DEFINITIONS

Reptile: turtles, lizards and snakes, or any part thereof, and eggs or offspring.

Amphibian: salamanders, frogs and toads, or any part thereof, and eggs or offspring.

Possession Limit: reptiles and amphibians taken alive or dead from the wild, in which are in any way under the control of an individual (including in a vehicle, home, or other storage place).

PENALTIES

Any person convicted of a violation of this rule is subject to the penalties provided for in the W. Va. Code §20-7-9.

Citizens may report violations to any DNR district office or call (844) 484-7367.
Reptiles and amphibians are a valuable and abundant wildlife resource. They provide us with opportunities to study, appreciate and use our natural heritage. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources established these regulations (W.Va. C.S.R. § 58-73-1, et seq.) to enable these activities without harming reptile and amphibian populations.

### Collection, Take, and Release of Amphibians and Reptiles

**Individuals MAY NOT:**
- Release any reptile or amphibian back into the wild that was held in captivity for more than 30 days. Reptiles or amphibians that have been held in the same enclosure with other species of reptiles or amphibians may not be released at any time. Reptiles or amphibians that are released must be released at the location of the capture.
- Collect reptiles and amphibians from the wild for commercial purposes.
- Take or possess any reptile or amphibian from public lands, except when:
  - Persons have received written permission from the Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section, provided they carry and exhibit said permission upon request.
  - Persons lawfully taking bullfrogs, green frogs, snapping turtles and eastern spiny softshell turtles (wildlife management areas only).

**Individuals MAY:**
- Collect and possess shed snake skins of any species.
- Destroy or collect for relocation any snake found in their home or outbuildings, as well as in gardens and fields used for agricultural crops or livestock.

### How to Tell a Lizard from a Salamander

Salamanders have an elongated body, a long tail, and a body shape that resembles lizards, and for this reason they are occasionally referred to as “spring lizards.” Salamanders, frogs and toads are amphibians while lizards, turtles and snakes are reptiles. As amphibians, salamanders lack the reptilian characteristics of lizards, such as body scales and claws on their toes. Because of their delicate, moist, scaleless bodies, salamanders are restricted to aquatic or semi-aquatic habitats such as rivers, creeks and springs, and to moist forested areas.