

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1593

**DATE:** March 18, 2004

**Version:** Second engrossment

**Authors:** Strachan

**Subject:** Possession of Regulated (Dangerous) Animals

**Analyst:** Sam Rankin, 651-296-5047

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd).

---

### Section

#### **1 Owning certain regulated animals.**

**Subdivision 1. Definitions.** Terms are defined including "possess" and "regulated animal."

**Subd. 2. Possession of regulated animals.** Generally, within 120 days after the effective date of the act a person who possesses a regulated animal must bring the facilities and the conditions under which the animal is kept up to standards specified in United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations applicable to facilities and operations, animal health and husbandry, and veterinary care.

Only a person holding a valid USDA or Minnesota license or who is registered with a local animal control authority may breed, purchase, or sell regulated animals. However, a person without a USDA license may replace a lion or tiger if it dies. If a regulated animal dies of neglect or cruelty, or if the person is involved in illegal activities, the person is not allowed to replace the regulated animal.

**Subd. 3. Registration.** A person who possesses a regulated animal must report to the Board of Animal Health within 60 days after the effective date of the act on the inventory of animals held by the person. The Board may charge an initial site inspection fee of \$50 plus \$25 per animal (to a maximum of \$100 per person) for the annual registration. If the person acquires a different type of regulated animal the

## **Section**

Board may charge an additional \$50 site inspection fee.

**Subd. 4. Requirements.** A person who possesses a regulated animal must maintain complete records related to each animal and have at least one annual veterinary visit. The person must prominently display a sign on the enclosure where an animal is kept, indicating the presence of a regulated animal. If an animal escapes, the person must notify local law enforcement officials. If the person can no longer care for the animal he or she must attempt to locate an appropriate site for its long-term placement.

**Subd. 5. Seizure.** The Board of Animal Health can seize a regulated animal possessed in violation of these regulations. The Board may grant a 30-day grace period for the person in possession to come into compliance with requirements. If an animal is seized, the owner must be notified and given the opportunity to post a security deposit and ask for a court hearing to recover the animal. The person from whom the animal was seized must pay all costs for the care, keeping, and possible disposal of the animal.

**Subd. 6. Disposal of animals.** A regulated animal that is taken into custody and is determined by a veterinarian to be suffering and beyond cure may be immediately disposed of.

**Subd. 7. Exemptions.** Several exemptions to the requirements of this section are noted, including game farms, the Department of Natural Resources, a research or medical institution, and a circus, rodeo, or county fair.

**Subd. 8. Report to board of animal health.** Each July 1, local animal control authorities must report to the Board of Animal Health on regulated animals registered with them and enforcement actions taken.

**Subd. 9. Penalty.** It is a misdemeanor to knowingly violate subdivisions 2, 3, or 4.