

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



TYLER M. BOSWORTH
SECRETARY

PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

January 7, 2026

Honorable Bob Hensgens, Chairman
Senate Natural Resources Comm.
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Brett Geymann, Chairman
House Natural Resources and Environment Comm.
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Summary Report on Amendments to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131)

Dear Sirs:

Please accept this letter as a summary report on the Notice of Intent to amend rules and regulations that govern the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131). This Notice of Intent was approved by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at their August 7, 2025 meeting, published in the August 20, 2025 State Register (see attached NOI on pages 5-8), and republished in the September 20, 2025 State Register (see attached NOI on pages 9-13) as a result of a misprint.

- i. No hearing on the proposed rule was conducted.
- ii. Altogether, the Department received 286 comments via mail, e-mail and phone (see attached pages 14-20). Nine comments were in support of the Notice of Intent. Four comments not relative to the proposed rule changes were received. Two hundred seventy-one (271) comments in opposition (many originating outside of Louisiana and the US) were received, responses are summarized on pages 3-4. Included in these opposition comments were two petitions totaling 11,261 signatures (the majority of which originated outside of Louisiana and the United States) in opposition of the prohibition of the rehabilitation of coyotes. Additionally, seven letters of support for the NOI were received from other state agencies and associations within Louisiana (See attached NOI on pages 21-28).
- iii. There were no revisions to the proposed rule.
- iv. There were no amendments or suggested changes proposed to the original NOI.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact Mr. Bradley Breland, Office of Wildlife, at (225) 763-5499 or at bbreland@wlf.la.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TMB".

Tyler M. Bosworth
Secretary

Attachments

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON NOTICE
OF INTENT FOR:
Amendments to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131)**

1. What is it about the animals on that list that warrants stricter regulations?

The NOI presented at the August 2025 Commission meeting proposed adding outlaw quadrupeds (feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos) and nutria to this list. Species considered outlaw quadrupeds are defined in LA R.S. 56. Generally, outlaw quadrupeds are species that are commonly considered nuisance and/or pests. These animals tend to be destructive or cause human wildlife conflicts. Outlaw quadrupeds can be legally taken year round as there is no closed season or bag limit. Nutria are an invasive exotic species that has caused considerable ecological and economic damage in Louisiana. To allow rehabilitation and release of outlaw quadrupeds or nutria would be contradictory to the Department's mission to manage, conserve, and promote the wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats.

2. Why is LDWF proposing to add coyotes, armadillos, feral hogs and nutria to that list?

Nutria are an invasive species from South America that are found throughout Louisiana but are concentrated in the southern marshes and cypress swamps. They primarily feed on aquatic vegetation but unlike the native muskrat, nutria feed on the root system of marsh grasses and young woody species. This leads to a loss of vegetation, which is holding the highly organic marsh soils together. Without these root systems, the soil is much more easily washed away leading to an increase in coastal erosion. Louisiana has a federally funded Coastwide Nutria Control Program that pays enrolled participants a bounty of \$6 per nutria harvested within the nutria control area. Outlaw quadrupeds are being added to the list of species that are no longer going to be allowed to be rehabilitated due to their tendency to be destructive and cause human wildlife conflicts. Coyotes are considered naturalized species. This means that their range has naturally expanded to encompass Louisiana. The first coyote was not confirmed in Louisiana until just after the turn of the 20th century and the first confirmed coyote was not documented east of the Mississippi River until the 1930s. Coyotes thrive in a more fragmented habitat. With the increased urban sprawl, habitat is becoming increasingly more fragmented creating optimum coyote habitat. This is evident that the coyote range has expanded to nearly double the size it was in the 1890s. A USDA Wildlife Services survey of FY 2022 indicated that Louisiana received approximately \$2.47 million in cooperator funding for wildlife damage management including predator (coyote) and feral hog control. A 2010 USDA Wildlife Services report stated that coyotes were responsible for 68.8% of cattle losses and 81.7% of calf losses as a result of predation in Louisiana. This predation loss cost producers in Louisiana over \$3 million that year. A 2019 USDA Wildlife Services stated that coyotes were responsible for the loss of over 300,000 head of livestock nationally. A 2022 LSU AgCenter report stated that crop damage to feral hogs totaled \$91.1 million a year in Louisiana. Armadillos are another relatively new species to

Louisiana with the first confirmed report in the 1920s. Originating from Central America, Armadillos were first recorded in the United States in 1849 in Southern Texas. Armadillos can now be found throughout most southeastern states and are considered a nuisance species particularly to lawns, gardens, and flowerbeds. The “rooting” of an armadillo causes holes 3-5 inches wide and about 3 inches deep. Additionally, armadillos construct underground burrows. These burrows can cause damages to structures and driveways by displacing soil and increasing erosion. Additionally, these burrows can pose a risk to livestock by creating instable ground and leading to tripping hazards.

3. While I understand coyotes can be a nuisance to farmers and those with small outdoor animals, they are vital to our natural ecosystem. Why do you think they keep creeping into neighborhoods? Their homes have been destroyed by our continued, and rather unnecessary, urban expansion.

LDWF rejects this premise that urban sprawl is reducing coyote habitat. As stated previously, coyotes are an edge species, which thrive in fragmented habitats found in urban and suburban environments.

4. It is already illegal to release captured coyotes back into the wild, so there would be absolutely no environmental impact in taking them in and helping them.

Trappers and Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators are prohibited from relocating and releasing coyotes in Louisiana. However, this activity is currently allowed for Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit holders. This change will bring these regulations in alignment.

**IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT
(Summary)**

There will be a negligible effect on competition and employment as a result of the rule change. Waters adjacent to the closure areas will remain open for crab harvest, and fishers who fish during this period are expected to relocate their traps to these areas.

Bryan McClinton
Undersecretary
2508#049

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Program
(LAC 76:V.131)**

Notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to adopt changes to the rules and regulations that govern the permitting and operations of Wildlife Rehabilitators. Wildlife rehabilitation is defined as the activity that provides housing, treatment and temporary care of injured and/or orphaned indigenous animals with the goal of subsequent release of those healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the proposed Rule, the secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§131. Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this Section is to establish rules for the permitting and operation of wildlife rehabilitators.

B. Definitions

Media—means of communication using platforms such as broadcasting, publishing, and the internet, including, but not limited to, images, videos, and social media

Rabies Vector Species (RVS)—mammalian species defined by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) as potential carriers of the rabies virus including, but not limited to the following:

- a. raccoons;
- b. foxes;
- c. coyotes;
- d. skunks; and
- e. bats.

Standard Wildlife Rehabilitation Practices—practices that are accepted as appropriate methods, procedures, animal care, and rehabilitator behaviors by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and/or the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Subpermittee—person authorized to conduct rehabilitation activities under the supervisory responsibility of a wildlife rehabilitator.

Supervisory Responsibility—to direct actions and accept responsibility for the actions of a named individual engaged in wildlife rehabilitation activities.

Wildlife Rehabilitation—activity that provides housing, treatment and temporary care of injured and/or orphaned indigenous animals with the goal of subsequent release of those healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

Wildlife Rehabilitator—a person who is permitted by the LDWF to engage in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife Rescuer—a person who is allowed to possess certain wildlife in accordance with the exemption requirements of Paragraph D.3 of this Section.

C. Permits

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold or possess in captivity any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife (except fish) or otherwise engage in wildlife rehabilitation without first obtaining at no charge, a LDWF Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (WRP), unless otherwise exempted by Subsection D of this Section. In addition to the WRP, a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) rehabilitation permit must be in possession to rehabilitate species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Endangered Species Act.

2. A WRP authorizes the permittee to transport; temporarily possess; rehabilitate; transfer to a practicing veterinarian or another wildlife rehabilitator for treatment or euthanasia; release; or euthanize an injured, diseased, disabled, orphaned or otherwise debilitated live wildlife specified on their permit. Animals held under a WRP shall not be displayed for the purposes of exploitation, including for any promotional or commercial purpose, or educational purposes or otherwise displayed or exposed to the public (including on social media platforms) unless that individual animal has been permitted by LDWF or USFWS for that purpose. Except, the use of media depicting rehabilitation animals shall be allowed for educational and fundraising activities provided that:

a. Animals are involved in rehabilitation activities such as intake/initial assessment, feeding, enrichment, care, and release that are considered standard wildlife rehabilitation practices.

b. Only licensed WRP holders or licensed subpermittees engaged in standard wildlife rehabilitation activities are allowed in media with rehabilitation wildlife.

c. Proper personal protective equipment (PPEs) are utilized.

d. Rehabilitation animals shall not be assigned or referred to by "pet" names.

e. Animals shall not be shown in a common space with domestic animals.

f. All media produced with rehabilitation wildlife shall include a description of the wildlife rehabilitation occurring and the necessity for this activity.

g. All media produced with images or videos of rehabilitation animals shall state, either verbally or in writing, "this animal is temporarily possessed under a wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries."

