

CHAPTER 5: ANIMALS AND FOWL*

***Editor's note**--Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, adopted October 28, 2004, repealed former Ch. 5, relative to animals and fowl and enacted a new Ch. 5 to read as herein set out. The provisions of former Ch. 5 derived from Ord. No. 1899-89, § I, adopted July 31, 1989, and amended by Ord. No. 1907-89, § III, adopted September 9, 1989; Ord. No. 2091-91, adopted May 27, 1991; Ord. No. 053-00HR, § I, adopted September 9, 2000; Ord. No. 40-02HR, § I, adopted July 23, 2002; Ord. No. 67-02HR, § I, adopted November 12, 2002; and Ord. No. 041-03HR, § I, adopted June 3, 2003.

Cross reference(s)--Department of animal care, § 2-205 et seq.

State law reference(s)--Cruelty to animals, S.C. Code 1976, § 47-1-10 et seq.; sheep-killing dogs, § 47-3-210 et seq.; rabies control, § 47-5-10 et seq.; uninoculated pets, § 47-5-130; ordinances and regulations for the control of dogs and other domestic pets, § 47-3-20 et seq.

Sec. 5-1. Definitions.

Whenever used in this chapter, unless a contrary intention is clearly evidenced, the following terms shall be interpreted as herein defined.

Abandon shall mean to desert, forsake, or intend to give up absolutely an animal without securing another owner.

Abuse shall mean the act of any person who deprives any animal of necessary sustenance or shelter, or inflicts unnecessary pain or suffering upon any animal, or causes these things to be done.

Animal shall mean, in addition to dog and cat, any organism of the kingdom of Animalia, other than a human being.

Animal Care Officer shall mean any person employed by the county to enforce the animal care program.

Animal Care Facility shall mean any premises designated by the county for the purpose of impounding, care, adoption, or euthanasia of dogs and cats held under authority of this chapter.

At large shall mean a pet running off the premises of the owner or keeper and not under the physical control of the owner or keeper by means of a leash or other similar restraining device.

Domestic shall mean any animal which shares the genetic makeup and/or physical appearance of its ancestors which were historically domesticated for human companionship and service.

Non-domestic shall mean any animal which shares the genetic makeup and/or physical appearance of its ancestors which were not historically domesticated for human companionship and service.

Nuisance shall mean an animal that disturbs the rights of, threatens the safety of, or damages a member of the general public, or interferes with the ordinary use and enjoyment of their property.

Owner shall mean any person who:

- (1) Has a property right in an animal;
- (2) Keeps or harbors an animal or who has it in his or her care or acts as its custodian; or
- (3) Permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him or her.

Pet shall mean a domestic dog (*canis familiaris*) and/or a domestic cat (*felis catus domesticus*).

Shelter shall mean any structure appropriately sized for the pet to stand or lie in a normal manner. The structure must have a roof, three sides, appropriate sized opening for the entry and exit and a floor so as to protect the pet from the elements of weather.

Under restraint shall mean a pet that is on the premise of its owner or keeper by means of a leash, fence or other similar restraining device, or is on the premises of its owner or keeper and accompanied by the owner/keeper, or a pet that is off the premises of its owner or keeper but is accompanied by its owner or keeper and is under the physical control of such owner or keeper by means of a

leash or other similar restraining device.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § I, 2-7-12)

Cross reference(s)--Rules of construction and definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 5-2. Differential county and commercial pet breeder license fees; rabies vaccination tags.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any pet to fail to provide any pet over four (4) months of age with a current county license tag. The owner of any pet over four (4) months of age must also have a current rabies vaccination tag showing that such pet has been vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian. No license will be issued unless proof of inoculation is shown. Any pet owner who moves into the county for the purpose of establishing residency shall have thirty (30) days in which to obtain the license.

(b) The county license fee for fertile pets shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year. The county license fee for sterilized pets shall be four dollars (\$4.00) per year. Licenses will expire one (1) year after the date of issue, and owners will have until the end of the month of original issue to renew the licenses.

(c) The Animal Care Department shall annually provide a sufficient number of durable tags suitable for pets numbered from one (1) upwards on which shall be stamped the year and the words "pet license." Such tags must be worn by all pets in the county at all times. Any pet owner who has their animal tattooed may register the tattoo number with the Animal Care Department in addition to obtaining a tag.

(d) It shall be unlawful for a commercial pet breeder to fail to obtain a county commercial pet breeder license. The requirements for such a license are as follows:

(1) Individuals engaged or intending to engage in breeding as a business, occupation, or profession must obtain a commercial pet breeder license from the Animal Care Department. Additionally, such breeders must obtain a separate business license through the County's Business Service Center.

(2) First time applicants must have all pets that have reached the age of four (4) months, currently licensed with a County pet license, before applying for the commercial pet breeder license.

(3) The Animal Care Department, through its Animal Care Officers, shall conduct an inspection of the property for the license requested by the applicant to determine whether the applicant qualifies to hold a license pursuant to this section.

(4) During an inspection, an Animal Care Officer will be looking for the following:

a) The enclosure where the pets are being kept should be constructed in such a manner that any pets housed there will be adequately and comfortably kept in any season of the year.

b) The location of all pet enclosures should be in such a position so that it can be easily cleaned and sanitized. Any kennels or yards that are connected or are used to confine the pets must be kept clean and free from accumulations of feces, filth, mud and debris.

c) Every pet on the premises should have constant access to a clean and fresh water supply. All pets must also have an adequate amount of appropriate food to maintain each pet's normal condition of health.

d) The premises must be set up in such a manner as to not allow pets to stray beyond its enclosed confines. The setup must also prevent the public and stray animals from obtaining entrance into or gaining contact with any pets on the premises.

e) Every pet that has reached the age of four (4) months on the premises must have a valid pet license on file with Richland County.

(5) A license will not be issued to an applicant that has pled no contest, or has been found to have violated any federal, state, or local laws or regulations pertaining to animal cruelty within (5) years of the date of application.

(6) License registration should be made prior to any litter being delivered. Failure to timely register under this ordinance may result in additional penalties.

(7) A commercial pet breeder license is not transferrable to another person or location.

(8) The inspection fee for a county commercial pet breeder license shall be one hundred (\$100.00) dollars annually. The license

shall expire one year after the date of issue.

(9) Any violations found under the provisions of this Chapter shall be grounds for the suspension of the commercial pet breeder license if deemed necessary by the Animal Care Department. Re-instatement shall be determined on a case by case basis.

i. The commercial pet breeder license of any licensee whose license has been suspended shall remain inactive and all breeding shall cease until the license has been reinstated or a new license is issued.

(10) In addition to the inspection fee for the commercial pet breeder license, a pet breeder is required to adhere to the licensing requirements of the county pet license as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section; so that there is a requirement of one (1) commercial pet breeder license per breeder in addition to one (1) county pet license per pet that has reached a minimum age of four (4) months and is still in their custody.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § II, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-3. Exemptions from differential licensing.

(a) The following classifications of owners of pets shall be exempt from paying the higher license fee for fertile pets. These exempt persons shall be required to purchase a license for their pet but will pay only a fee of four dollars (\$4.00) for each license and will not be required to have the pet spayed/neutered:

(1) Any owner of a pet who can furnish a statement from a licensed veterinarian that the pet, due to health reasons, could not withstand spay/neuter surgery;

(2) Any owner of one or more purebred pets who can furnish proof of participation in nationally recognized conformation or performance events within the past twelve months.

(3) Any owner of a dog that is currently being used for hunting purposes and has properly been registered with a nationally recognized organization which sanctions hunting tests and/or field trials. Such registration must be accompanied by proper documentation that will be required to receive this exemption.

(b) Any owner of a dog which is trained to be an assistance dog for its owner shall be required to obtain an annual license but shall not be required to pay any license fee.

