



# The Louisiana Gulf Coast Herpetological Society

## Louisiana State Laws for Reptiles & Amphibians

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These regulations pertain to native reptiles and amphibians, venomous snakes and some Boas and Pythons. This list does not include local ordinances from cities, towns or parishes. Questions should be directed to Jeff Boundy, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries herpetologist, at 225-765-2815 or email [jboundy@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jboundy@wlf.la.gov). The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website is <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>. This information does not cover alligators, which may not be possessed or sold by the general public and have their own regulations.

### Louisiana Native Reptiles & Amphibians - Wild Caught & Captive Bred

1. You must have a basic fishing license to collect and/or possess native reptiles & amphibians in Louisiana. Natural habitats such as stumps or logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals. Removal of nesting or nest-tending animals is prohibited. Cost is \$9.50 annually for residents. For non-residents it is \$5 for one day, \$15 for 4 days or \$60 annually. (Class 1 violation)
2. You must have a Reptile/Amphibian Collector's License to sell wild caught native reptiles & amphibians to wholesalers and retailers in Louisiana. Cost is \$25 for residents and \$200 for non-residents. (Class III violation)
3. You must have a Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Dealer's License to buy for resale native reptiles & amphibians or to transport them for commercial purposes in or out of state, whether wild caught or captive reared, regardless of generations removed from the wild or geographic origin. Cost is \$105 for residents. Non-residents can purchase an annual permit for \$405 or a 3 day non-resident permit for \$75. (Class III violation)
4. You may not buy or sell box turtles in Louisiana (Class I violation) but you may collect a maximum of 2 per day and may not have more than 4 in your possession, regardless of origin, per person, unless you have a turtle farming license from the LA Dept of Agriculture & Forestry. (Class IV violation).
5. Bullfrogs & Pigfrogs may be taken year round except April and May. Bullfrogs must be at least 5 inches in length; Pig Frogs must be at least 3 inches. (Class III violation)
6. Wild-caught alligator snapping turtles and parts thereof may not be bought or sold in Louisiana. (Class II violation) There is a daily limit of 1, no total limits, and no size restriction that may be taken under the basic fishing license. Anyone with a Collector's License, Wholesale Dealer's License or Commercial Fishing License may not possess alligator snappers or parts.
7. Green anoles under 1¾ inches snout to vent or under 5 inches total length may be collected but not bought or sold. (Class II violation)
8. Sea turtles, the ringed sawback turtle, gopher tortoise, dusky gopher frog, tiger salamander, red salamander, mud salamander, Webster's salamander and Southern red-backed salamander cannot be collected without special state and/or Federal permit.

## Venomous Snakes - Native & Exotic

1. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has identified any snakes that belong to the Families Viperidae (Pitvipers and Vipers), Elapidae (Cobras and Mambas), Hydrophiidae (Sea Snakes), Atractaspididae (Mole Vipers), as well as the genera Dispholidus, Thelotornis, and Rhabdophis of the Family Colubridae as venomous snakes. Anyone who is selling, breeding, or buying for resale a venomous snake must have a Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer license. To obtain a Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer license go to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries office in Baton Rouge or call 225-765-2898.
2. Anyone possessing a venomous snake must obtain a Restricted Snake Permit . To qualify for the permit one must demonstrate they have the required experience with venomous snakes, keep their animals locked in an escape proof cage inside secondary containment and live in an area that allows these animals. To obtain the free permit contact Jeff Boundy with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

## Boas & Pythons

1. Anyone who is selling, breeding, or buying for resale a Apodora papuana (Papuan python), Liasis olivacea, (Olive python), Morelia spilota (Carpet or Diamond python), Morelia kinghorni (Scrub python), Morelia amethystine (Amethystine python), Python natalensis (Southern African python), Python sebae (African Rock python), Python molurus (Indian or Burmese python), Python reticulatus (Reticulate python), any species of the genus Boa (Boa constrictors), or any species of the genus Eunectes (Anacondas) must have a Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer license. To obtain a Reptile/Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer license go to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries office in Baton Rouge or call 225-765-2898.
2. Anyone possessing a Boa or Python 8 feet or longer must obtain a Restricted Snake Permit . To qualify for the permit one must keep their animals in an escape proof inside secondary containment and live in an area that allows these animals. To obtain the free permit contact Jeff Boundy with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The LGCHS offers this information as a synopsis of Louisiana state laws pertaining to the possession and sale of Reptiles and Amphibians. This information is provided for guidance only. For complete and detailed information refer to the specific laws that pertain to your animal of interest. This information was updated on October 4, 2010.