

Law

◇ In France

Regulatory texts in force about the Serval & the hybrid Savannah cat:

- Environmental Code
- Rural and maritime fishing Code
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) or Washington Convention
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 of 9 December 1996 as amended
- Ministerial decree of 21 November 1997 amended
- Ministerial decree of March 30, 1999
- Ministerial decree of 12 December 2000 amended
- Decree No. 2017-230 of February 23, 2017
- Order of October 8, 2018
- Law n°2021-1539 of November 30, 2021

Legal status of the species *Leptailurus serval* (serval):

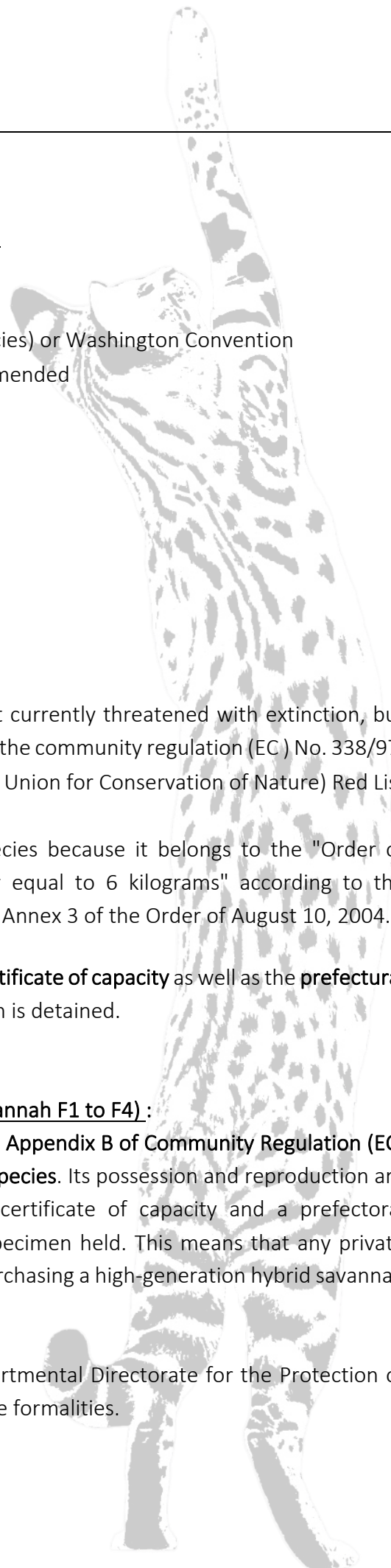
- * Serval is listed in appendix II of CITES with the mention "not currently threatened with extinction, but could be if trade is not strictly controlled" and in appendix B of the community regulation (EC) No. 338/97.
- * Serval is listed as Least Concern LC on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Endangered Species.
- * The Serval is considered as a dangerous non-domestic species because it belongs to the "Order of carnivores: species whose adult weight is greater than or equal to 6 kilograms" according to the Ministerial Order of November 21, 1997 as amended and the Annex 3 of the Order of August 10, 2004.

Given its legal status, the detention of *Leptailurus serval* requires a **certificate of capacity** as well as the **prefectural authorization to open an establishment**, as soon as the first specimen is detained.

Legal status of the species *Felis catus x Leptailurus serval* (hybrid savannah F1 to F4) :

Currently, **the hybrid savannah is listed in Appendix II of CITES and in Appendix B of Community Regulation (EC) No 338/97**, like the serval since he is considered as a **non-domestic species**. Its possession and reproduction are therefore subject to the same regulations as the serval, i.e. a certificate of capacity and a prefectural authorization to open a first category establishment for the first specimen held. This means that any private owner or breeder must have the necessary authorizations prior to purchasing a high-generation hybrid savannah to comply with current French legislation.

➔ If you live in France, we advise you to contact your DDPP (Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations) who will be able to guide you through the administrative formalities.



Information on the certificate of capacity:

“The certificate of capacity is issued by the Prefect of the department in which the applicant is domiciled. Obtaining the certificate of competence is the first formality to be completed. It is an individual act of the administration, granted for certain specific species and for the exercise of functions in a defined type of establishment.

This document is necessary to establish the opening authorization application file. Only a complete file can be studied and presented to the departmental commission for nature, landscapes and captive wildlife training sites. The examination of the files is ensured by the DDPP.

The obligation to hold the certificate of competence for the breeding of animals of non-domestic species aims to:

- guarantee the well-being of captive animals,*
- ensure the safety of people,*
- indirectly encourage the safeguarding of wild fauna by encouraging those in charge of these farms to implement sound management of their workforce, in order to avoid as much as possible taking from the wild and to preserve a genetic heritage,*
- enhance the function of responsible for the maintenance of animals.”*

Information on the prefectural authorization to open an establishment:

“All establishments must be authorized by a prefectural authorization to open an establishment (article L.413-3 of the Environmental Code). This is issued by the Prefect of the department in which the establishment is located. For breeding establishments likely to present serious dangers or inconveniences for wild species (professional breeding including protected species pursuant to Article L. 411-1 and L. 411-2 of the Environmental Code or species listed in appendix A of EC regulation 338/97 amended by the Council of 09/12/1996) and natural environments as well as for the safety of people (species considered dangerous: appendix to the ministerial decree of 21 November 1997 defining two categories of establishments, other than establishments for the breeding, sale and transit of game species whose hunting is authorized, holding animals of non-domestic species), the opinion of the local authorities concerned is collected . For these so-called “first category” establishments, the opinion of the departmental commission for nature in captive wildlife training is also collected.”

◇ Outside of France

➔ If you live outside France, we advise you to find out about the regulatory measures in force in your country for the possession and/or reproduction of hybrid savannahs. Please refer to the following site:
<https://www.hybridlaw.com/>