D. Exemptions

1. Employees of the LDWF are exempt from all state wildlife rehabilitation permit requirements while they are on duty.

2. Licensed veterinarians are exempted, provided they are treating an animal under the authorization of a wildlife rehabilitator or LDWF employee, or are treating an animal taken in from the public, provided the animal is released into an appropriate habitat or accepted by a wildlife rehabilitator.

3. Wildlife Rescuer

a. Individuals may possess in captivity certain sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife while providing care for such wildlife for a period of up to 90 days as provided for in this Paragraph.

i. Wildlife included under this Paragraph shall be limited to the following species: squirrel, opossum, rabbit, or chipmunk, with such possession limited to one animal or litter of animals per individual.

ii. A raccoon or skunk that is sick, injured, or orphaned may also be possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph upon notification to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of possession of the wildlife and upon receipt of information regarding rabies vector species and a list of available wildlife rehabilitators.

iii. Individuals in possession of any of these animals shall be held strictly liable for any damages for injuries to persons or property caused by the animal.

b. To continue to possess the wildlife beyond ninety days from finding the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife all of the following shall occur.

i. The individual has satisfied wildlife rescuer training requirements. The curriculum shall be offered online and shall cover at a minimum safety considerations, wildlife husbandry requirements, transfer of diseases, and that a person possessing an animal pursuant to this Paragraph is held strictly liable for any damage or injury the animal causes.

ii. The individual applied for a Special Purpose and Possession permit.

iii. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian has determined that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity.

c.i. If the conditions of Subparagraph b of this Paragraph have been met, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall issue a special purpose and possession permit and the individual shall be able to continue to possess the animal for the duration of its natural life.

ii. Any animal possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be spayed or neutered. Rabies vector species shall also be microchipped by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian.

d. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian shall not be liable to any person for any injury, illness, death, loss, civil penalty, or damage as a result of any act or omission in

determining that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity as required by the provisions of this Paragraph. However, this limitation of liability shall not be applicable if the damage, injury, or loss was caused by the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the licensed Louisiana veterinarian.

e. It shall be unlawful for an individual exempted under the provisions of this Paragraph to use the wildlife in any manner for the purposes of exploitation, including for any promotional or commercial purpose, or for the purposes of pet trade. Any such act shall be grounds for seizure of the wildlife by the department and revocation of any issued permit.

E. Permit Requirements

1. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

2. Anyone who has been convicted of a Class 3 or greater wildlife violation in Louisiana, or the equivalent in another state within the past five years, or has been convicted of a felony in Louisiana or another state, shall not be eligible for a WRP.

3. All applicants must complete a WRP application, liability release, and financial responsibility statement.

4. Prior to licensure or renewal, all applicants must show proof of completion of a LDWF-approved wildlife rehabilitation course and must be currently certified under the approved organization's guidelines. Veterinarians licensed in the State of Louisiana are exempt from the training requirement to obtain a WRP. There shall be at least one approved course readily available online, which may require successful completion of an interactive test. The department shall post approved courses on its website. Failure to provide proof of successful completion of the course will result in non-licensure or revocation of the WRP.

5. All applicants must provide verification of having access to veterinary services by submitting a Statement of Veterinary Support Form provided by LDWF.

6. All applicants shall have a suitable enclosure for any animals housed and shall report the specifications on the department-approved application form. Permitted facilities may be subject to inspection by LDWF upon 24-hour notice to the WRP applicant.

F. General Rules

1. The WRP will not exempt the holder from regulations of other state, federal, parish or municipal governments or agencies.

2. Sale of any animal held under a WRP is prohibited.

3. No animal held under a WRP may be used for human consumption, unless specifically approved.

4. No Louisiana S1-ranked species may be held under a WRP, without written authorization from the LDWF Wildlife Division.

5. No animal intended for wildlife rehabilitation may be imported into or exported out of the state of Louisiana without written authorization by LDWF Wildlife Division.

6. The WRP does not authorize the possession of white-tail deer, bears, wild turkeys, outlaw quadrupeds, nutria, or alligators unless specifically stated on the permit.

7. Request for an Extension

a. WRP holders shall not possess a non-migratory bird for more than 90 days, other injured wildlife longer than 45 days, or other orphaned wildlife no longer than required to prepare the animal for release, but not to exceed 120 days,

except that a permit holder may submit a written request for extension of possession if:

- i. the specified animal will likely be releasable after the time frame listed above but is currently non-releasable because of biological reasons; or
- ii. a licensed veterinarian determines, due to medical reasons, the animal requires additional rehabilitation time.

b. All extension requests should include a proposed release date and be submitted in writing to LDWF Wildlife Division. The permit holder may continue to house the specified animal while LDWF is reviewing the request. LDWF will provide a written response and include specific dates and instructions regarding disposition of the animal.

8. WRP holders must ensure that animals are exposed to minimal handling and other human contact, except as necessary to maintain sanitary conditions, provide food and water, provide medical care, and prepare the animal for release.

9. Animals that are determined medically non-releasable by a licensed veterinarian, exhibit signs of adjusted life in captivity and pose minimum zoonotic disease potential may be considered for educational animal designation. A LDWF Special Purpose and Possession permit application must be submitted to LDWF Wildlife Division by the end of the 90 day rehabilitation period to be considered for educational animal status.

10. All WRPs shall expire on December 31 of the year of issue unless otherwise noted.

11. Permits are non-transferable but may include up to five listed subpermittees. Subpermittees are authorized to transport, house, and provide care for animals away from the wildlife rehabilitation facility. A person caring for animals at the wildlife rehabilitation facility is not required to be a subpermittee. WRP holders desiring to add subpermittees, must submit a subpermittee application form. Individuals may be removed as subpermittees at any time of the year. A subpermittee removal form must be submitted. All subpermittees:

- a. must be 18 years of age or older;
- b. are exempt from the testing requirement but are subject to all other rules governing WRP holders including animal housing and care requirements;
- c. must work under the direction and supervision of the WRP holder;
- d. may be removed at any time by the supervising WRP holder or LDWF and in such cases must surrender any animals to the WRP holder or LDWF; and
- e. must have a valid subpermittee permit on the premises where animals are housed if animals are housed away from the supervising WRP holder's facility.

12. WRP holders are subject to non-renewal or revocation of their WRP if LDWF determines that any of their listed subpermittees are not properly supervised or fail to abide by applicable WRP rules.

13. LDWF provides no financial or material assistance to wildlife rehabilitators.

14. Euthanasia of any animal held under a WRP is to be performed under the guidelines adopted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

15. Animals held under a WRP shall not be released on private land without written permission of the landowner or landowner designee. Licensed rehabilitators shall keep on file for a minimum of three years, an original document signed by the landowner, permitting the licensed rehabilitator to release animals upon their property. This document should include the name, address and phone number of the landowner, the physical location of the property, the size of the property (in acres), and the duration of the permission to release rehabilitated animals there. This document shall be presented upon request for review by LDWF personnel. A copy of all landowner permission documents shall be submitted to LDWF with the annual WRP report.

16. Animals held under a WRP shall not be released on public land without first obtaining written permission from the governmental entity owning or administering the property.

17. All permitted animals and facilities in which they are housed shall be maintained within the minimum standards as provided by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) publication of Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

18. It is strongly recommended that any wildlife rehabilitator working with rabies vector species receive pre-exposure rabies immunization.

G. Reporting and Renewal Requirements

1. All animals held under a WRP must be fully documented on Wildlife Rehabilitation Report Form provided by LDWF.

2. A record of each animal admitted by a permitted rehabilitator must be maintained. This record should include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person finding the animal, species, age, sex, date of admission, treatment performed, method of euthanasia if performed or date and location of release. These records must be maintained for a minimum of three years and must be available for inspection by LDWF personnel.

3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Report Forms for the permit period must be submitted to the LDWF no later than 30 days following the expiration of the permit and the WRP will not be renewed until these forms are received. Reports will cover the period from December 1 of the prior license year to November 30 of the current license year. Any wildlife rehabilitator who does not submit his/her report by the thirtieth day after the expiration date of the WRP, or who submits a false or materially incomplete report intentionally may be issued a citation for violation of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission rules and regulations. If the citation does not result in a conviction, plea of guilty, or plea of no contest, the wildlife rehabilitator may be considered for reapplication upon receipt of the late wildlife rehabilitation form(s).

4. Report forms must be current and shall be available for inspection at all times by Wildlife Enforcement Agents or any other authorized representatives of the department.

5. Upon expiration of a WRP and if the WRP has not been renewed, all animals held under the permit must be disposed of by transferring to a currently licensed WRP, released into the wild, or euthanized.

H. Penalties

1. Violations of this Rule constitute a Class 2 offense.
2. Violation of these Rules may result in citation and/or revocation of the WRP.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:3, R.S. 56:5, R.S. 56:6 (10), and (15), R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:126.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 36:852 (April 2010), amended LR 37:602 (February 2011), amended by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 of the 2024 Regular Session, LR 50:1079 (July 2024), amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 51:

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

This proposed Rule will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Analysis

This proposed Rule has no known impact on small businesses as described in R.S. 49:965.2 through R.S. 49:965.8.

Provider Impact Statement

This proposed Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until October 1, 2025, to Bradley Breland, Office of Wildlife, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to bbreland@wlf.la.gov.

