

# ***Animal Protection and Control Act: Species Schedules***

## **Overview**

A significant change in the new legislation is that animal species are categorized in the regulation and there are lists of species (called Schedules) that provide clarity to the definitions in the regulation. In some cases, this expands the definitions of animal or livestock beyond what is in the Act.

- The Act applies to 'animals' that are defined as vertebrates, but the regulations expand this to acknowledge that some invertebrates should be offered protection when kept as pets or recognized as sentient.
- The Act defines 'livestock' as animals kept for food and fibre and the regulation expands livestock to include traditional 'farm animals', specifically equids (horses, donkeys, mules) as well as some species that might be farmed in the Yukon in the future.

## **Schedules**

### Schedule 1: Select invertebrates protected by the Act

The Act applies to all animals defined as vertebrates and the regulations list some invertebrates also protected. For example, scorpions and spiders are kept as pets and octopi are sentient; each should be provided with appropriate care.

### Schedule 2: Livestock

Livestock are defined in the Act as animals 'raised for food or fibre' and the regulations expand that definition to include species typically regarded as farm animals, specifically horses, mules and donkeys. The schedule lists typical (cattle, swine, poultry) and less common (emu, yak) livestock for greater clarity. The Agriculture Branch will respond to concerns about care or control of species listed as livestock because they have knowledge of the agriculture industry in Yukon.

### Schedule 3: High Risk

The Minister can appoint officers empowered to control or eliminate high-risk species that threaten safety or the environment. This Schedule specifies Eurasian boar, a sub-species of swine, as high-risk animals. They are also prohibited in the Yukon.

### Schedule 4: Allowed

The new regulation defines a category of animals as Allowed to be clear that no permits or additional controls need to apply to common exotic pet species - for example canaries, hamsters, bearded dragons, corn snake and ball pythons. They are wild by nature in their country of origin but are well established as



pets and essentially domesticated. For clarity, typical companion animal species (dogs, cats, ferrets) are listed in this schedule and commercially available aquarium fish are also allowed by the regulation.

## Schedule 5: Restricted

The Restricted species category provides for lawful ownership of species that need special consideration because of risks to the environment or special considerations for their welfare in captivity. These animals will require a permit for ownership with restrictions on containment and care. This will address requests from people who want to move to Yukon with, for example, a pet skunk. They can now keep that pet skunk, but the permit would specify proof of neutering and rabies vaccination. Similarly, large reptiles, cockatoos and macaws will need a permit that specifies they are housed in a safe and humane manner.

## Category: Prohibited

Prohibited species under the regulation are those not identified in the regulations as livestock, allowed or restricted. Eurasian boar, a sub-species of swine, are prohibited in the Yukon due to high risk of becoming feral and causing significant damage and threat to safety. Hybrids, when one parent is a prohibited animal, are also prohibited. These animals cannot be owned in the Yukon and owners must immediately connect with the Animal Health Unit to discuss their situation.

### Permits

Those interested in owning restricted species may apply for a permit to own. Permit conditions vary with species (such as requirement for the animal to be captive bred, or have specific care, confinement or treatment standards).

- Permits are subject to a \$150 application fee, and owners have one year to apply.
- Permitted animals will receive an individual ID and the permit does not expire but is not transferable.

