



## Division of Wildlife Offices



- **Division of Wildlife Headquarters**

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G  
Columbus 43229-6693  
(614) 265-6300 (Voice)  
1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay-TDD)  
1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)

- **Wildlife District One**

1500 Dublin Road  
Columbus 43215  
(614) 644-3925

- **Wildlife District Two**

952 Lima Avenue  
Findlay 45840  
(419) 424-5000

- **Wildlife District Three**

912 Portage Lakes Drive  
Akron 44319  
(330) 644-2293

- **Wildlife District Four**

360 E. State Street  
Athens 45701  
(740) 589-9930

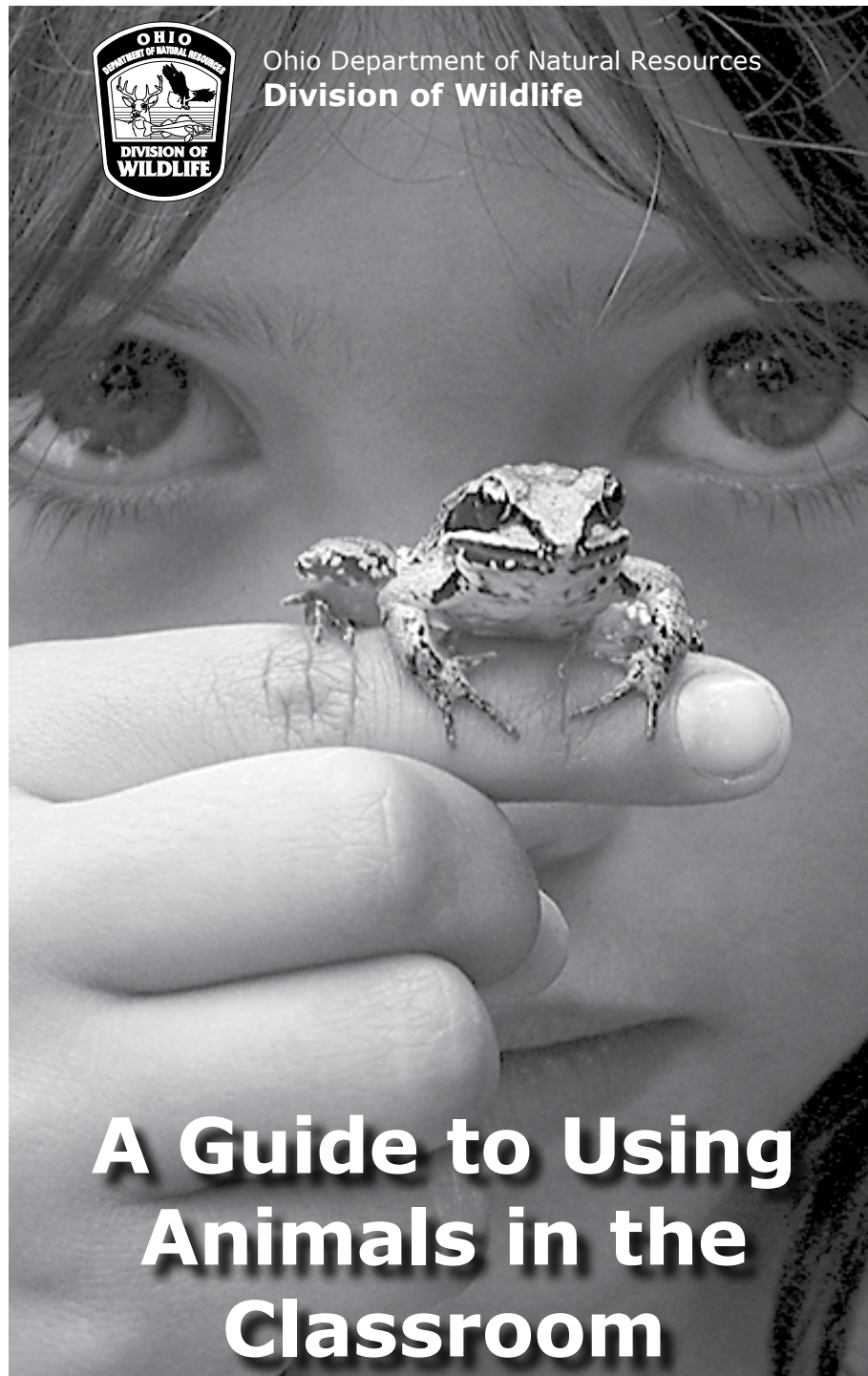
- **Wildlife District Five**

1076 Old Springfield Pike  
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(937) 372-9261

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
**Division of Wildlife**



# A Guide to Using Animals in the Classroom

Many educators have or wish to have animals in their classroom to use as teaching tools for their students. Classroom animals can give students a unique connection to science that stimulates an understanding and appreciation of the natural world. But before deciding to keep animals in your classroom, or before you decide to collect specimens from the wild, it is important to understand the laws and regulations regarding native wildlife, the permits required for possession and proper care for the wildlife.

## Laws and Regulations

**Revised Code 1531.02 State ownership of wild animals** Concludes that all wildlife is owned by the people of the state of Ohio and managed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. No person can take, possess, hunt, buy, sell, or transport native wildlife unless permitted by the Revised Code or Division rules.

## Licenses and Permits

A **Propagation License Application** must be requested from the Division of Wildlife within 10 days after taking possession of a native reptile, amphibian or turtle. In Ohio, there are restrictions to the total number of animals you can take or possess from the wild:

- Four total individuals of each species that are listed in the *Wild-captured Native Reptiles and Amphibians* list in the Division of Wildlife publication #3 *Reptiles and Amphibians Licensing and Regulations*.

- There is no limit on the number of animals you can possess if they are captively produced or legally obtained from out of state, with proper documentation.

**Non-commercial Propagation License:** allows a resident to possess any native animal that has been legally acquired. The law states that you must keep records of the animals acquired and the date of acquisition.

## WHERE CAN WILD ANIMAL PERMITS BE OBTAINED?

**Propagation License:** Call the ODNR Division of Wildlife Headquarters, permit coordinator or Wildlife District Offices.

