

## **USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor and Wildlife Sanctuary (As provided under the Big Cat Public Safety Act)**

The requirements of the BCPSA exceptions for a USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor and wildlife sanctuary can be found in the text of the [Lacey Act, as amended by the Big Cat Public Safety Act](#).

To assist, we have noted where these requirements can be found:

### **USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor**

A USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor that meets all the requirements of the BCPSA exception for USDA-licensed Class C exhibitors, 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(A), does not need to register its animals with the USFWS under the separate BCPSA exception for registered pre-BCPSA owners under 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(E). If your facility meets all the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(A), then you do not need to register under 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(E).

There may be some circumstances where an entity that is in possession of only pre-BCPSA big cats meets the criteria of both 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(A) and (e)(2)(E). It is up to a USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor to decide if they wish to register under the BCPSA, if they meet the requirements for a registered pre-BCPSA owner. Registration would prohibit any otherwise qualifying USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor from breeding, acquiring, or selling any big cats, and any USDA-licensed Class C exhibitor that has engaged in breeding, acquiring, or selling any big cats after December 20, 2022, does not qualify for the registration exception under the BCPSA.

### **Wildlife Sanctuary**

A wildlife sanctuary that meets all the requirements of the BCPSA exception for wildlife sanctuaries, 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(C), does not need to register its animals with the USFWS under the separate BCPSA exception for registered pre-BCPSA owners under 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(E). If your facility meets all the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(C), then you do not need to register under 16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)(E) and may continue to accept prohibited wildlife species for care. The requirements of 16 USC 3372(e)(2)(C) are copied here for convenience:

(C) a wildlife sanctuary that cares for prohibited wildlife species, and—

- (i) is a corporation that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of title 26 and described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of such title;
- (ii) does not commercially trade in any prohibited wildlife species, including offspring, parts, and byproducts of such animals;
- (iii) does not breed any prohibited wildlife species;
- (iv) does not allow direct contact between the public and any prohibited wildlife species;  
and
- (v) does not allow the transportation and display of any prohibited wildlife species  
offsite.