

POSSESSION OF VENOMOUS SNAKES IN COLORADO

The possession of live venomous snakes (native or nonnative) in Colorado is an activity regulated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Live venomous snakes may only be possessed pursuant to a Commercial Wildlife Park License issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

In addition, a person must first obtain authorization from both Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado State Veterinarian Office before importing or otherwise arranging for delivery of any venomous snake into Colorado.

Noncommercial possession or the possession of a live venomous snake as a pet is prohibited.

Prior to the issuance of a Commercial Wildlife Park License, a license applicant must:

- clearly establish the commercial purpose behind the proposed possession, and;
- construct a facility sufficient to ensure containment of the snakes.

All facilities will be inspected for compliance with all applicable facility requirements prior to issuance of the Commercial Wildlife Park License.

Once a Commercial Wildlife Park License is issued, a licensee must ensure continued compliance with all inspection, facility, record keeping and reporting requirements, including the acquisition, production and disposition of all venomous snakes.

Licensees are required to renew their Commercial Wildlife Park License on an annual basis.

Any escape of a venomous snake from a licensed facility must be reported to Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of discovery.

Regulations regarding the possession of venomous snakes pursuant to a Commercial Wildlife Park License can be found in Chapter 11 (“Wildlife Parks and Unregulated Wildlife”) of Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulations, 2 CCR 406-8.

Interested persons should also contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Department of Agriculture and their local jurisdiction (city or county) for additional requirements that may apply to their proposed possession of venomous snakes.

For more information regarding the possession of venomous snakes, please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife Special Licensing at (303) 291-7143.