

Summary of Reptile and Amphibian Regulations

Frequently Asked Questions

Like all other wildlife species, reptiles and amphibians are regulated in Indiana by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through rules in the Administrative Code. Below is a summary of regulations relating to reptiles and amphibians. For a complete list of regulations, visit www.IN.gov/legislative/iac/title312.html and look for Article 9, Rule 5. Rules change periodically. Please check the website for up-to-date information.

Can I collect reptiles and amphibians from the wild?

- An individual must have a valid hunting or fishing license to collect reptiles and amphibians from the wild, unless exempt under state law in IC 14-22-11. Legal methods must be used. **Collection of endangered species, box turtles, and eggs of reptiles and amphibians is prohibited.**
- For all nongame species where collection is allowed, there is a daily bag limit of two and a possession limit of four for each species.
- The common snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle, bullfrog and green frog are regulated as game animals with specified methods of take, bag limits and seasons. Game turtles may be taken at anytime. Game frogs may be taken anytime except between April 30 and June 15. The daily bag limit for game frogs is 25 (in aggregate) and for game turtles is 25 (in aggregate). The possession limit is 50 for game frogs and 50 for game turtles.

What is not allowed?

- Collection of endangered species, box turtles, and eggs of reptiles and amphibians.
- Collection of nongame reptiles and amphibians on all DNR properties.
- Releasing any reptile or amphibian collected from Indiana unless it has been held for less than 30 days, has not been housed (caged) with other animals, and is released at the original site of capture.
- Releasing any reptile or amphibian acquired outside of Indiana for the purpose of release or sale for release without an importation permit from the DNR.
- The sale of native reptiles and amphibians (including eggs, larvae, meat, shells and other parts), except as follows:
 - Bullfrog and green frog tadpoles may be sold by holders of a fish haulers and suppliers permit or aquaculture permit if the tadpoles are a by-product of raising fish and if the tadpoles have a tail at least 1 inch long.
 - The young of 8 species of native snakes may be sold by holders of a reptile captive breeder's license.
 - Albinistic, leucistic and xanthic specimens of Indiana's native species may be sold if they were not collected from the wild.

- The sale of any turtle (regardless of species or origin) with a carapace less than 4 inches.
- The sale of crocodilians 5 feet or more in length.
- The sale of any venomous reptile.

When do I need a special permit?

- A wild animal possession permit with special confinement parameters are required for individuals owning crocodilians 5 feet or more in length, any venomous reptile, or an endangered species of reptile (must be obtained lawfully).
- A scientific purposes license from the Division of Fish & Wildlife is required to collect reptiles and amphibians, other than game species, for bonafide scientific or educational purposes.
- A hunting or fishing license is required, unless exempt under state law, to take reptiles or amphibians from the wild.
- Box turtles and their subspecies, demonstrated to have been acquired before 2005 or legally obtained otherwise may be possessed under a special permit.

I am a teacher. Can I collect tadpoles and bring them into my classroom for educational purposes?

With a hunting or fishing license, you may collect up to 4 of any non-endangered species of tadpole. However, it is likely that you cannot release them back into the wild (see information on releasing captive animals under “What is not allowed?”). You should be prepared to permanently take care of anything you collect. Wild animals in the classroom can create the impression for students that the animals are pets and that it is OK to collect and keep wildlife. We recommend taking your students outdoors to see wildlife or going on field trips to reputable nature centers, zoos, or museums.

Who is responsible for the management and conservation of Indiana’s reptiles and amphibians?

The Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) is part of the Division of Fish and Wildlife within the DNR. WDP is responsible for over 750 species of nongame and endangered wildlife. Nongame refers to any animal species that is not traditionally pursued through hunting and fishing. In Indiana, nongame species make up more than 90% of the state’s mammals, birds, fish, mollusks, reptiles and amphibians. WDP receives no state tax appropriations; it is funded through voluntary donations to the [Nongame Fund](#).

You can help Indiana’s reptiles and amphibians by looking for the eagle logo and the line provided on your Indiana state tax form to donate all or part of your refund. To donate directly send a check to:



Nongame Fund
 402 W. Washington St. Rm. W273
 Indianapolis, IN 46120.

For more information visit endangeredwildlife.in.gov or call 317-232-4080