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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL REGISTRATION PERIOD TO CLOSE

Owners failing to register may not be able to keep animals after Jan. 1, 2014

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Nov. 5, 2012) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today announces the closing of the registration period for dangerous wild animals in the state. Under a new law, animal owners had sixty days, beginning Sept. 5, to microchip their animals and register them with the department. As of 3 p.m. today, the department has received 130 registration forms from individual owners accounting for 483 dangerous wild animals.

Timely registration is a requirement for anyone wishing to qualify for a wildlife shelter or propagation permit to keep any dangerous wild animal past January 1, 2014. Owners who fail to register by the end of today will not be able to obtain either of these permits under Ohio law.

“Our next step is to make owners aware of the interim requirements for housing and keeping animals as they become effective,” said Ohio Agriculture Director David Daniels. “Just as we worked hard to make them aware of the registration requirements and deadline, we will also work hard to educate registered animal owners about what the long-term requirements are going to be for keeping dangerous wild animals so they can determine if seeking a permit is in the best interest of their families and their animals.”

After January 1, 2014, possession of all dangerous wild animals and restricted snakes will be prohibited unless the individual is exempted under the law or is granted a permit by the department. Permit applications will be made available in 2013.

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