Kevin Sagera
Chairman

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes are not anticipated to impact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) expenditures.

The proposed rule change makes the following changes:

1. Defines "media" for the purposes of this rule and establishes conditions for exemptions to the prohibition on the use of media by wildlife rehabilitators;
2. Clarifies rules prohibiting the keeping, holding, or possession of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife;
3. Changes Class II to Class III or greater wildlife violations for permit requirements;
4. Removes the prohibition on felons from holding Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits (WRP);
5. Exempts veterinarians from training requirements for WRP;

6. Prohibits WRP-holders and sub-permittees from possessing nutria and outlaw quadrupeds;

7. Allows the possession or transportation of Rabies Vector Species (RVS) by sub-permittees from supervising WRP-holders' facilities; and

8. Reduces record-keeping requirement for WRP-holders from perpetuity to three years.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes are not anticipated to impact the revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes may reduce recording-keeping costs, training costs, and other regulatory compliance expenditures for wildlife rehabilitators.

The LDWF recorded an average of 147 nuisance wildlife control operators and 51 resident-nonresident wildlife rehabilitators between License Year (LY) 2022 and LY 2024.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There is no anticipated effect on competition and employment as a result of the proposed rule changes.

Bryan McClinton
Undersecretary
2508#053

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

Workforce Commission Plumbing Board

Plumbers—Introductory Information; Officers; and Meetings (LAC 46:LV.101, 503, and 507)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953, the Louisiana State Plumbing Board (board), hereby determines that the implementation of amendments to LAC 46:LV.101, 503, and 507 are necessary to be in compliance with recent legislative changes designated as Act No. 438 of the 2025 Legislative Session. The proposed Rule change to §101 will define a Responsible Master Plumber; §503 amends the name of a contractors' association as well as the time period for the election of board members, and §507 designates the criteria for holding the position of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the board and designates the voting rights of the Chairman. These adjustments will be effective upon final publication in the *Louisiana Register*.

Title 46

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Part LV. Plumbers

Chapter 1. Introductory Information

§101. Definitions

Responsible Master Plumber—as that term is used in R.S. 37:1362(B)(1), shall be a master plumber who assumes full legal and professional responsibility for all plumbing operations conducted under a company's license. This individual ensures compliance with all applicable plumbing

3. the overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

Any interested person may submit written data, views, arguments or comments regarding these proposed amendments to Morgan Newton, Attorney, Tax Policy and Planning Division, Office of Legal Affairs by mail to P.O. Box 44098, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4098. All comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., October 27, 2025.

Public Hearing

Interested persons may submit a written request for a public hearing no later than October 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Requests may be submitted either by mail, addressed to Morgan Newton, Attorney, Tax Policy and Planning Division, Office of Legal Affairs, P.O. Box 44098, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4098, or via email to morgan.newton@la.gov and reference Louisiana Fortified Roof Tax Credit Comments. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:961(B)(1) are satisfied, a public hearing will be held on October 28, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the River Room, located on the seventh floor of the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, La 70802, for all interested persons to attend and submit oral or written comments. To confirm whether or not the public hearing will be held, please visit the department's website at: <https://revenue.louisiana.gov/tax-policy/rules-regulations> and under "Types" select "Nonemergency Rulemaking." In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Morgan Newton at the address given above in the Public Comments section, by email at LDRadarequests@la.gov or by phone at (225) 219-2780.

Richard Nelson
Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Tax Credit Documentation Requirements

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule sets forth the information and documentation required to be provided when claiming the inventory tax credit, certain school readiness tax credits, and the telephone property credit. The proposed rule also allows for the suspension of interest as provided in R.S. 47:1624(F). R.S. 47:1624(F) authorizes the suspension of accrual of interest due to a delay in the issuance of a refund that is attributable to the taxpayer's failure to provide information or documentation required by statute or regulation.

Implementation of this proposal will not result in material additional costs or cost savings to the Department of Revenue (LDR).

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

To the extent the additional information required for the credits and the suspension of interest provisions reduce refund interest paid by the state to taxpayers, the proposed rule will increase state revenue.

According to R.S. 47:1624(A)(1)(a) interest shall be allowed from 90 days after the later of the due date of the return, the filing date of the return or claim for refund on which the overpayment is claimed, or the date the tax was paid. LDR

is unable to provide an estimate as to how much interest has accumulated due to missing documentation for these particular credits.

With no local income tax, there is no impact to local governmental revenue as a result of this rule.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Taxpayers claiming the inventory tax credit, certain school readiness tax credits, or the telephone property tax credit will be affected by the proposed rule. Taxpayers will be required to submit new documentation when filing the return. However, the additional costs for completion and submission of the required information to claim the tax credit on the return from this proposed rule are expected to be minor.

To the extent taxpayers previously received interest in certain circumstances, the proposed rule will decrease taxpayer income from the interest suspension when proper documentation is not provided.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There is no anticipated impact on competition or employment.

Richard Nelson
Secretary
2509#055

Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Wildlife Rehabilitation Program
(LAC 76:V.131)

Editor's Note: This Notice of Intent is being reprinted because of an error upon submission. The original Notice of Intent can be viewed in its entirety on pages 1277-1280 of the August 20, 2025 *Louisiana Register*.

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The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the proposed Rule, the secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

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Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds
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- e. bats.

Standard Wildlife Rehabilitation Practices—practices that are accepted as appropriate methods, procedures, animal care, and rehabilitator behaviors by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and/or the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Subpermittee—person authorized to conduct rehabilitation activities under the supervisory responsibility of a wildlife rehabilitator.

Supervisory Responsibility—to direct actions and accept responsibility for the actions of a named individual engaged in wildlife rehabilitation activities.

Wildlife Rehabilitation—activity that provides housing, treatment and temporary care of injured and/or orphaned indigenous animals with the goal of subsequent release of those healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

Wildlife Rehabilitator—a person who is permitted by the LDWF to engage in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife Rescuer—a person who is allowed to possess certain wildlife in accordance with the exemption requirements of Paragraph D.3 of this Section.

C. Permits

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold or possess in captivity any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife (except fish) or otherwise engage in wildlife rehabilitation without first obtaining at no charge, a LDWF Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (WRP), unless otherwise exempted by Subsection D of this Section. In addition to the WRP, a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) rehabilitation permit must be in possession to rehabilitate species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Endangered Species Act.

2. A WRP authorizes the permittee to transport; temporarily possess; rehabilitate; transfer to a practicing veterinarian or another wildlife rehabilitator for treatment or euthanasia; release; or euthanize an injured, diseased, disabled, orphaned or otherwise debilitated live wildlife specified on their permit. Animals held under a WRP shall not be displayed for the purposes of exploitation, including for any promotional or commercial purpose, or educational purposes or otherwise displayed or exposed to the public (including on social media platforms) unless that individual animal has been permitted by LDWF or USFWS for that purpose. Except, the use of media depicting rehabilitation animals shall be allowed for educational and fundraising activities provided that:

a. Animals are involved in rehabilitation activities such as intake/initial assessment, feeding, enrichment, care, and release that are considered standard wildlife rehabilitation practices.

b. Only licensed WRP holders or licensed subpermittees engaged in standard wildlife rehabilitation activities are allowed in media with rehabilitation wildlife.

c. Proper personal protective equipment (PPEs) are utilized.

d. Rehabilitation animals shall not be assigned or referred to by "pet" names.

e. Animals shall not be shown in a common space with domestic animals.

f. All media produced with rehabilitation wildlife shall include a description of the wildlife rehabilitation occurring and the necessity for this activity.

g. All media produced with images or videos of rehabilitation animals shall state, either verbally or in writing, "this animal is temporarily possessed under a wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries."

D. Exemptions

1. Employees of the LDWF are exempt from all state wildlife rehabilitation permit requirements while they are on duty.

2. Licensed veterinarians are exempted, provided they are treating an animal under the authorization of a wildlife rehabilitator or LDWF employee, or are treating an animal taken in from the public, provided the animal is released into an appropriate habitat or accepted by a wildlife rehabilitator.

3. Wildlife Rescuer

a. Individuals may possess in captivity certain sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife while providing care for such wildlife for a period of up to 90 days as provided for in this Paragraph.

i. Wildlife included under this Paragraph shall be limited to the following species: squirrel, opossum, rabbit, or chipmunk, with such possession limited to one animal or litter of animals per individual.

ii. A raccoon or skunk that is sick, injured, or orphaned may also be possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph upon notification to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of possession of the wildlife and upon receipt of information regarding rabies vector species and a list of available wildlife rehabilitators.

iii. Individuals in possession of any of these animals shall be held strictly liable for any damages for injuries to persons or property caused by the animal.

b. To continue to possess the wildlife beyond ninety days from finding the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife all of the following shall occur:

i. The individual has satisfied wildlife rescuer training requirements. The curriculum shall be offered online and shall cover at a minimum safety considerations, wildlife husbandry requirements, transfer of diseases, and that a person possessing an animal pursuant to this Paragraph is held strictly liable for any damage or injury the animal causes.

ii. The individual applied for a Special Purpose and Possession permit.

iii. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian has determined that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity.

c.i. If the conditions of Subparagraph b of this Paragraph have been met, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall issue a special purpose and possession permit and the individual shall be able to continue to possess the animal for the duration of its natural life.

ii. Any animal possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be spayed or neutered. Rabies vector species shall also be microchipped by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian.

d. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian shall not be liable to any person for any injury, illness, death, loss, civil penalty, or damage as a result of any act or omission in determining that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity as required by the provisions of this Paragraph. However, this limitation of liability shall not be applicable if the damage, injury, or loss was caused by the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the licensed Louisiana veterinarian.

e. It shall be unlawful for an individual exempted under the provisions of this Paragraph to use the wildlife in any manner for the purposes of exploitation, including for any promotional or commercial purpose, or for the purposes of pet trade. Any such act shall be grounds for seizure of the wildlife by the department and revocation of any issued permit.

