

The following **revised** staff comment was prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and is prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments on all proposals should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Eliminate domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) from the “Clean List” and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Eliminate domestic sheep and goats from 5 AAC 92.029 (b) and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all Dall sheep habitat.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

AS 16.05.940. Definitions (19) Game means any species of bird, reptile, and mammal, including a feral domestic animal, found or introduced in the state, except domestic birds and mammals; and game may be classified by regulation as big game, small game, furbearers or other categories considered essential for carrying out the intention and purposes of AS 16.05–AS 16.40;

5 AAC 92.029(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>
Oxen	<i>Bos spp.</i>
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>
Guinea pig	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> Var.
Llama	<i>Lama peruana</i>
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>
One-humped camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Ass	<i>Equus asinus</i> Var.
Mule	<i>Equus asinus</i> x <i>caballus</i>
Swine	<i>Sus scrofa</i> Var.
European ferret	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>

European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> Var.
White rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Var. <i>albinus</i>
Mice: white, waltzing, singing, shaker, piebald	<i>Mus musculus</i> Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	<i>Pachyuromys duprasi</i>
Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus</i> spp.
Hamster (golden)	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>
Chinchilla	<i>Chinchilla laniger</i>
Cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	<i>Erinaceus albiventris</i>
Chicken	<i>Gallus gallus</i> Var.
Pigeon	<i>Columia livia</i> Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily <i>Meleagridinae</i>
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or <i>Coturnix</i> species	Subfamily <i>Phasianidae</i>
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily <i>Numidinae</i>
Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i> Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family <i>Psittacidae</i> not prohibited by federal or international law	Family <i>Psittacidae</i>
Toucan	Family <i>Ramphastidae</i>
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily <i>Odontophoridae</i>
Mynah	<i>Acridotheres</i> spp.
Any Peafowl species	<i>Pavo</i> spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Button "quail"	Family <i>Turnicidae</i> in the order <i>Gruiformes</i>
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard)	Class <i>Reptilia</i>
Members of the bird families <i>Fringillidae</i> , <i>Turdidae</i> , <i>Zosteripidae</i> , <i>Pycnonotidae</i> , <i>Timaliidae</i> , and	

Ploceidae of non- Holarctic origin.

Members of the bird families

Columbidae and *Trogonidae* of

non- nearctic origin.

Elk (except feral and wild elk) (*Cervus elaphus*)

Bison (except feral and wild bison) (*Bison bison*)

Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen) (*Ovibos moschatus*)

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Domestic sheep and goats will no longer be on the “clean list”, which would institute a requirement for a permit to possess sheep and goats. It is important to note the board does not have statutory authority to regulate domestic animals.

BACKGROUND: Domestic sheep and goats carry strains of pneumonia proven to be deadly to bighorn sheep populations in the lower 48. These pneumonia transmissions have resulted in major die-offs to both large and small populations of wild sheep.

Due to the remoteness of Dall sheep habitat and its unsuitability for human use, Dall sheep have mostly been protected from contact with domestic sheep and goats in the past. An expansion of human settlement (and consequently, livestock) could lead to increased contact between Dall sheep and disease-carrying livestock.

Studies have shown transmission has occurred between domestic sheep or goats and Dall sheep for bacterial, viral, and protozoal agents, as well as a few helminths. These include major pneumonia strains (*Mannheimia haemolucida*, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, *M. spp.*, *Pastuerella multocida*, *Bibersteinia (P.) trehalosi*), epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and *Toxoplasma gondii*, to name a few.

As transmission between domestic sheep, goats, and wild sheep is often nose-to-nose, prohibiting direct contact is often the primary goal of agencies managing wild sheep. Double fences, outrigger fences, or a combination of both around domestic sheep and goats are all accepted and proven forms of preventing contact.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department’s recommendation is to **TAKE NO ACTION** on this proposal because the board’s statutory authority is limited to game and feral animals. It does not have the authority to regulate domestic animals.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department or the public.