**Education Permits, Scientific Collecting Permits, and Letter Permits:** Call the ODNR Division of Wildlife Headquarters, permit coordinator

**PIT tags:** Contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife Headquarters, permit coordinator or Wildlife District Offices.

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Wildlife/wild animal:** includes mollusks, crustaceans, aquatic insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, wild birds, wild quadrupeds and all other mammals. This does not include any domesticated animal species.

**Native wildlife:** any species of the animal kingdom that is indigenous to this state.

**Game species:** includes any birds and mammals that are managed under hunting and trapping regulations.

**Take and possess:** any attempt to capture or kill a wild animal and take possession of such animal.

## IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS AND FORMS

Pub. 326	<i>Wild Animal Collecting Permits</i>
Pub. 3	<i>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians—Licensing and Regulations</i>
Pub. 306	<i>Laws: Wild Animal Propagation and Related Activities</i>
Form 167	<i>Wild Animal Permit Application</i>
DNR 8972	<i>Educational Permit Annual Report</i>

## **GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF CLASSROOM ANIMALS**

- Any student contact with classroom animals should be under careful supervision of the educator.
- Instruct students on safety precautions regarding the handling of live animals.
- Plan ahead for future care or disposition of animals used in the classroom. **Remember, if an animal has been taken from the wild for more than 30 days, it cannot be returned.**
- Take appropriate care of your classroom animal. Many reptile and amphibian species require special care in captivity and are a big responsibility.

Below is a brief description of what many common classroom animals require. **This is not meant to be used as a complete care guide.** Libraries and many pet stores have detailed books that should be used to care for classroom animals.

**Aquatic Turtles:** Require an aquarium with deep water, a place to bask, and an incandescent reflector light. Aquatic turtles need a varied diet that includes: fish, insects, produce, and commercial turtle food.

**Box Turtles:** Require a dry terrarium with water provided in a small dish. The ground material should be made of a substance the turtle can dig under. Diet includes earthworms, crickets, mealworms, and produce.

**Snakes:** Keep in a tightly closed terrarium with a water dish and a basking area. Only whole food should be offered to snakes and may include mice, rats, and young birds.

**Lizards:** Keep in a tightly closed terrarium with a water dish and a basking area. Diet may consist of crickets, flies, mealworms, and a calcium powder supplement.

**Amphibians:** Keep in a tightly sealed container with high humidity and a water source. Sphagnum moss is a good ground cover for amphibians. Diet should include earthworms and crickets.