E. Permit Requirements

1. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

2. Anyone who has been convicted of a Class 3 or greater wildlife violation in Louisiana, or the equivalent in another state within the past five years, shall not be eligible for a WRP.

3. All applicants must complete a WRP application, liability release, and financial responsibility statement.

4. Prior to licensure or renewal, all applicants must show proof of completion of a LDWF-approved wildlife rehabilitation course and must be currently certified under the approved organization's guidelines. Veterinarians licensed in the State of Louisiana are exempt from the training requirement to obtain a WRP. There shall be at least one approved course readily available online, which may require successful completion of an interactive test. The department shall post approved courses on its website. Failure to provide proof of successful completion of the course will result in non-licensure or revocation of the WRP.

5. All applicants must provide verification of having access to veterinary services by submitting a Statement of Veterinary Support Form provided by LDWF.

6. All applicants shall have a suitable enclosure for any animals housed and shall report the specifications on the department-approved application form. Permitted facilities may be subject to inspection by LDWF upon 24-hour notice to the WRP applicant.

F. General Rules

1. The WRP will not exempt the holder from regulations of other state, federal, parish or municipal governments or agencies.

2. Sale of any animal held under a WRP is prohibited.

3. No animal held under a WRP may be used for human consumption, unless specifically approved.

4. No Louisiana SI-ranked species may be held under a WRP, without written authorization from the LDWF Wildlife Division.

5. No animal intended for wildlife rehabilitation may be imported into or exported out of the state of Louisiana without written authorization by LDWF Wildlife Division.

6. The WRP does not authorize the possession of white-tail deer, bears, wild turkeys, outlaw quadrupeds, nutria, or alligators unless specifically stated on the permit.

7. Request for an Extension

a. WRP holders shall not possess a non-migratory bird for more than 90 days, other injured wildlife longer than 45 days, or other orphaned wildlife no longer than required to prepare the animal for release, but not to exceed 120 days, except that a permit holder may submit a written request for extension of possession if:

i. the specified animal will likely be releasable after the time frame listed above but is currently non-releasable because of biological reasons; or

ii. a licensed veterinarian determines, due to medical reasons, the animal requires additional rehabilitation time.

b. All extension requests should include a proposed release date and be submitted in writing to LDWF Wildlife Division. The permit holder may continue to house the specified animal while LDWF is reviewing the request. LDWF will provide a written response and include specific dates and instructions regarding disposition of the animal.

8. WRP holders must ensure that animals are exposed to minimal handling and other human contact, except as necessary to maintain sanitary conditions, provide food and water, provide medical care, and prepare the animal for release.

9. Animals that are determined medically non-releasable by a licensed veterinarian, exhibit signs of adjusted life in captivity and pose minimum zoonotic disease potential may be considered for educational animal designation. A LDWF Special Purpose and Possession permit application must be submitted to LDWF Wildlife Division by the end of the 90 day rehabilitation period to be considered for educational animal status.

10. All WRPs shall expire on December 31 of the year of issue unless otherwise noted.

11. Permits are non-transferable but may include up to five listed subpermittees. Subpermittees are authorized to transport, house, and provide care for animals away from the wildlife rehabilitation facility. A person caring for animals at the wildlife rehabilitation facility is not required to be a subpermittee. WRP holders desiring to add subpermittees, must submit a subpermittee application form. Individuals may be removed as subpermittees at any time of the year. A subpermittee removal form must be submitted. All subpermittees:

a. must be 18 years of age or older;

b. are exempt from the testing requirement but are subject to all other rules governing WRP holders including animal housing and care requirements;

c. must work under the direction and supervision of the WRP holder;

d. may be removed at any time by the supervising WRP holder or LDWF and in such cases must surrender any animals to the WRP holder or LDWF; and

e. must have a valid subpermittee permit on the premises where animals are housed if animals are housed away from the supervising WRP holder's facility.

12. WRP holders are subject to non-renewal or revocation of their WRP if LDWF determines that any of their listed subpermittees are not properly supervised or fail to abide by applicable WRP rules.

13. LDWF provides no financial or material assistance to wildlife rehabilitators.

14. Euthanasia of any animal held under a WRP is to be performed under the guidelines adopted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

15. Animals held under a WRP shall not be released on private land without written permission of the landowner or landowner designee. Licensed rehabilitators shall keep on file for a minimum of three years, an original document signed by the landowner, permitting the licensed rehabilitator to release animals upon their property. This document should include the name, address and phone number of the landowner, the physical location of the property, the size of the property (in acres), and the duration of the permission to release rehabilitated animals there. This document shall be presented upon request for review by LDWF personnel. A copy of all landowner permission documents shall be submitted to LDWF with the annual WRP report.

16. Animals held under a WRP shall not be released on public land without first obtaining written permission from the governmental entity owning or administering the property.

17. All permitted animals and facilities in which they are housed shall be maintained within the minimum standards as provided by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) publication of Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

18. It is strongly recommended that any wildlife rehabilitator working with rabies vector species receive pre-exposure rabies immunization.

G. Reporting and Renewal Requirements

1. All animals held under a WRP must be fully documented on Wildlife Rehabilitation Report Form provided by LDWF.

2. A record of each animal admitted by a permitted rehabilitator must be maintained. This record should include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person finding the animal, species, age, sex, date of admission, treatment performed, method of euthanasia if performed or date and location of release. These records must be maintained for a minimum of three years and must be available for inspection by LDWF personnel.

3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Report Forms for the permit period must be submitted to the LDWF no later than 30 days following the expiration of the permit and the WRP will not be renewed until these forms are received. Reports will cover the period from December 1 of the prior license year to November 30 of the current license year. Any wildlife rehabilitator who does not submit his/her report by the thirtieth day after the expiration date of the WRP, or who submits a false or materially incomplete report intentionally may be issued a citation for violation of Louisiana Wildlife

and Fisheries Commission rules and regulations. If the citation does not result in a conviction, plea of guilty, or plea of no contest, the wildlife rehabilitator may be considered for reapplication upon receipt of the late wildlife rehabilitation form(s).

4. Report forms must be current and shall be available for inspection at all times by Wildlife Enforcement Agents or any other authorized representatives of the department.

5. Upon expiration of a WRP and if the WRP has not been renewed, all animals held under the permit must be disposed of by transferring to a currently licensed WRP, released into the wild, or euthanized.

H. Penalties

1. Violations of this Rule constitute a Class 2 offense.
2. Violation of these Rules may result in citation and/or revocation of the WRP.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:3, R.S. 56:5, R.S. 56:6 (10), and (15), R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:126.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 36:852 (April 2010), amended LR 37:602 (February 2011), amended by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 of the 2024 Regular Session, LR 50:1079 (July 2024), amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 51:

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

This proposed Rule will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Analysis

This proposed Rule has no known impact on small businesses as described in R.S. 49:965.2 through R.S. 49:965.8.

Provider Impact Statement

This proposed Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until October 1, 2025, to Bradley Breland, Office of Wildlife, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail to bbreland@wlf.la.gov.

Kevin Sagrera
Chairman

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RULE TITLE: Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes are not anticipated to impact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) expenditures.

The proposed rule change makes the following changes:

1. Defines "media" for the purposes of this rule and establishes conditions for exemptions to the prohibition on the use of media by wildlife rehabilitators;
2. Clarifies rules prohibiting the keeping, holding, or possession of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife;
3. Changes Class II to Class III or greater wildlife violations for permit requirements;
4. Removes the prohibition on felons from holding Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits (WRP);
5. Exempts veterinarians from training requirements for WRP;
6. Prohibits WRP-holders and sub-permittees from possessing nutria and outlaw quadrupeds;
7. Allows the possession or transportation of Rabies Vector Species (RVS) by sub-permittees from supervising WRP-holders' facilities, and
8. Reduces record-keeping requirement for WRP-holders from perpetuity to three years.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes are not anticipated to impact the revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes may reduce recording-keeping costs, training costs, and other regulatory compliance expenditures for wildlife rehabilitators.

The LDWF recorded an average of 147 nuisance wildlife control operators and 51 resident-nonresident wildlife rehabilitators between License Year (LY) 2022 and LY 2024.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There is no anticipated effect on competition and employment as a result of the proposed rule changes.

