

# Now at 68A-6.005(1)

## **68A-6.0024 Commercialization of Wildlife; Bonding or Financial Responsibility Guarantee.**

(1) Because the possession of wildlife in accordance with Section 379.3761, F.S., is commercial in nature any person permitted to possess wildlife per Section 379.3761, F.S., except hobbyist possessors of Class III wildlife, shall demonstrate consistent and sustained commercial activity in the form of exhibition or sale of such authorized wildlife. For the purposes of this section a “hobbyist” is defined as one whose primary purpose for possession of such Class III wildlife is personal enjoyment but may occasionally exhibit or sell such wildlife. Consistent and sustained commercial activity may be demonstrated by the following examples of business procedures including, but not limited to:

- (a) A regular media advertising campaign, or Internet Web site;
- (b) Signs, billboards or flyers advertising commercial wildlife services or operations;
- (c) Regular business hours during which the premises is open for commercial activity.
- (d) Written business is conducted on printed letterhead, indicating the name of the company or business;
- (e) Documented exhibition of wildlife to the public, with or without a charge;
- (f) Sale of wildlife including any lesser acts thereof as defined in Rule 68A-1.004, F.A.C.

(2) It is unlawful to exhibit venomous reptiles to the public without having posted a performance bond as listed below.

(a) A valid performance bond payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall be submitted at the time of initial license application and upon renewal. The licensee shall notify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in writing within 5 calendar days if the performance bond expires, is cancelled or revoked, or for any other reason becomes invalid. The notification in writing may be delivered by fax at (850) 414-8212, or by mail or hand delivery to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Licensing and Permitting, 2590 Executive Center Circle, Suite 200-Berkley Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. The terms of the performance bond shall include the following:

1. The exhibitor shall indemnify and save harmless the injured party if an injury occurs or other damage results from exhibited reptiles.

2. The exhibitor shall fully comply with all laws of the state and rules of the commission governing the capturing, keeping, possessing or exhibiting of venomous reptiles.

3. The performance bond shall be for the duration of not less than the duration of the licensing period.

(b) In lieu of a surety bond, a person may submit a cash bond to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to satisfy the performance bond requirement. Such payment shall be in the sum of \$10,000 and may be in the form of cash, cashier’s check, or certified check. In the instance of a check, such instrument shall be made payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Such cash bond shall be refunded to the exhibitor in instances of non-issuance or denial of the initial license application; or the exhibitor has submitted a request for refund to include a notarized statement that they no longer exhibit venomous reptiles.

(c) The performance bond will be forfeited to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission if:

1. An injury occurs or other damage results from exhibited reptiles and the exhibitor fails to indemnify and save harmless the injured party; or

2. The exhibitor fails to fully comply with all laws of the state and rules of the commission governing the capturing, keeping, possessing or exhibiting of venomous reptiles.

(d) The exhibition of venomous reptiles in the absence of a current and valid performance bond, payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in the sum of \$10,000 is prohibited.

(3) It is unlawful to possess Class I wildlife without having guaranteed financial responsibility. The following methods of payment will satisfy the financial responsibility requirement:

(a) A valid performance bond payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the sum of \$10,000, in compliance with and as noted in paragraph 68A-6.0024(1)(a), F.A.C., above. The terms of the performance bond shall include the following:

1. The possessor shall indemnify and save harmless the injured party if an injury to the public occurs, including accidental death, or other property damage occurs from the Class I wildlife.

2. The possessor shall indemnify and save harmless the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for payment of all expenses relative to the capture, transport, boarding, veterinary care, or other costs associated with or incurred due to seizure or custody of Class I wildlife.

3. The performance bond shall be for the duration of not less than the duration of the licensing period.

(b) Cash, cashier's check, or certified check in the sum of \$10,000. In the instance of a check such instrument shall be made payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Such cash bond shall be refunded to the possessor of Class I wildlife in instances of non-issuance or denial of the initial license application; or the possessor has submitted a request for refund to include a notarized statement that they no longer possess Class I wildlife.

(c) Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank, savings and loan, credit union or other similar state or federally chartered financial institution, payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the sum of \$10,000.

(d) In lieu of the \$10,000 financial responsibility guarantee any person possessing Class I wildlife may maintain comprehensive general liability insurance with minimum limits of \$2 million per occurrence and \$2 million annual aggregate as shall protect the possessor of Class I wildlife from claims for damage for personal injury, including accidental death, as well as claims for property damage which may arise. The insurance policy shall be for a duration of not less than the duration of the licensing period. A current Certificate of Insurance evidencing proof of insurance maintained by the possessor of Class I wildlife in such amounts as required by this section, including terms, coverage and expiration date, shall be submitted at the time of initial application and upon renewal. The licensee shall notify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in writing within 5 calendar days if the insurance policy expires, is cancelled or revoked, or for any other reason becomes invalid. The notification in writing may be delivered by fax at (850) 414-8212, or by mail or hand delivery to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Licensing and Permitting, 2590 Executive Center Circle, Suite 200-Berkley Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

(e) The performance bond or financial responsibility guarantee in the sum of \$10,000, or any portion thereof, will be forfeited to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission if:

1. An injury to the public, including accidental death, or other property damage results from Class I wildlife and the possessor of such Class I wildlife fails to indemnify and save harmless the injured party; or

2. Class I wildlife is taken into custody or seized by commission personnel. In instances where Class I wildlife is seized or taken into custody by the Commission the permittee shall be responsible for payment of all expenses relative to the capture, transport, boarding, veterinary care, or other costs associated with or incurred due to seizure or custody of the wildlife.

(f) The possession of Class I wildlife in the absence of a current and valid performance bond, payable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in the sum of \$10,000, or a financial responsibility guarantee in the sum of \$10,000, or a current and valid comprehensive general liability insurance with minimum limits of \$2 million per occurrence and \$2 million annual aggregate is prohibited.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 379.303, 379.304, 379.305, 379.373, 379.374 FS. History—New 2-1-08, Amended 8-27-09, 6-7-10, 12-6-10.*