

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

26.26 Aquatic Wildlife Pet Restrictions

- A. It is unlawful to possess native aquatic wildlife as pets except as follows:
 - 1. No more than 6 of each species per household may be possessed alive;
 - 2. Must be taken by hand or by any method described in Code [32.04](#); and
 - 3. Game fish may only be taken in compliance with all other codes in Chapter [26.00](#).
- B. It also is unlawful to sell or purchase such wildlife or their progeny, or to release them into waters other than those from which they were collected.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Alligator snapping turtles, hellbenders, Ouachita streambed salamanders, troglodytic (cave-dwelling) species or those animals defined as endangered species may not be taken.
- B. Legally obtained baitfish are exempt from the 6 of each species per household provision.
- C. Commercial fish may be taken only in compliance with Chapter [30.00](#).
- D. Collecting in compliance with a scientific collection permit or other special use permit issued by the Commission.
- E. Permitted fish farms in compliance with Chapter [35.00](#).
- F. Licensed commercial fishermen in compliance with Chapter [30.00](#).

PENALTY: Class 1