Bryan McClinton Undersecretary 2509#006	Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer Legislative Fiscal Office
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NOTICE OF INTENT

**Louisiana Workforce Commission
Office of Unemployment Insurance Administration**

Separation Notices (LAC 40:IV.323)

Pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 36:304 and R.S. 23:1653, notice is hereby given that the Louisiana Workforce Commission proposes to amend LAC 40:IV.323 relative to separation notices. Act No. 340 of the 2025 Regular Session changed the time for employers to provide separation notices to employees either by mail, delivery, or transmission to the employee, but must be electronically delivered to the Workforce Commission. The proposed amendment to the Rule is necessary to reflect the statutory changes.

Title 40

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Part IV. Louisiana Workforce Commission

Subpart 1. Board of Review

Chapter 3. Employment Security Law

§323. Separation Notices

A. Individual Separation Notices

I. Under Conditions Which May Disqualify. Whenever a worker is separated from his employment permanently or for an indefinite period or for an unexpected duration of seven or more days, under conditions which may disqualify him for benefits pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 23:1601, his employer shall within ten days after such separation give him, or if such delivery is impossible or impracticable, mail to his last known address or transmit electronically to his last known email address, a separation notice alleging disqualification on which the employer has entered the required information. Within the same period of time, the employer shall electronically transmit a copy of such separation notice, certified by himself or his duly authorized agent, to the administrator.

B - B.1. ...

C. Labor Dispute Notices

1. In case of a separation due to a labor dispute, the employer shall within ten days after such separation electronically file with the administrator notice setting forth the existence of such a dispute and the approximate number of workers affected.

2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 23:1471-1713.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, LR 15:489 (June 1989), amended by the Department of Employment and Training, Office of Employment Security, LR 17:40 (January 1991), amended by the Workforce Commission, Office of Unemployment Insurance Administration, LR 39:2314 (August 2013), amended by the Workforce Commission, Office of Unemployment Insurance Administration, LR 51:

Family Impact Statement

In compliance with R.S. 49:972, the impact of this Rule on the family formation, stability, and autonomy has been considered. This Rule will have no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy.

Poverty Impact Statement

This Rule will have no known impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Analysis

This Rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in R.S. 49:974.1 - 974.8.

Provider Impact Statement

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this Rule has been considered. It is not anticipated that this Rule will impact the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service; the cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, or the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to this amended Rule to Christina Crews, ORS Director, P.O. Box 94094, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094, or by email at CCrews@lwc.la.gov. All written comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., October 10, 2025.

Public Hearing

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, ATTN: Christina Crews, ORS

Name	Date	Email	Support	Oppose	Question	Unsure	Allow Deer	Comments	Non-Resident
Vivian Frost	8/8/2025	queenofcrash@yahoo.com	1					Non-Resident	1
Julie Rabalaist	8/8/2025	forthebirdsofacadiana@gmail.com		1				Vet Exemption Clarification	
Kelly Haro	8/8/2025	kellishar0@gmail.com	1						
Alexandria Bassett	8/8/2025	info@dogsavvyla.com	1					Non-Resident	1
Jason Welch	8/8/2025	jasonw@picolumnber.net	1						
Dorian Eaton	8/8/2025	dorianeaton@gmail.com	1						
Katie Wood	8/8/2025	kwood484@yahoo.com	1						
Justin Gutierrez	8/8/2025	jmg21183@yahoo.com	1						
Ashleigh Soniat	8/8/2025	ashleigh_soniat@fmolhs.org	1						
Megan Cornell	8/8/2025	megcornell@icloud.com	1						
Elizabeth Foster	8/9/2025	pennyfoster07@aol.com	1					Non-Resident	1
Lisa Bleeke	8/9/2025	lisableeke6@gmail.com	1						
Betty Reed	8/9/2025	baybay1027@gmail.com	1						
Katie Puchot	8/10/2025	kpuchot@gmail.com	1						
Harper MacDonald	8/10/2025	harpandclaymore@gmail.com	1						
Mackenzie Kleinpeter	8/10/2025	mak18@fsu.edu	1						
Kristen Mauldin	8/11/2025	kristenmauldin@gmail.com	1						
R. Ruffino	8/11/2025	greyfellas@att.net	1						
Terry Langley	8/11/2025	terrylynlangley@yahoo.com	1						
Toni Reboul	8/12/2025	treboul@cox.net	1						
Kristi Bailey	8/14/2025	206bailey@gmail.com	1						
Maria Hoover	8/14/2025	mariahoovermd@gmail.com	1						
Ashlee Tyler	8/14/2025	ashleetyler6@gmail.com	1						
Tim McCartin	8/15/2025	timmccartin@gmail.com	1						
James Ernst	8/15/2025	james.ernst@eatele.net	1						
Paula Howard	8/15/2025	paulahoward@wearealexander.com	1					Non-Resident	1
Patricia Schwandt	8/15/2025	pschwandtaz@yahoo.com	1						
Kim Barber	8/15/2025	rayne0607@yahoo.com	1						
Joyce Worthy	8/16/2025	talk2theshepard@gmail.com	1						
Crystal Talbot	8/16/2025	crystalstalbot@yahoo.com	1						
Patti Thibodeaux	8/16/2025	pjthibodeaux@icloud.com	1						
Jordan Kasa	8/17/2025	kasa2015@gmail.com	1						
Alexandra Polur Gold	8/17/2025	apolurgold@vassar.edu	1						
Tagé Philamire	8/17/2025	tpoy15@gmail.com	1						
Makenna Miller	8/18/2025	makennamiller1010@gmail.com	1						
Jade Parker	8/18/2025	jpark2014@gmail.com	1						
Emile He	8/18/2025	emileh@andrew.cmu.edu	1						
Guadalupe Guerrero	8/18/2025	guadalupe_guerrero@gmail.com	1						
John Searles	8/18/2025	jnes2011@yahoo.com	1						
Deborah Johnston	8/18/2025	deborah.johnston@syf.com	1						
Darla Lyman	8/18/2025	darlayman@outlook.com	1						
Sophia Faulder	8/18/2025	Sophia.Faulder2000@gmail.com	1						
Gabriela Salinas	8/18/2025	salinas.gns@gmail.com	1						

Sydney Goodman	8/18/2025	shgoodman12@gmail.com	1	
Cora Evans	8/18/2025	coraadelade99@gmail.com	1	
Hannah Dahm	8/18/2025	hannahrisedahm@gmail.com	1	
Flora Lichtenstein	8/18/2025	florslichten@gmail.com	1	
Audra Newton	8/18/2025	andrainewton@gmail.com	1	
Debbie Breland	8/18/2025	debbie.breland@gmail.com	1	
Maya Kotowska	8/18/2025	maysnewacc@gmail.com	1	
Alana Hodge	8/19/2025	alanahodge11@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Elizabeth Romero	8/19/2025	akromero10@gmail.com	1	
Alyssa Alejanddo	8/19/2025	alenjandralyssa1218@gmail.com	1	
Veronica Bard	8/19/2025	veronica.j.bard@gmail.com	1	
Kailey Parr	8/19/2025	kparri312@gmail.com	1	
Molly Trahan	8/19/2025	molly.trahan2407@gmail.com	1	
Mary Helen Jones	8/19/2025	mhjones920@gmail.com	1	
Celton Hayden III	8/20/2025	celhaybub3@gmail.com	1	
Amber Hollier	8/20/2025	anhollier@gmail.com	1	
Marcela Spicuzza	8/20/2025	marcelaspic@gmail.com	1	
Madison Marullo	8/20/2025	mmarullo2001@gmail.com	1	
Raelynn Trimm	8/20/2025	raelyntrimm22@gmail.com	1	
Ayshe Kilit	8/20/2025	kilit.ak18@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Baleigh Jade	8/20/2025	baykeughj123@gmail.com	1	
Grace McIntyre-Williams	8/20/2025	gracemcwiliis@icloud.com	1	
Britney Arsenault	8/20/2025	bcarson@icloud.com	1	
Nevaeh Martinez	8/21/2025	nevaehmartinez212@outlook.com	1	
Claudia Hardy	8/21/2025	claudiahardy@gmail.com	1	
Gabby Sheets	8/22/2025	gsheets737@gmail.com	1	
Layla Crain	8/22/2025	layla.crain@selu.edu	1	
Presley Grisham	8/23/2025	gracegusham@gmail.com	1	
Jessica Berne	8/23/2025	jessicaberne23@gmail.com	1	
Emily C. Adams	8/23/2025	eclairs4me@gmail.com	1	
Mallory Wyles	8/23/2025	mallorywyles@gmail.com	1	
Brittney Mastascuso	8/24/2025	brittati135@gmail.com	1	
Jordyn	8/24/2025	wjweydert@aol.com	1	
Angela Roberts	8/24/2025	officialangelaroberts@gmail.com	1	
Shane Bard	8/25/2025	mike.bard@gmail.com	1	
Jessi Parfait	8/25/2025	jiparfait@gmail.com	1	
Autumn Cooper	8/25/2025	autumncoop09@gmail.com	1	
Vince Baccari	8/26/2025	baccav12@gmail.com	1	
Kayla Fueslier	8/26/2025	kayla.fueslier@gmail.com	1	
Makenzie Chustz-Duplessis	8/28/2025	makenziechustz@gmail.com	1	
Leah Andressen	8/28/2025	joyinla@aol.com	1	
Jackie Moreau	9/1/2025	jackiemoreau@aim.com	1	
Maria Jutte	9/2/2025	jutte.46@wright.edu	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Asley Action	9/15/2025	ashleyactionart@gmail.com	1	
Tamika Carey	9/15/2025	tamika.carey@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident

Candice Billiot	9/16/2025	candice.billiot@gmail.com	1		
Shannon French	9/11/2025	shannon.french.2015@gmail.com	1		
Emily Hernandez	9/11/2025	emilyramirezhernandez@gmail.com	1		
Vivian Garcia	9/12/2025	vxcolo@gmail.com	1		
Tammy Hupin	9/13/2025	tammyhupin@yahoo.com	1		
Elise Clesi	9/13/2025	eliseclesi@gmail.com	1		
Volar Yu	9/13/2025	mylongtermgains@gmail.com	1		
Stephanie Passmore	9/14/2025	stephaniepassmore91@yahoo.com	1		
Despina Dumoujins	9/14/2025	desdumoujins@yahoo.com	1		
Amy Berbarb	9/14/2025	bernard.kent@yahoo.com	1		
June Towler	9/14/2025	junbigsie27@gmail.com	1		
Cantel Babin	9/14/2025	chanelbabin@gmail.com	1		
Skylar Brand	9/14/2025	skylarbrand2001@gmail.com	1		
Michael Blescome	9/14/2025	michaelblescome@yahoo.com	1		
Kathleen Ducote	9/14/2025	kdd101458@gmail.com	1		
Lori Buckley	9/14/2025	mistrifarms1615@aol.com	1		
Christie Somano	9/14/2025	csolano1975@yahoo.com	1		
Millie Mallet	9/14/2025	mmallett_20@yahoo.com	1		
Courtney Chandel	9/14/2025	akameridians@yahoo.com	1		
Maria Chapotet	9/14/2025	mchapotet@yahoo.com	1		
Kaye Courington	9/14/2025	kcourington@courington-law.com	1		
Mel E	9/14/2025	menamena323@gmail.com	1		
Sharia Boothe	9/14/2025	sharia.michelle@gmail.com	1		
Monica Hammond	9/15/2025	mhammond106@gmail.com	1		
Amy Anderson	9/15/2025	amy.anderson@bfanderson.com	1		
Lori Darenbourg	9/15/2025	northsidehumane@gmail.com	1		
Lauren Eschbacher	9/15/2025	lauren.eschbacher@gmail.com	1		
Cindi Hodnett	9/15/2025	cindihodnett@gmail.com	1		
Ana Haget	9/15/2025	ahaget57@gmail.com	1		
Joy Gardner	9/15/2025	joy_gardner1972@gmail.com	1		
Kountry Hennessey	9/15/2025	kountrybrooke14@gmail.com	1		
Taylor McGovern	9/15/2025	tmcgovern04@gmail.com	1		
Desiree St. Paul Weigmann	9/15/2025	noladesiree@yahoo.com	1		
laura Chevalier	9/15/2025	laura.chevalier@icloud.com	1		
Brigette Piattoly	9/15/2025	brigettepiattoly@gmail.com	1		
Nataschia Fontana	9/15/2025	n_fontana_art@yahoo.com	1		
Cheryl Garret	9/15/2025	cherylgarret.cgi@gmail.com	1		
Terri McGovern	9/15/2025	tmcgovern02@yahoo.com	1		
Anna Dunn	9/15/2025	annaledunn@rocketmail.com	1		
Jeff Dorson	9/15/2025	stopcruelty11@gmail.com	1		
Rebecca Bourgeois	9/15/2025	rebecca.bourgeois@yahoo.com	1		
Suzanne Foster	9/15/2025	smfit234@yahoo.com	1		
Jennifer Eldridge	9/15/2025	jennifereldridge75@yahoo.com	1		
Meagan Couvillion	9/15/2025	mcouv13@gmail.com	1		
Elizabeth Bragdon	9/15/2025	yoga_liz@bellsouth.net	1		

Sadie Choate	9/15/2025	sadischoate@yahoo.com	1	
Debbie Sinclair	9/15/2025	dsinclair55@aol.com	1	
Carolyn Dehart	9/15/2025	carolyn7765@yahoo.com	1	
Coy Porter	9/15/2025	annabelle.porter2000@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Rena Sweeney	9/15/2025	info@alchemyeventshola.com	1	
David Dumouliins	9/15/2025	daviddumouliins@yahoo.com	1	
Cheryle Presley	9/15/2025	cher117@aol.com	1	
Mary Angeloz	9/15/2025	mmangelloz@yahoo.com	1	
Holly Harris	9/16/2025	duhbirdz@gmail.com	1	
Tara Yeater	9/16/2025	taray@aol.com	1	
Charlene Trentecosta	9/16/2025	catcrazycj@gmail.com	1	
Brenda Garcia	9/16/2025	brenda98gar@gmail.com	1	
Terri Beckendorf	9/16/2025	associates.safety@gmail.com	1	
Dawn Babilon	9/16/2025	dawnbabilon@yahoo.com	1	
Danielle Conti	9/17/2025	dconti16@gmail.com	1	
Chantal Lagos	9/17/2025	chantalmgs@gmail.com	1	
Sharon Leigh Borja	9/18/2025	sha.borja19@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Elizabeth Fonaime-Barr	9/18/2025	foreverwell@verizon.net	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Perry Williams	9/18/2025	pjw327@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Cheri Hansen	9/18/2025	cherihansenovm@gmail.com	1	
Chandra Straw	9/18/2025	chandrapanditbobandra@gmail.com	1	
Mark Allen	9/18/2025	mallen@southatlanticlinc.com	1	
Lynda Williams	9/18/2025	mskty@cox.net	1	
Alton Travis	9/18/2025	alton.travis@gmail.com	1	
Starla Arceneaux	9/18/2025	kkhearts333@gmail.com	1	
Jessica Ogier	9/17/2025	jessogier@gmail.com	1	
James Murphy	9/17/2025	jem1162@outlook.com	1	
Monica Hugo	9/19/2025	monie227@hotmail.com	1	
Sharon B Smith	9/19/2025	sharonjias@yahoo.com	1	
Brannon Breland	9/19/2025	brannonbreland@yahoo.com	1	
Cas Van	9/19/2025	vandalssence@gmail.com	1	
Melissa Tapia	9/20/2025	mtapia6999@gmail	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Holly Jarvie	9/20/2025	hollyj1997@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Amiee Bajoinc	9/21/2025	amieebajoinc08@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Tim allen Sr.	9/21/2025	trallenrs@gmail.com	1	
Danielle Doolan	9/22/2025	doolan.danielle@gmail.com	1	
Riona Ryan	9/23/2025	riona.rea.ryan@gmail.com	1	
Susan May	9/23/2025	redfishhuntersue@yahoo.com	1	
Abi Hoover	9/23/2025	abighoov@icloud.com	1	
Sydd Lagg	9/24/2025	slagerhausen@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Rebecca Gould	9/24/2025	gouldrebecca8@icloud.com	1	
Natasha Cruz	9/24/2025	cruz.natasha101@gmail.com	1	
Celestia Corvinus	9/24/2025	celestiac918@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Nicole Smith	9/24/2025	nsm556@yahoo.com	1	
Gary Simon	9/24/2025	gary154@charter.net	1	

Mary Brando	9/24/2025	brandoellen@gmail.com	1	
Antuong Nguyen	9/24/2025	thantuongnguyen@gmail.com	1	
Kalyn Berestecky	9/24/2025	kalynn3@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Abigail Oettel Sullivan	9/24/2025	abigail.oettel@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Cory Lambert	9/24/2025	cspears327@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Julia "Julia" Le	9/24/2025	poohya77@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Emily Koudelka	9/24/2025	emilieg02@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Karen Marquardt	9/24/2025	gg1250marquardt@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Anissa Chan	9/24/2025	anissa.chan@utexas.edu	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Marinna Stopa	9/24/2025	mmstopa06@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Unknown	9/24/2025	imarqu76@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Faith Slider	9/25/2025	southeast.faith@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Jennifer Mistretta	9/25/2025	jemistretta@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Jennifer R. Schneller	9/25/2025	jschneller@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Callie Solano	9/25/2025	callis01@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Valerie Gonzalez	9/25/2025	valeriegonzalez1@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Ryan Badon	9/25/2025	rybad121@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Sebipeth Molaire	9/25/2025	sepidehmolaie@icloud.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Louis Gaucl	9/25/2025	lgaucl8@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Connie Baughan	9/25/2025	jitterbug57@hotmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Barbara Sawits	9/25/2025	beatlesfan71@aim.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Catherine Larkin	9/25/2025	catherinelarkin@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Ava Lau	9/27/2025	avaava17@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Adriana Nunez	9/27/2025	angelfish69@aol.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Erika Kingrey	9/27/2028	Erika.kingrey@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Shannon Monahan	9/28/2025	sharmarieomonahan@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Kali Jackson	9/28/2025	stakjellies@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Sangeetha Kandan	9/28/2025	ksangeetha04@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Lynn Moore	9/28/2025	lyninkmoore@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Laura Kamenitz	9/28/2025	snapshot44@bellsouth.net	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Laurie Autoin	9/28/2025	lawa12@aol.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Carole McAllister	9/28/2025	carole.mcallister1@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Chamain O'Mahony	9/28/2025	chamain@aol.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Bob Farnsworth	9/28/2025	bobfarnsworth1@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Terrance Cotton	9/28/2025	terry64hunt@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Lauren Brisbi	9/28/2025	Ibrisbi@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Kate Suniano	9/28/2025	ksuriano@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Melissa McCormick	9/28/2025	drmelissamccormick@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Dana Nesbitt	9/29/2025	dana.bell.nesbitt@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Chelsea Mosco	9/29/2025	chelseamosco24@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Lozane Magee	9/29/2025	byeaux13@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Brandi P Fusilier	9/29/2025	putnambrandi@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Judith Howard	9/29/2025	judithhoward@bellsouth.net	1	Not a Louisiana Resident
Cathy Hightower	9/29/2025	bilcathigh@bellsouth.net	1	Not a Louisiana Resident

Francoise Petit	9/29/2025	pettit01@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Kate Dylewsky	9/29/2025	kdylewsky@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Janet MacDonell	9/29/2025	macdonelljanet5@gmail.com	1		
Ramona Billot	9/29/2025	ramonabillot@yahoo.com	1		
Sheri Hammaugh	9/29/2025	sheri.hammaugh@yahoo.com	1		
Janelle Babington	9/29/2025	info@animalvictory.org	1		
Arie DiGiulio	9/29/2025	arie@ariefieldfullo.com	1		
Marie Broussard	9/29/2025	mariefbroussard@gmail.com	1		
Chad Leming	9/29/2025	chadleming@aol.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Jenaphur Krantz	9/29/2025	jkrantz@thehumaneleague.com	1		
Judith Newman	9/29/2025	jnewman42@gmail.com	1		
Evelyn Almquist	9/29/2025	ela1628@gmail.com	1		
Rhonda G.	9/29/2025	rhonanola1@gmail.com	1		
Jackie Smart	9/29/2025	jcsmart1996@gmail.com	1		
Charlann kable	9/29/2025	kablec@bellsouth.net	1		
Jackie shreves	9/29/2025	jackie@jackieshreves.com	1		
Ashley Harkins	9/29/2025	ashleyharkins87@rocketmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Amanda Schwab	9/29/2025	nolamanders@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Nicole Corrado	9/29/2025	ntcorrado@rogers.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Karen King	9/29/2025	kdking1@charter.net	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Debrah Andrews	9/29/2025	dlandrews54@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Mary Hosley	9/30/2025	mjhosley@live.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Heidi Greger	9/30/2025	Heidi.greger@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Cheryl Morris	9/30/2025	cheryl_morris_pets@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Kristy Hollie	9/30/2025	kristymcmillion721@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Jax Angel Heart	9/30/2025	jaxonator88@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Chris Everett	9/30/2025	echriseverett@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Gretchen Dawson	9/30/2025	gretchenindawson@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Rebecca Howe	9/30/2025	sweltatz@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Brooke Mondor	9/30/2025	brookemondor@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Carolyn Howard	9/30/2025	carolyn.howard85@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Tara Andrews	9/30/2025	tla0301@yahoo.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Addie Sidles	9/30/2025	addiesidles@gmail.com	1		
Monica Pierce	9/30/2025	monpierce@gmail.com	1		
Kelly Duggan	9/30/2025	kshut12@gmail.com	1		
Brodsmls	9/30/2025	brodsmls@aol.com	1		
Michelle Johnson	9/30/2025	mittwell2015@gmail.com	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Tonie Caruso	9/30/2025	toniek@cox.net	1		
Bridgette Poultin	9/30/2025	bridgette.poultin	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Mary Vinson	9/30/2025	mevinson1@yahoo.com	1		
Sarah Carlyle	9/30/2025	sreach01@outlook.com	1		
Caleb Trotter	9/30/2025	ctrotter@pacificlegal.org	1	Not a Louisiana Resident	1
Pia Kostner	9/30/2025	pia.kostner@gmail.com	1		
Jill Natowitz	9/30/2025	jilltheeditor@gmail.com	1		

Sara Dailey	9/30/2025	sara.dailey@cox.net	1		
Alexis Billiot	9/30/2025	alxbilliot@yahoo.com	1		
Colette Seale	9/30/2025	colette.seale@gmail.com	1		
Icula Krahe	9/30/2025	ninak.krahe@gmail.com	1		
Celia Daniels	9/30/2025	kscousin@sbcglobal.net	1		
Scarlett Dupre	9/30/2025	morgan.dupre@yahoo.com	1		Not a Louisiana Resident
Emily Bee-Hue	9/30/2025	wmmy.beehue@gmail.com	1		
Rachel Billiot	9/30/2025	rebelleut@gmail.com	1		
Amy Shutt	10/1/2025	theralandproject@gmail.com	1		
Gabrielle Knapp	10/1/2025	gabby.cezanne@gmail.com	1		
Diane King	10/1/2025	dianecking1001@yahoo.com	1		
Spring Earwood	10/1/2025	tebdertheardarling@gmail.com	1		
Nick Delaune	10/1/2025	ndelaunelsu@hotmail.com	1		
Nathan Nielsen	10/1/2025	nathan.nielsen@gmail.com	1		Not a Louisiana Resident
Ira Nirenberg	10/1/2025	iranirenberg@yahoo.com	1		
Clay Hodgin	10/1/2026	ect3@cox.net	1		
Trista Raiford	10/1/2025	geauxwildrehab@gmail.com	1		
Susan	10/1/2025	Susan204@aol.com	1		Not a Louisiana Resident
Skye Arceneaux	10/1/2025	wildlifeorphans@gmail.com	1		
Carol Ann Melan	10/1/2025	carolannmelan@hotmail.com	1		
TOTALS			9	271	2
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					All non-resident comments are in opposition. Letters of support are attached as tabs.
				81	



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

July 23, 2025

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Notice of Intent – Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131)

Dear Chairman Sagrera and Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), I write to express our strong support for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) proposed changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program to explicitly prohibit the possession and re-release of outlaw quadrupeds—specifically coyotes, armadillos, and feral hogs—as part of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. This distinction aligns with Louisiana R.S. 56.8(151)(ii), which identifies these species as outlaw quadrupeds due to their detrimental impacts on native ecosystems, agricultural operations, and public safety.

Feral hogs and coyotes are known to cause extensive damage to crops, threaten livestock, and contribute to the spread of disease, while armadillos disrupt soil structure and landscaping. Reintroducing these species into the wild would be counterproductive to the conservation and agricultural efforts shared by both of our agencies.

By excluding these species from wildlife rehabilitation efforts, LDWF is ensuring that resources are focused on the restoration and protection of truly native and ecologically valuable wildlife. This policy supports responsible wildlife management and demonstrates commitment to the broader goals of public safety, ecological balance, and agricultural integrity.

We appreciate your thoughtful leadership and science-based approach in developing this regulatory update. LDAF looks forward to continued collaboration with LDWF on initiatives that benefit Louisiana's natural resources, wildlife, and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner



Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

7000 Commerce Circle • Baton Rouge, LA 70809 | P.O. Box 95004 • Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
O: (225) 922-6200 | lafarmbureau.org

August 7, 2025

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Notice of Intent for Changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules and Regulations

Dear Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation and our more than 125,000 farm and ranch families across the state, I respectfully submit this comment in strong support of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' proposed revision to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (WRP) to remove coyotes from the list of species eligible for rehabilitation. In particular, Louisiana Farm Bureau's Livestock Advisory Committee of 140+ cattle leaders and business owners in all 64 parishes of this state support these changes in recognition of the severe threat that coyotes cause to their livelihoods daily.

Coyotes are a well-documented and costly threat to livestock operations in Louisiana and across the country. According to USDA-APHIS data from 2010, coyotes were responsible for 68.8% of cattle losses and 81.7% of calf losses due to predation in Louisiana,—resulting in over \$3 million in economic losses statewide. Nationally, USDA Wildlife Services reported in FY2019 that predators caused more than \$232 million in livestock losses, with coyotes killing over 300,000 head of livestock annually and injuring countless more—making them the most lethal native predator encountered.

These statistics are reinforced by the 2015 USDA-APHIS death loss report, which found that coyotes were responsible for 53.1% of predator-related calf deaths and 40.5% of cattle losses across the U.S. Texas Wildlife Services Director Mike Bodenchuk has stated unequivocally: "Coyotes are the number one predator of calves in the U.S."

