



AVICULTURE AND HERPETOFAUNA KEEPERS

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 come into effect on 1 January 2019.

Key points

- New licencing arrangements apply for pet keepers and dealers who hold birds (aviculture) and reptiles and amphibians (herpetofauna).
- These arrangements permit certain amphibians, birds and reptiles to be kept as pets.
- Holders of existing aviculture and herpetofauna keeping and dealing licences will continue to be authorised under the new Regulations without needing to apply for a new licence until their existing licence expires.
- When an existing licence expires, a new application can be made online at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits from early 2019 or by contacting DBCA on wildlifelicencing@dbca.wa.gov.au.
- A *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence* authorises the holder of the licence to possess fauna specified in the licence as a pet. There are two licences available: Standard and Advanced, and licences may be subject to conditions.
- Guidelines are being developed to establish criteria for determining the species suitable to be held under a Standard or Advanced licence, as well as species that are able to be kept as pets without a licence. These will be available on the DBCA website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits.
- Significant penalties apply to possessing native fauna unless otherwise authorised.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 can be accessed via www.legislation.wa.gov.au.

Background Information

All native plants and animals are protected in Western Australia under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

DBCA is responsible for the protection and conservation of all native fauna throughout Western Australia, both in the wild and when kept in captivity.

Keeping native animals is prohibited under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018, unless authorised (for example by a person licenced to keep fauna for education or for wildlife rehabilitation). However, some native animals (for example some species of birds, amphibians and reptiles) are able to be lawfully kept and are available through the pet industry.

Transitional Licensing Arrangements

From 1 January 2019, new licensing arrangements apply for the possession of native fauna (i.e. some species of birds, amphibians and reptiles) as pets.

Holders of existing licences under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* relevant to pet keeping will continue to be authorised under the new Regulations without needing to apply for a new licence until the existing licence expires. When the existing licence expires, a new application will be required.

Online applications for licences will be available from DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits from early 2019 or by contacting DBCA on wildlifelicencing@dbca.wa.gov.au.

The keeping and dealing of native fauna as pets is principally covered in Regulations 11, 36, and 39.

Previous licence under the Wildlife Conservation Act	New licence under Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
Avicultural licence or advanced avicultural licence	Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence (standard or advanced depending on the category of fauna)
Bird dealer's licence (Basic Licence, Advanced Licence or Special Licence)	Fauna dealing (pet dealer's) licence (standard or advanced depending on the category of fauna)
Herpetofauna keeper's licence (category 2, 3, 4, or 5)	Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence (standard or advanced depending on the category of fauna)
Herpetofauna dealer's licence (category 3, 4 or 5)	Fauna dealing (pet dealer's) licence (standard or advanced depending on the category of fauna)

New Licensing Arrangements

Guidelines are being prepared to provide information on the new licensing arrangements. A person may apply for a licence to possess native animals as pets under a *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence* provided that the species is listed in the guidelines as either Category B or C. No licence is required for Category A species.

There are two types of *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's)* and *(pet dealer's) licences*:

1. Standard (Category B);
2. Advanced (Category C).

Species that may be listed as requiring a **Standard** licence are those species that the CEO considers are commonly available in the pet trade, do not meet the criteria for advanced category licences, and meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- i) it is a species that may be the subject of illegal trade and is likely to be at risk of being taken from the wild;
- ii) its keeping requirements are not adequately known, or it has special keeping requirements;
- iii) it poses some risk to human health or wellbeing;
- iv) it has a high economic value; or
- v) it requires the issue of import or export licences because its trade or movement may pose a biosecurity risk.

Species that may be listed as requiring an **Advanced** licence are those species that the CEO considers are available in the pet trade, and meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- i) it is listed as a threatened or specially protected species;
- ii) it is a species that is the subject of, or highly likely to be the subject of illegal trade and is at high risk of being taken from the wild;
- iii) it requires specialist keeping facilities or expertise, or is otherwise very difficult to keep in captivity;
- iv) it is venomous or otherwise dangerous to human health or wellbeing;
- v) it has a very high economic value; or
- vi) it requires the issue of import or export licences because its trade or movement poses a high biosecurity risk.

A *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence* may stipulate that any fauna kept under the licence may only be given, transferred or surrendered to: the holder of a *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence*; or holder of a *Fauna possessing (pet dealer's) licence*; or a wildlife officer or person specified by the wildlife officer, or a veterinary surgeon.

A *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence* may authorise the licensee to place the fauna on display to the extent specified in the licence.

Penalties

Significant penalties of up to \$500,000 apply for possessing native fauna without a licence, unless otherwise authorised.

Licence Fees

The following table sets out the application and licence fees applicable to licences to keep specific native fauna as pets.

Licence type	New application and licence fee	Renewal application and licence fee
Standard fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence	\$30	\$30
Advanced fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence	\$40	\$40
Standard fauna dealing (pet dealer's) licence	\$275	\$210
Advanced fauna dealing (pet dealer's) licence	\$345	\$235

To find out more about the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/biodiversity-conservation-act.

For further information about licensing visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits.

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Current as at 27 December 2018

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local office of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. See the department's website for the latest information www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions