

INTRODUCED: September 11, 2017

AN ORDINANCE No. 2017-174

To amend ch. 4, art. IV, div. 3 of the City Code, concerning wild and non-domestic animals, by adding therein a new section 4-401, to regulate the owning, breeding, purchasing, selling, offering for purchase or sale, keeping, maintaining, and possession or control of any exotic or wild animal in the city of Richmond.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: OCT 9 2017 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Chapter 4, Article IV, Division 3 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015) be and is hereby amended and reordained by **adding therein a new** section 4-401, as follows:

Sec. 4-401. Exotic and wild animals.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the term “exotic or wild animal” means any live monkey (non-human primate), raccoon, opossum, skunk, wolf, squirrel, fox, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx, or any other warm-blooded animal which can normally be found in the wild, as

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

well as any venomous snake or any member of the crocodylian family, including but not limited to, alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gavials. Ferrets, non-poisonous snakes, rabbits, and laboratory rats that have been in captivity and that have never known the wild are not “exotic or wild animals.”

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, breed, purchase, sell, offer for purchase or sale, keep, maintain, or have in such person’s possession or such person’s control any exotic or wild animal in the city, except for zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, circuses, wildlife rehabilitators, or veterinary clinics that are properly licensed by the federal government or the state government or unless that person previously has obtained a permit issued by the department for such exotic or wild animal, except that persons holding a Category I, II, or III Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may possess native wild animals for the purpose of rehabilitation pursuant to the conditions of such Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and applicable state law.

(c) Any person who keeps an exotic or wild animal in contravention of this article may dispose of the animal by removing the animal permanently from the city of Richmond, by giving or selling the animal to a zoological park, or by releasing the animal to the department, which shall release the animal to the wild, to a zoological park, or other entity approved for the care and protection of the particular species.

(d) Any person who, as of the date on which the ordinance first establishing this section is adopted, owns, keeps, maintains, has in such person’s possession, or has under such person’s control any exotic or wild animal in the city and, within 30 days after the date on which the ordinance first establishing this section is adopted, (i) notifies the department in writing that such person owns, keeps, maintains, has in such person’s possession, or has under such person’s

control such exotic or wild animal in the city, (ii) certifies in writing to the department that such person is and will remain in compliance with all applicable inspection and permitting procedures of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and (iii) furnishes the department with written evidence demonstrating that such person owned, kept, maintained, possessed, or controlled the exotic or wild animal in the city prior to the date on which the ordinance first establishing this section shall be deemed not to be in violation of this section with regard to that exotic and wild animal.

(e) A violation of any of the provisions of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect on October 1, 2017.



CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O & R REQUEST
4-6756
JUL 14 2017
Office of the
Chief Administrative Officer

O&R REQUEST

DATE: 7/9/17 EDITION: 1
TO: The Honorable Members of City Council
THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor
THROUGH: Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer
THROUGH: Bobby Vincent, Signing Authority for DCAO for Operations
FROM: Christie Chipps Peters, Director Richmond Animal Care & Control
RE: New Exotic/Wild Animal Ordinance

RECEIVED

SEP 07 2017

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To incorporate an exotic and wild animal ordinance for the City of Richmond.

REASON: Richmond Animal Care & Control desires to provide regulations on wild/exotic animals for the safety of our citizens and humane care of all animals in the City of Richmond.

RECOMMENDATION: The administration recommends adoption of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND: Outline of proposed ordinance:

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, breed, purchase, sell, offer for purchase or sale, keep, maintain or have in possession or under his or her control, any exotic or wild animal (defined below) in the City of Richmond, unless that person shall have previously obtained a permit from the county for such animal, except that persons holding a category I, II, or III wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may possess native wild animals for the purpose of rehabilitation pursuant to the conditions of their wildlife rehabilitation permit and applicable state law.

The following exotic or wild animals are prohibited in the City of Richmond: Any live monkey (non-human primate), raccoon, opossum, skunk, wolf, squirrel, fox, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx or any other warm-blooded animal, which can normally be found in the wild, any venomous snake or any member of the crocodilian family, including but not limited to alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gavials. Ferrets, non-poisonous

snakes, rabbits and laboratory rats that have been bred in captivity and that have never known the wild are excluded from this definition.

Any person who keeps an exotic or wild animal in contravention of this article may dispose of the animal by removal of the animal from the City of Richmond, by giving or selling the animal to a zoological park or by releasing the animal to Richmond Animal Control, which shall release the animal to the wild, to a zoological park, or other entity approved for the care or protection of the particular species.

No person shall keep or permit to be kept any wild, exotic or vicious animal, as those terms are defined (above) for any purposes except: zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, circuses, wildlife rehabilitators or veterinary clinics that are properly licensed by federal or state government.

Any citizen currently housing any exotic or wild animals will notify Richmond Animal Care & Control in writing and be subject to collaboration with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries inspection and permitting. Additionally, the owner will be required to show proof they possessed the animal prior to the effective date of this law. This ordinance shall be in force and effect on October 1, 2017.

Any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this article, upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: N/A

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: July 24, 2017

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 11, 2017

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Government Operations

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Richmond Animal Care & Control

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: N/A

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A

O&R Request

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ATTACHMENTS: N/A

STAFF: Christie Chipps Peters, Animal Care & Control, x5740