Exotic Animal Classifications

NOTE: All Class 1, 2 4 animals require a permit from TWRA

For any questions, please call TWRA Law Enforcement Division 615-781-6652

Class 1

African buffalos
alligators
amphibians (poisonous)
baboons
bears
cheetahs
chimpanzees
cougars
crocodiles
drills
elephants
gelada baboons
gibbons
gorillas
hippopotamus
jaguars
leopards
lions
mandrills
orangutans
rhinoceroses
siamangs
snakes (poisonous)
tigers

Class 2

Species native to Tennessee
and all native species not listed
in Class 1 or Class 4

TWRA permit required to possess:

bobcats (pure bred)
chipmunks (native only)
flying squirrels
foxes (red & grey only)
grouse
mice (native only)
moles
opossum
otters
quail
rabbits (native only)
raccoons
rats (*native only*)
shore birds
shrews (native only)
snakes (non-poisonous native only)
squirrels (native only)
waterfowl
turtles

Illegal to possess:

bats
hawks
skunks
owls
song birds

Class 3

Species Not Native to Tennessee
not listed in Class 1, 4 or 5

No TWRA permit required:

alpacas
amphibians (non-poisonous, non-native)
arctic foxes
bison
bobcats (domestic cat hybrids)
caimans
camels
capuchin monkeys
cassowaries
cervils
chinchillas
chipmunks (non-native)
coati-mondi
fenec foxes
ferrets
gavials
gerbils
giraffes
goats
guanocos
guinea pigs
hamsters
hares
hedgehogs
mice (non-native)
moles (non-native)
ostriches
rabbits (non-native)
rats (non-native)
reptiles (non-poisonous, non-native)
sea otters
sheep
shrews (non-native)
snakes (non-poisonous, non-native)
squirrels (non-native)
sugar gliders
vicunas
turtles (non-native)

Class 4

black bear
hybrids of class 4
white-tail deer
wild turkey

These are examples of different classifications of wildlife and is not a complete list.