

1 **10A NCAC 41A .0302 SALE OF TURTLES RESTRICTED**

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3 10 NCAC 41A .302 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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5 (a) ~~Purpose of this Regulation.~~ This Regulation rule is adopted to prevent the spread of salmonellosis from pet turtles to humans.

6 (b) ~~Sale of Turtles Prohibited.~~ No turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches shall be sold, offered for sale, or bartered by any
7 retail or wholesale establishment in North Carolina.

8 (c) ~~Sale of Turtles for Scientific, Educational, or Food Purposes Exempted.~~ ~~Subsection (b) of this Regulation~~ Paragraph (b) of this rule
9 does not apply to the sale of turtles to institutions for scientific or educational purposes nor to the sale of turtles for food purposes.

10 (d) ~~Sale of Turtles Outside North Carolina Exempted.~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of ~~Subsection paragraph (b) of this Regulation,~~
11 rule, wholesale establishments in North Carolina dealing in the sale of turtles shall not be prohibited from selling turtles to other wholesale or
12 retail establishments outside the State of North Carolina.

13 (e) ~~Determination of Compliance.~~ ~~Authorized agents of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and local health~~
14 ~~departments shall have authority to enter any retail or wholesale establishment at all times to determine compliance with this Regulation. For~~
15 establishments selling turtles as allowed by this section, the following information or substantially similar information shall be:

16 (1) Posted or provided conspicuously at every display of turtles for retail sale; or,

17 (2) Printed legibly on the sales receipt issued by the seller to the purchaser at the time of the sale; or,

18 (3) Printed legibly on an information sheet accompanying the sales receipt issued by the seller to the purchaser at the time of the sale:

19 “CAUTION: Children under 5 years old and people with weak immune systems (such as chemotherapy patients or those with
20 HIV/AIDS) should avoid contact with reptiles. These people can get very sick from a germ called Salmonella that reptiles carry.
21 Reptiles include lizards, snakes, alligators, and turtles. Wash hands thoroughly after handling turtles or material that had contact
22 with turtles. Do not allow water or any other substance that had contact with turtles to come in contact with food or areas where
23 food is prepared. Do not bathe turtles or clean their tanks in your kitchen or bathroom and do not have close contact with turtles
24 which could allow direct contamination of the mouth (e.g., kissing, etc.)”

25 (f) The seller shall keep a record of all purchases, losses, and other dispositions of turtles for at least one year.

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27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-144;*