

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50-15-55 and 50-15-80

ARTICLE 5

NON-GAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

123-152. Regulations for Nonnative Wildlife.

A. The Department has determined that the species designated as Restricted Nonnative Wildlife have the potential to become established in this State in sufficient numbers so as to become a nuisance and pose a demonstrable deleterious and widespread threat to wildlife, agriculture, or human health and safety. As used in this regulation, Restricted Nonnative Wildlife and the associated Listing Date are:

1. Black and White Tegu (*Salvator merianae* and, as used in this regulation, their hybrids) (listing date: May 28, 2021)

B. Unless otherwise authorized by the Department, no person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or any other entity shall possess, sell, offer for sale, transfer possession of, import, bring, release, reproduce, allow to escape, or cause to be brought or imported into the State of South Carolina any Restricted Nonnative Wildlife. Pursuant to the Department's authority to regulate nonnative wildlife under S.C. Code Section 50-15-55, the provisions of S.C. Code Section 50-16-60 do not apply to Restricted Nonnative Wildlife.

C. The Department may issue a permit for the possession, import, release, reproduction, and transfer of Restricted Nonnative Wildlife for scientific and other special purposes at its discretion, provided that any such permit shall be conditioned to minimize risks of the hazardous exposure, release and proliferation of the Restricted Nonnative Wildlife.

D. Additional provisions for specific Restricted Nonnative Wildlife

1. Black and White Tegu

i. A person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or any other entity possessing a Black and White Tegu has 120 days from the listing date, the Registration Period, to register the total number of Black and White Tegu in their possession with the Department and obtain a permit, as conditioned herein, in order to retain the registered animals. During the Registration Period, Black and White Tegus may be possessed, bought, sold, or transferred but may not be imported, brought, released, reproduced, or allowed to escape in South Carolina.

ii. All Black and White Tegus must be microchipped with a unique identification number, at the owner's expense. The unique identification number must be supplied to the Department at the time of registration and to receive a permit.

iii. Permits for registered animals are valid for three years and must be renewed within 30 days of expiration. After the Registration Period, no Black and White Tegu may be possessed without a permit issued by the Department. Permits may not be transferred. If Black and White Tegus are removed from South Carolina, the permit becomes void and must be surrendered to the Department within five days.

iv. Reproduction of permitted Black and White Tegus is not allowed.

v. Black and White Tegus must be kept indoors in escape proof enclosures, or outdoors in locked enclosures with primary and secondary containment barriers, each sufficient to prevent escape.

vi. Escaped or missing Black and White Tegus must be reported to the Department within 24 hours.

vii. Upon death of the Black and White Tegu, possession permits become void and must be surrendered to the Department within five days.

E. Failure to comply with permit terms and conditions is a violation of these regulations. Violations of these regulations are subject to the penalties and enforcement provisions of S.C. Code Section 50-15-80.