

New law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and possession of big exotic cats. Authorizes exceptions for cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities. Provides for permits for owners who can prove previous ownership. Provides that violations of the rules are class two violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$100 - \$350	or	imprisonment not more than 60 days, or both
2nd offense	\$300 - \$550	&	imprisonment between 30 and 60 days
3rd +	\$500 - \$750	&	imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture

Existing law provides that violators of hunting and fishing laws and regulations are subject to the forfeiture of any quadruped, bird, or fish seized in connection with the violation. New law provides that such forfeiture includes other animals seized in connection with the violation.

Effective August 15, 2006.

(Amends R.S. 56:39(A); Adds R.S. 56:6(31))