



26 exhibiting venomous reptiles, reptiles of concern, conditional  
 27 reptiles, or prohibited reptiles; license required.—

28 (1) (a) A ~~No~~ person, a party, a firm, an association, or a  
 29 corporation may not ~~shall~~ capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any  
 30 poisonous or venomous reptile or reptile of concern without  
 31 first having obtained a special permit or license therefor from  
 32 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as provided in  
 33 this section.

34 (b) ~~By December 31, 2007,~~ The commission shall establish a  
 35 list of reptiles of concern, including venomous, nonvenomous,  
 36 native, nonnative, or other reptiles, which require additional  
 37 regulation for capture, possession, transportation, or  
 38 exhibition due to their nature, habits, status, or potential to  
 39 negatively impact humans, the environment, or ecology.

40 (c) It is ~~shall be~~ unlawful for any person, party, firm,  
 41 association, or corporation, whether licensed hereunder or not,  
 42 to capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any venomous reptile or  
 43 reptile of concern in any manner not approved as safe, secure,  
 44 and proper by the commission. Venomous reptiles or reptiles of  
 45 concern held in captivity are subject to inspection by the  
 46 commission. The commission shall determine whether the reptiles  
 47 are securely, safely, and properly penned. If ~~In the event that~~  
 48 the reptiles are not safely penned, the commission must ~~shall~~  
 49 report the situation in writing to the person, party, firm,  
 50 association, or corporation owning the reptiles. Failure of the

51 person, party, firm, association, or corporation to correct the  
 52 situation within 30 days after such written notice is ~~shall be~~  
 53 grounds for revocation of the license or permit of the person,  
 54 party, firm, association, or corporation.

55 (d) Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall be  
 56 transported in a safe, secure, and proper manner. The commission  
 57 shall establish by rule the requirements for the transportation  
 58 of venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

59 (2) (a) A ~~No~~ person, a party, a firm, an association, or a  
 60 corporation may not ~~shall~~ keep, possess, import into the state,  
 61 sell, barter, trade, or breed any of the following species for  
 62 personal use or for sale for personal use:

- 63 1. Burmese or Indian python (*Python molurus*).
- 64 2. Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*).
- 65 3. Northern African python (*Python sebae*).
- 66 4. Southern African python (*Python natalensis*).
- 67 5. Amethystine or scrub python (*Morelia amethystinus*).
- 68 6. Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*).
- 69 7. Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*).
- 70 8. Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*).
- 71 9. Black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*).

72 ~~10.8.~~ Any other reptile designated as a conditional or  
 73 prohibited species by the commission.

74 (b) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation  
 75 holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1)

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76 | to legally possess a species listed in paragraph (a), that  
77 | person, party, firm, association, or corporation may possess  
78 | such reptile for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

79 | (c) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation  
80 | holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1)  
81 | to legally possess a reptile listed in paragraph (a), and the  
82 | reptile remains alive following the death or dissolution of the  
83 | licensee, the reptile may be legally transferred to another  
84 | entity holding a permit authorizing possession of the reptile  
85 | for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

86 | (d) If the commission designates a species of reptile as a  
87 | conditional or prohibited species after July 1, 2010, the  
88 | commission may authorize the personal possession of that newly  
89 | designated species by those licensed to possess that species of  
90 | reptile before the effective date of the species' designation by  
91 | the commission as a conditional or prohibited species. The  
92 | personal possession of such reptile is not a violation of  
93 | paragraph (a) if the personal possession was authorized by the  
94 | commission.

95 | (e) This subsection does not apply to traveling wildlife  
96 | exhibitors that are licensed or registered under the United  
97 | States Animal Welfare Act or to zoological facilities that are  
98 | licensed or exempted by the commission from the licensure  
99 | requirement.

100 | Section 2. Section 725.09, Florida Statutes, is created to

101 read:

102 725.09 Contracts for the sale or lease of pets.-

103 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to protect  
104 consumers in this state from deceptive and predatory financing  
105 arrangements and to protect pets from the harmful effects of  
106 such arrangements by making it a policy of this state to  
107 prohibit the leasing of pets.

108 (2) As used in this section, the term:

109 (a) "Pet" means a living animal that has been acquired for  
110 the primary purpose of providing companionship to the owner,  
111 rather than for a business or an agricultural purpose.

112 (b) "Pet dealer" has the same meaning as in s. 828.29(13).

113 (3) A contract entered into on or after July 1, 2019, to  
114 do either of the following is against the public policy of this  
115 state and is void and unenforceable:

116 (a) Transfer ownership of a pet, if the pet is used as  
117 collateral for the contract or is subject to repossession in any  
118 manner upon default of the contract. Such prohibition does not  
119 apply to sales for which payments are made to repay an unsecured  
120 loan for the purchase of the animal.

121 (b) Lease a pet, if the contract provides for or offers  
122 the option of transferring ownership of the animal at the end of  
123 the lease term.

124 (4) In addition to any other remedies provided by law, the  
125 consumer taking possession of a pet transferred under a contract

126 described in this section is the owner of the pet and is  
127 entitled to the return of all amounts the consumer paid under  
128 such contract.

129 (5) A person who offers a pet for lease or as collateral  
130 for a contract in violation of this section commits a  
131 noncriminal violation as defined in s. 775.08(3) and upon  
132 conviction must be punished as provided in s. 775.082(5) by a  
133 civil fine of not more than \$500 for a first violation and not  
134 more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent violation.

135 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
136 made by this act to section 379.372, Florida Statutes, in a  
137 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 379.2311, Florida  
138 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

139 379.2311 Nonnative animal management.—

140 (1) As used in this section, the term "priority invasive  
141 species" means the following:

142 (a) Lizards of the genus *Tupinambis*, also known as tegu  
143 lizards;

144 (b) Species identified in s. 379.372(2)(a);

145 (c) *Pterois volitans*, also known as red lionfish; and

146 (d) *Pterois miles*, also known as the common lionfish or  
147 devil firefish.

148 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.