**Wild Animal Permits** are for scientific study, research or education and are issued by the Law Enforcement Section's permit coordinator. In order to qualify for these permits, one must be affiliated with an educational or scientific institution. This permit is for persons desiring to collect wild animals for **scientific** or **educational** purposes and is separated into these categories:

- **Education Permits** are a mechanism designed to permit qualified educators to possess Ohio native wild animals. Activities covered by an Education Permit include: possession of dead wild animal parts, nests, eggs, mounts or study skins and live wild animals for educational programming or display. Any animal taken from the wild may not be returned back into wild after being in possession for 30 days. While in possession, the following records must be kept:
  - ◇ Previous owners' name (if applicable),
  - ◇ Dates of possession and relinquishment,
  - ◇ Where animal was taken from the wild,
  - ◇ and, if not returned to the wild, the date of death or name of person animal was given to.
- **Scientific Collecting Permits** allow the taking and possessing of native wildlife using methods that would typically be prohibited. These are primarily used for surveys and inventories of wildlife species that are protected (i.e., migratory birds and raptors), being collected during the closed hunting or trapping season, collected in excess of daily bag limits or collected with devices or techniques (i.e., electro shocking) otherwise prohibited.

### **Letter Permits**

Possession of any state-listed endangered, threatened or aquatic nuisance species requires a letter of permission from the chief of the Division of Wildlife. Contact the Division of Wildlife's Permit Office for information. For federally-listed species, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **PIT Tagging**

Native snakes with a snout to vent length greater than 18 inches, and native turtles with a carapace four inches or larger must be permanently marked with a unique passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag. Regardless of permit type, all native snakes and turtles must be PIT tagged.

## LIVE NATIVE ANIMALS TO BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM

### Mammals

- May be acquired after approval of an Education Permit
- May be acquired from a licensed commercial propagator

### Birds

- Game birds may be acquired from a licensed commercial propagator
- Migratory birds may be acquired only after approval of an Education Permit and a Federal Permit.

### Aquatic Animals

- Minnows, crayfish, and hellgrammites may be legally acquired by hand, legal seine and/or hook and line fishing with a current fishing license.
- Other methods of acquiring fish, such as shocking, gill netting, and trap netting, may only be done after approval of an Education or Scientific Collecting Permit.

### Reptiles and Amphibians

- A propagating license must be requested from the Division of Wildlife within 10 days after taking possession of any native reptile or amphibian.
- With a propagating license, except for state endangered species, an Ohio resident may possess:
  - ◇ Four total individuals of each wild-captured native reptile or amphibian from the approved "Wild-captured Native Reptiles and Amphibians" list in the Division of Wildlife publication *Reptiles and Amphibians Licensing and Regulations*.
  - ◇ An unlimited number of animals captively produced or legally obtained from out of state, with proper documentation.

### Insects

- All aquatic insects and state-listed threatened or endangered species of insects require an Education Permit, Scientific Collecting Permit, or a Letter Permit.

## NATIVE DECEASED ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PARTS

### Mammals

- Hides of furbearers may only be legally acquired during hunting/trapping season.
- Hides may be bought at any time, though it is recommended that receipt of purchase be kept.
- Tanned hides may be possessed at any time.
- Deer:
  - ◇ Carcasses may be taken if given a receipt from a wildlife officer.
  - ◇ Sheds may be possessed at any time, no receipt needed.
- Any other body part (skulls, skeletons, hides, feet, etc) may only be kept with an Education Permit or a receipt from a wildlife officer.

### Birds

- Game Birds:
  - ◇ Whole birds may be legally taken during hunting season. Skeletons and skulls may be used from these birds.
  - ◇ Non-migratory bird skeletons, skulls, feathers, nests and eggs that are found require no license or permit.
- Migratory Birds:
  - ◇ Any part of a bird (whole, feathers, skull, talons, nest and eggs (broken or attached)) require both an Education Permit and a Migratory Bird permit issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

### Reptiles and Amphibians

- Reptile sheds do not require any legal permits.

### Insects:

- All aquatic insects and state-listed threatened or endangered species of insect require an Education Permit, Scientific Collecting Permit, or a Letter Permit.
- Possession of any other dead insects is allowable without special permits.