

AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT[21]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 21—Chapter 77
“Dangerous Wild Animals”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 717F.2

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 717F

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 29, 2026
10 to 11 a.m.

Borlaug Conference Room (H516)
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Colin Tadlock
1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: colin.tadlock@iowaagriculture.gov

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this rulemaking is to maintain standards for the continued possession and ownership of dangerous wild animals in the State of Iowa on and after July 1, 2007. The proposed chapter provides more concise and clear guidelines for liability insurance, housing, and escape notification to protect the public.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**
 - **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**
Persons who own dangerous wild animals will bear the cost of the proposed rulemaking.
 - **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**
Persons who own dangerous wild animals and the general public will benefit from proposed rulemaking.
2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**
 - **Quantitative description of impact:**
Persons who own dangerous wild animals will bear the registration cost and cost of liability insurance.
 - **Qualitative description of impact:**

This chapter provides for oversight of ownership of dangerous wild animals within the State of Iowa, as well as provisions to ensure public safety.

3. Costs to the State:

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

The Department will bear the administrative costs for the registration of dangerous wild animals.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There is no anticipated effect on State revenues.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

Inaction would increase the risk of danger to the public from dangerous wild animals.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

No less costly or less intrusive alternatives exist.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

The Department did not seriously consider any alternative methods for providing oversight of dangerous wild animals in the State of Iowa.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

This rulemaking does not place a substantial impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 21—Chapter 77 and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 77
DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

21—77.1(717F) Continued ownership.

77.1(1) Insurance. The contents of the insurance policy must provide for notification to the department if the policy is canceled or reduced.

77.1(2) Records. The person who continues to own or possess a dangerous wild animal must maintain health and ownership records for the dangerous wild animal for the life of the animal, including deaths and cause of each death; the complete name, address and telephone number of the

person to whom an animal was transferred or sold; the date the animal was transferred or sold; and the current location of each animal's records.

77.1(3) *Enclosure.* The person who continues to own or possess a dangerous wild animal must confine the dangerous wild animal in a primary enclosure on the person's premises. The primary enclosure should be of sound construction and maintained in good repair to protect the animal from injury. Construction materials and maintenance shall allow the animal to be kept clean. The animal should be housed or caged in a manner that allows the animal to perform the normal behavior patterns of its species and prevents disease, liberation, or accidental injury to the animal and the public. The animal should have adequate food, shelter, ventilation, and lighting for its species. Appropriate sanitation measures must be taken. Food supplies and bedding materials must be adequate, appropriate, and sanitary. Equipment must be available for the removal and disposal of waste materials to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards.

77.1(4) *Signs.* The person who continues to own or possess a dangerous wild animal must display at least one visible, readable sign with suitable wording on the person's premises where the dangerous wild animal is kept warning the public that the dangerous wild animal is confined there.

21—77.2(717F) *Escape notification.* The person who continues to own or possess a dangerous wild animal must immediately notify an animal warden or other local law enforcement official and the department of any escape of a dangerous wild animal.

21—77.3(717F) *Relinquishment.* If the person who continues to own or possess a dangerous wild animal is no longer able to care for the animal, both of the following shall apply:

1. The person must so notify the department, stating the planned disposition of the dangerous wild animal.

2. The person must dispose of the dangerous wild animal by transferring ownership and possession to a wildlife sanctuary or providing for its destruction by euthanasia according to the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 717F.