

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

**From:** Colonel Curtis Brown, Director, Division of Law Enforcement

**Date:** May 2, 2019

**Subject:** Captive Wildlife Program Overview  
Proposed Reorganization of Chapter 68A-6, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

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**Purpose:**

Provide an overview of the Captive Wildlife Program and request approval for a proposed restructuring of Chapter 68A-6, F.A.C. "Wildlife as Personal Pets" to improve the rule's organization and efficiency of use.

**Summary:**

FWC's Captive Wildlife Program authorizes and regulates the lawful possession of captive wildlife as a means to ensure responsible ownership through education, inspection and enforcement.

Chapter 68A-6 contains the majority of the FWC's captive wildlife rules. This chapter outlines the classifications of captive wildlife, permitting and possession qualifications, caging and facility requirements, and recordkeeping and reporting rules. Staff have identified that the current structure of Chapter 68A-6 is confusing to stakeholders and sometimes difficult to interpret. Stakeholders and licensees often have difficulty finding a particular rule or how to obtain a specific license. Many of the rules are lengthy, cover multiple topics, and do not have well-defined section names. The proposed restructure will clarify the rule language, make the individual rules more concise, and help staff communicate the rules more easily to stakeholders. The proposed restructure will not include any substantive changes to the actual rule language currently in the chapter.

Staff will have conducted numerous workshops around the state prior to the Commission meeting. Individual stakeholders were also contacted and invited to share concerns.

If approved, the reorganization will be advertised and filed for adoption pursuant to s. 120.54(3), Florida Statutes if no additional hearing is requested. Future actions that will be brought before the Commission will be considerations for modifying rules associated with elephant rides; modifying public contact rules relating to captive animals, and administrative changes as may be identified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the proposed restructure of Chapter 68A-6, F.A.C.

**Staff Presenter:**

Captain Kara Hooker, Division of Law Enforcement, Captive Wildlife