

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE

R.I. FERRET REGULATIONS

JUNE 27, 1997

AUTHORITY: These regulations are adopted pursuant to Sections 20-1-4; 20-16-3; 4-13-1; in accordance with 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR

R.I. Ferret Regulations

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rule 1	PURPOSE	iii
Rule 2	AUTHORITY	iii
Rule 3	APPLICATION	iii
Rule 4	SEVERABILITY	iii
Rule 5	DEFINITIONS	iii
Rule 6	REGULATIONS	1-2
Rule 7	EFFECTIVE DATE	3

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR

R.I. Ferret Regulations

RULE 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish regulations for the possession of ferrets.

RULE 2 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Environmental Management, and Sections 20-1-4; 20-16-3; 4-13-1; in accordance with Chapter 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purposes of state law, goals, and policies.

RULE 4 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

RULE 5 DEFINITIONS

- (a) "**Compendium**" shall mean the most recent Compendium of Animal Rabies Control as published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.
- (b) "**Currently Vaccinated**" shall mean properly injected by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian with a rabies vaccine licensed for use in that species by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and satisfying the following criteria:
 - (1) the manufacturer's protocol with regard to minimum age of animal as well as frequency and intervals of initial vaccination(s) was followed; and
 - (2) at least thirty (30) days have elapsed since the initial vaccination and not more than twelve (12) months have elapsed since the last vaccine.
- (c) "**Ferret**" shall mean any Common European ferret (*Mustela putorius*)
- (d) "**Owner/Keeper/Possession**" shall mean any person keeping, harboring, or having charge or control or responsibility for control of an animal.
- (e) "**Person**" shall mean an individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity.

RULE 6 REGULATIONS

As follows:

State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
FISH AND WILDLIFE

R.I. FERRET REGULATIONS

- 1.0 Personal Possession -- Any person who intends to own, possess, or import a ferret into or within Rhode Island, **for personal possession** must obtain a permit. Said permit must be obtained within a two-week time period beginning on the first day of possession. Said permit will be issued by the director or his/her designee, in accordance with RIGL 20-16-3.
- 2.0 Distribution Only -- Any person who intends to own, possess, or import a ferret into or within Rhode Island, **for distribution** must obtain a permit. Said permit must be obtained prior to possession. Applicant must be a pet distributor licensed with the DEM Division of Agriculture and who maintains a log on forms designated by the Division of Agriculture, subject to inspection at any time. In addition, such person must provide a *Ferret Permit Application* with each ferret distributed, as well as a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate for any ferret so vaccinated. Said vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian licensed in the state of origin.
- 3.0 Application Procedure (Personal Possession/Distribution) -- Any person wishing to obtain a permit to possess or import a ferret must submit a DEM provided *Ferret Permit Application* to the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. The application will provide the following:
- 3.1 applicant's name, address, and telephone number;

- 3.2 name, address, and telephone number of the ferret's place of origin; and the certificate of animal health in accordance with RIGL Chapter 4.13.29;
- 3.3 certification of a current rabies vaccination as required for ferrets three months or older in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the suppression of rabies section 2F. The vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian licensed in the state of origin.
- 3.4 certification of neuter or spay;
- 3.5 a check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to RIDEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife, in accordance with RIGL 20-1-22 for each ferret to be permitted.
- 4.0 Ferrets must be kept under control at all times. Ferrets must be harnessed and leashed or caged when out-of-doors. The release of ferrets from captivity is strictly prohibited. No person shall use a ferret for hunting game of any kind.
- 5.0 Prior vaccination of any ferret may not preclude the necessity for euthanasia and testing as the period of virus shedding is unknown for ferrets at this time (Compendium of Animal Rabies Control 1996).

RULE 7 EFFECTIVE DATE

The foregoing Rules and Regulations - R.I. Ferret Regulations, after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this _____ day of _____, 19____ to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter _____, 42-35, 42-17.1, and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

Frederick J. Vincent, Acting Director
Department of Environmental Management

Notice Given on:

_____ 3/21/97 _____
MM/DD/YY

Public Hearing held:

_____ 5/2/97 _____
MM/DD/YY

Filing Date:

_____ 6/27/97 _____
MM/DD/YY

Effective Date:

_____ 7/17/97 _____
MM/DD/YY

Office of the Secretary of State
Rules and Regulations Filing Form

1. NAME and ADDRESS OF AGENCY

Department of Environmental Management - Division of Fish and Wildlife
Stedman Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, RI 02879

2. TITLE OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

RI Ferret Regulations

3. STATUTORY SOURCE OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THESE RULES

§42-17.1, "Department of Environmental Management", 42-17.6, §§ 20-1-4, 20-16-31; 4-13-1; in accordance with the provisions of §42-35, "Administrative Procedures Act", of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

4. TYPE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

(a) New rules and regulations XX (c) Technical revisions _____
(b) Amendments _____ (d) Repeal _____

If yes to (b) or (c) above, identify the amended sections or rule number(s), and please identify the original date of filing:

5. PURPOSE OF NEW RULES AND REGULATION OR AMENDMENTS

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish Ferret regulations for the 1996 - 97 season

6. TYPE OF FILING

(A) EMERGENCY: _____
(B) Pursuant to 42-35 xx
(C) Date of Public Hearing 5/2/97
(D) Date of Public Notice 3/21/97

7. DOCUMENTS FILED

(A) New Rules and Regulations XX
(B) Amended Rules & Regs. _____
(C) Only Amendments to R&R _____
(D) Technical Revisions _____

8. AGENCY CODE: Code of Rhode Island Rules Number =

9. CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the attached rules and regulations were adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (RIGL Chapter 42-35), and that they are true copies of this department, attest:

Frederick J. Vincent

Notary Public

Acting Director

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

_____ day of _____, 19__

Received by: Office of the Secretary of State

FILING DATE: