



# College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: **Wild Animals as Pets**

Section: *Wildlife*

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To Be Reviewed Yearly by: *AHC Director, Service  
Chief of Community Veterinary Services*

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## WILD ANIMALS AS PETS

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University (CVM-MSU) adheres to the Mississippi Code of 1972 Unannotated §49-8-5 *Animals Inherently Dangerous to Humans* and §49-8-7 *Possession of Wild Animals Prohibited; Permit Required; Exemptions* as revised April 23, 1997. The College also abides by the AVMA policy on Ownership or Possession of Wild Animals or Their Hybrids approved by the AVMA Executive Board November 2006 and revised June 2012. Provision of care for these patients will be assessed and reviewed on an individual case basis.

In agreement with AVMA policy, the CVM-MSU:

- a) opposes the keeping of wild carnivore species as pets;
- b) opposes the keeping of inherently dangerous (i.e. poisonous) reptiles and amphibians as pets; and
- c) opposes the performance of surgical procedures on wild animals for the sole purpose of making the animal more socially acceptable to its owner.

Animal types or species that may be admitted into the Animal Health Center, in addition to conventional domestic animals, include European ferrets, non-hazardous reptiles, domestic (European) rabbits, guinea pigs, various pet rodents, African hedgehogs, properly licensed birds of prey, birds kept commonly as pets (such as mynah birds and certain psittacine birds) and animals from public zoos or private sanctuaries.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gary J. Bart*  
Gary J. Bart, Director  
Animal Health Center  
College of Veterinary Medicine

*9-19-12*

Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kent H. Hoblet*  
Kent Hoblet, Dean  
College of Veterinary Medicine

*9/19/12*

Date