees. An inspection fee of \$50 will be assessed when a pen is inspected as part of the application process as required for birds of prey, deer and potentially dangerous animals. A license renewal processing fee of \$5 will be assessed annually. These fees are in addition to the \$25 required for the game breeder's license.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:171.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:631 (September 1988), amended LR 18:1134 (October 1992), LR 21:1355 (December 1995), LR 29:196 (February 2003).

WILD BIRDS AND WILD QUADRUPEDS

§171. Wildlife; business of raising and selling; breeder's license

A. Whoever desires to engage in raising, selling, or raising and selling domestic white-tailed deer or other domesticated deer native to North America; squirrels, rabbits, or other wild game quadrupeds; pheasants, quail, doves, or other domesticated wild game birds; domesticated wild waterfowl, resident or migratory; or their parts, on breeding farms or propagating preserves of which he is the owner or lessee, shall apply to the secretary for a license to do so. Provided that commission requirements have been satisfied, including payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars, a license shall be issued permitting the applicant to breed and propagate such animals and sell them alive, or in the case of domesticated wild game birds, to sell their parts and to kill and transport them and sell their carcasses for food, as hereinafter provided in this Subpart.

B. The state license expires at midnight on the last day of each December.

C. In the case of a breeder of wild migratory game and other birds, the applicant shall have received a like license from the federal government under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

D. Violation of any of the provisions of this Section constitutes a class two violation.

Amended by Acts 1974, No. 717, § 1; Acts 1981, No. 838, § 1; Acts 1986, No. 520, § 1; Acts 1991, No. 110, § 2; Acts 1992, No. 41, § 2; Acts 1992, No. 528, § 1, eff. June 29, 1992.

§172. Killing of birds or animals; sale; trapping regulations; exporting live specimens

A. Any licensee may kill or sell such animals or birds provided for in this Subpart at any time, except that domesticated species of wild game birds or wild waterfowl, killed by shooting, shall not be bought, sold or traded under the provisions of this Subpart.

B. Wild nongame quadrupeds raised on such licensed breeding farms or preserves may be taken for their pelts only in the open seasons, as prescribed by law. Special parish closed seasons do not apply to such licensed breeders or propagators. The tax, as fixed by law, shall be paid before the raw pelts are shipped out of the state and a written affidavit as to the number and kinds shipped out of the state shall be furnished the secretary monthly during the open season on such quadrupeds.

C. Any licensed breeder, after receiving a shipping permit furnished by the department on application, may ship live specimens outside the state for breeding, scientific, or educational purposes.

D. Any licensed breeder may possess or sell such animals or birds for food as hereinafter set forth in this Subpart.

Amended by Acts 1974, No. 717, § 1; Acts 1981, No. 736, § 1.

For a complete version of the statutes relating to game breeders, see LRS 56:171- 181

**GAME BREEDER FACILITY APPLICATION**



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL** ADDRESS OF FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

\*PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Daytime): \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE RAISED\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*NAME AND GAME BREEDER LICENSE NUMBER OF SELLER OR PREVIOUS

OWNER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

DIMENSIONS OF PEN(S): \_\_\_\_\_

MATERIALS USED (CHAIN LINK, WELDED WIRE, CHICKEN WIRE, WOOD, ETC.): \_\_\_\_\_

FEES:	License	-	\$25.00 (all applicants)
	Inspection Fee	-	\$50.00 (falconry applicants only)

TOTAL ENCLOSED - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE GAME BREEDER LICENSE RULES. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM AUTHORIZED TO POSSESS ONLY THE CLASS(ES) OF ANIMALS LISTED ON MY GAME BREEDER LICENSE AND THAT ARE LEGALLY OBTAINED. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE MY ANIMAL PENS MEET OR EXCEED THE PRESCRIBED PEN SPECIFICATIONS AND THAT FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN CITATION AND REVOCATION OF MY GAME BREEDER LICENSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN MY PENS TO PREVENT ESCAPE AND THAT RELEASE OF MY ANIMALS INTO THE WILD IS PROHIBITED. I ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES OR INJURIES RESULTING FROM MY ANIMALS OR ACTIVITIES AS A LICENSED GAME BREEDER OF DOMESTICATED WILDLIFE IN LOUISIANA.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\*It is the owner's responsibility to check for any city or parish ordinances that may prohibit the possession of animals.

\*\*Licenses will not be issued for deer or domesticated wild turkeys.

\*\*\*Licenses will not be issued for animals taken from the wild.