Many Louisiana cattle producers, —particularly small and mid-sized family operations, —experience repeated and often devastating losses. Coyotes are intelligent, mobile, and opportunistic predators, known to hunt in coordinated pairs or packs, targeting newborn or vulnerable animals and employing distraction tactics to isolate calves from their mothers. These

attacks are especially common during calving season and spring months, when coyotes are also feeding pups.

The economic justification for predator control is clear. A study by Bodenchuk, Mason, and Pitt using USDA data found that every \$1 spent on predator management saves approximately \$3 in livestock production. Using modern livestock values, the cost-benefit ratio rises dramatically—with federal predator management efforts saving \$10.88 in livestock value per \$1 invested. Depending on the control method and region, livestock protection activities targeting coyotes have produced cost-benefit ratios ranging from 1:3 up to 1:27.

LDWF has already designated coyotes as both “outlaw quadrupeds” and Rabies Vector Species, recognizing their danger to agriculture, pets, native wildlife, and public safety. The year-round harvest authorization with no bag limits reflects the Department’s understanding that coyotes are not appropriate candidates for re-release. Continuing to allow their rehabilitation under the WRP contradicts existing state law, undermines wildlife damage management efforts, and sends mixed signals to the public.

We recognize and appreciate the vital role that wildlife rehabilitators play in helping orphaned and injured native species recover and re-enter their ecosystems. However, predator species already deemed a nuisance under Louisiana law should not be included in that effort. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Program should remain focused on restoring wildlife that contribute positively to Louisiana’s ecosystems and rural communities—not those proven to cause extensive, documented harm.

For these reasons, we strongly support LDWF’s proposed policy change to remove coyotes from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. We also respectfully request that LDWF consult the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in review of their wildlife rehabilitation policy with current wildlife management statutes and the needs of Louisiana’s agricultural producers.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your unwavering support for Louisiana agriculture. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Fontenot
President



**NATURAL
RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

August 7, 2025

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

RE: Notice of Intent – Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:W.131)

Dear Chairman Sagrera and Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

The Natural Resources Management Association (NRMA) is a leading advocate for private property rights and responsible property management in Louisiana. NRMA represents property owners and managers of nearly three million acres across the state. We write to express our strong support for the proposed regulation that would ban outlaw quadrupeds from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program.

This proposed ban aligns with our core principles by prioritizing the rights of private property owners to manage their lands effectively and responsibly. Outlaw quadrupeds, as defined by La. R.S. 56:8(151)(a)(ii), present significant challenges to agricultural operations, ecosystems, and public safety. By excluding these species from rehabilitation and potential release, the Commission would help reduce the ongoing damage they cause to private property and support more targeted conservation efforts on other wild quadrupeds, species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or the Endangered Species Act.

We particularly commend the emphasis on coyotes and feral hogs, which have become a pervasive issue in Louisiana. Coyotes disrupt local ecosystems and compete with native predators, leading to unintended consequences for biodiversity on private lands. Rehabilitating and releasing coyotes would only accelerate this invasive spread, undermining responsible property management efforts. Rehabilitating coyotes also risks amplifying disease vectors.

Banning outlaw quadrupeds from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program is a prudent step toward protecting private property rights and encouraging responsible land stewardship. We encourage the Commission to quickly adopt this regulation and stand ready to provide additional input or testimony as needed.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to balanced wildlife management in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Don Caffery
President, NRMA



Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4710, LAKE CHARLES, LA 70606-4710

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 4380 RYAN ST. STE. 122, LAKE CHARLES, LA 70605

TELEPHONE 225-399-3156

www.labeef.org

**EAT
MORE
BEEF**

August 6, 2025

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Notice of Intent - Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131)

Dear Chairman Sagrera and Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

On behalf of the Cattlemen of Louisiana, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association (LCA) would like to express our support of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) proposed changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program to explicitly prohibit the possession and release of outlaw quadrupeds - specifically coyotes, armadillos, and feral hogs - as part of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. This distinction aligns with Louisiana R.S. 56.8(151)(ii), which identifies the species as outlaw quadrupeds due to their detrimental impacts on native ecosystems, agricultural operations, and health concerns for the public.

Feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos cause extensive damages to cattle operations. Feral hogs and armadillos can destroy acres of forage and spread diseases. Coyotes are one of the top predictors of cattle operations, killing hundreds of calves a year. Reintroducing these species into the wild would be counterproductive to the conservation and agricultural efforts of your agency.

We appreciate your forethought and attention to this issue. Your leadership and science-based approach in developing this regulatory update show the state that LDWF is headed in a great direction! LCA looks forward to continued collaboration with LDWF on initiatives that benefit Louisiana's natural resources, wildlife, and rural communities.

Thank you,

Jarett Daigle
LCA President

Executive Vice President
Shae' Simon
lcabenm@labeef.org
225-428-7163



Executive Committee

William O'Neal
President
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Chip Vosburg
Vice President
Lafayette, Louisiana

Brad Segura
Secretary-Treasurer
Lafayette, Louisiana

Timothy J. Allen
Houma, Louisiana

Vic Blanchard
Plaquemine, Louisiana

Melinda Benge Brown
New Orleans, Louisiana

Greg Linscombe
Gueydan, Louisiana

Mark Murrell
Bayou Goula, Louisiana

Claude V. Perrier, III
Houston, Texas

David M. Richard
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Rudy C. Sparks
Patterson, Louisiana

Robert Mike Benge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Toby Landry
Terrebonne, Louisiana

Directors

Troy J. Bellanger
Thibodaux, Louisiana

Paul Bergeron
Port Allen, Louisiana

Brett Borne
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louis Butler
Marrero, Louisiana

Jimmy Ewing, Jr.
Bayou Goula, Louisiana

Paul D. Frey
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Durwood Keller
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Donald Schexnayder
Port Allen, Louisiana

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Lori B. Ward
Marrero, Louisiana

Philip DeNormandie
Harvey, Louisiana

Scott Poole
Alexandria, Louisiana

Gabe Arnaud
Breaux Bridge, Louisiana

Dixie Moertle
Lockport, Louisiana

Logan Davis
St. Bernard, Louisiana

Kevin McMichael
New Orleans, Louisiana



Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc.

9655 Perkins Rd
Ste C-271
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

M. Taylor Darden, General Counsel

Kevin Hayes, Legislative Counsel

*Caroline Landry
Executive Administrator*

Directors Emeritus
Charles Leblanc, Jr.
Gregory C. Lier
Denis Murrell
Jake Trewin

August 18, 2025

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

RE: Support for Notice of Intent – Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (LAC 76:V.131)

Dear Chairman Sagrera and Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

The Louisiana Landowners Association (LLA) wishes to express its strong support for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) proposed changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program as outlined in the recent Notice of Intent (LAC 76:V.131). In particular, we believe the decision to prohibit the possession and re-release of outlaw quadrupeds (coyotes, armadillos and feral hogs) as part of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program is essential to the Program's ultimate success.

La R.S. 56.8(151)(ii), identifies these species as outlaw quadrupeds due to their detrimental impacts on native ecosystems, agricultural operations and public safety. Distinguishing these species, therefore, aligns with current law. Feral hogs and coyotes are known to cause extensive damage to crops, threaten livestock, and contribute to the spread of disease, while armadillos disrupt soil structure and landscaping. Reintroducing these species into the wild would be counterproductive to the conservation and agricultural efforts shared by LDWF and landowners.

By excluding these species from wildlife rehabilitation efforts, LDWF ensures that resources remain focused on the restoration and protection of native and ecologically valuable wildlife, such as the *Alligator mississippiensis*, which are vital to landowners and the State's economy. The proposed policy supports responsible wildlife management and demonstrates a commitment to the broad goals of public safety, ecological balance and agricultural integrity.

We appreciate the thoughtful leadership and science-based approach that went into the development of this regulatory update. LLA looks forward to supporting and working with LDWF on any initiatives that benefits the natural resources, wildlife and rural communities in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

William F. O'Neal
President

Bradley Breland

From: Kathy & Dave Foster <fostercrib@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Bradley Breland
Cc: Kathy Foster
Subject: Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Bradley,

My name is David Foster, CEO of Cattle Producers of Louisiana. We have 300 plus members in our state cattlemen's association, and we support the changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program with reference to coyotes. Coyotes are predators and a danger to our Louisiana beef cow producers. New-born calves are in danger with the presences of coyotes. Last year a new-born calf was selling for \$100.00 per head. Today, that same calf is bringing \$500.00 plus per head. We do not need to be rehabilitating coyotes.

Thank you for your leadership.

Respectively,

David Foster, CEO
Cattle Producers of Louisiana

Bayou State Rabbit Hunter's Federation

"Preserving Hunting Rights for Future Generations"

Tommy Boudreaux
President

P.O. Box 72 Port Allen, LA 70767
225-718-4467

Allen Henry
Executive Director

Bradley Breland
bbreland@wlf.la.gov
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Breland,

The Bayou State Rabbit Hunters Federation would like to express support of the proposed changes to Prohibit Rehabilitation and release of coyotes in Louisiana. Robust rabbit populations are a priority for our membership. Rehabilitation and release of predators such as coyotes could have a direct negative impact on rabbit populations throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tommy Boudreaux
President

Allen Henry
Executive Director