(c) The county Animal Care Department shall maintain the name and address of each party to whom a license and tag have been issued under the provisions of this section and shall keep the same on file in the offices of the department for the purpose of identification.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § III, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-4. Dangerous or vicious animals.

(a) No person owning or harboring or having the care or the custody of a dangerous animal may permit the animal to go unconfined on his premises. A dangerous animal is unconfined as the term is used in this section if the animal is not securely confined indoors or confined in a securely enclosed and locked pen or "run" area upon the person's premises. The pen or run area also must have either: 1) sides six (6) feet high, or 2) a secure top. If the pen or structure has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be imbedded into the ground at a depth of no less than one (1) foot. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any animal that is owned by a licensed security company and is on patrol in a confined area.

(b) For the purposes of this section a dangerous or vicious animal shall be defined to be any one of the following:

(1) Any animal with a propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, to cause injury to, or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or other domestic animals; or

(2) Any animal which attacks a human being or other domestic animal one or more times without provocation whether or not such attack occurs on the premises of the animal's owner; or

(3) An animal owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of animal fighting or an animal trained for animal fighting.

(c) Any animal that has been determined to be a dangerous or vicious animal may be impounded by the Animal Care Department.

Such animals shall not be euthanized unless the owner has surrendered the animal to the animal care facility and has completed and signed a surrender form or until a hearing is held before an appropriate magistrate and the magistrate has determined that the animal should be euthanized. However, if the magistrate has determined that the owner may redeem the animal, the Animal Care Department shall release the animal upon receipt of all redemption fees as described in Section 5-14, below. If the owner does not pay the redemption fees within five (5) days of the magistrate's order, the animal shall become the property of the Animal Care Department and may be euthanized.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § IV, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-5. Running at large - restraint.

(a) All domestic animals must be kept under restraint or confinement. Any domestic animal not so restrained will be deemed unlawfully running at large in the unincorporated area of the county. Provided, however, this subsection shall not apply to domestic cats that have been spayed or neutered.

(b) Dogs that are participating in hunting events, obedience trials, conformation shows, tracking tests, herding trials, lure courses and other events similar in nature shall not be considered "at large."

(c) In the interest of public safety, if an Animal Care Officer witnesses an animal not under restraint, the officer may exercise the authority to pursue the animal(s) onto private property and/or into an enclosed fenced yard. This authority may only be exercised if it has been determined by the officer that the animal is clearly able to enter and exit from the premises unrestrained and presents an immediate threat of bodily harm to public safety such as, but not limited to: aggressively charging, attempting to bite, or displaying obvious unprovoked acts of aggression. Such pursuit shall end at such time as the animal is no longer at large and/or is under restraint. If an immediate threat to public safety is absent, then a search warrant must be executed in order to enter an enclosed fenced yard.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § V, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-6. Removal of excrement.

The owner of every pet shall be responsible for the removal of any excretions deposited by his or her pet on public walks and ways, recreation areas, or private property other than that of the owner.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04)

Sec. 5-7. Injured or diseased pets.

Anyone striking a pet with a motor vehicle or bicycle shall notify the county Animal Care Department who will then take action necessary to make proper disposition of the pet. Any pet received by the animal care facility in critical condition from wounds, injuries, or disease may receive sustaining treatment by a licensed veterinarian until such time as the owner of the pet is contacted. Every effort possible shall be made to contact the owner or veterinarian of the pet via information obtained from its tag or microchip. Any such pet in critical condition, as described in this section, may be humanely destroyed if the owner or veterinarian cannot be contacted within two (2) hours. If the pet is in severe pain it may be destroyed immediately with agreement from a licensed veterinarian.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § VI, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-8. Nuisance animals.

(a) The actions of an animal constitute a nuisance when an animal disturbs the rights of, threatens the safety of, or damages a member of the general public, or interferes with the ordinary use and enjoyment of their property.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, possess, or maintain an animal in such a manner so as to constitute a public nuisance. By way of example, and not of limitation, the following acts or actions by an owner or possessor of any animal are hereby declared to be a public nuisance and are, therefore, unlawful:

(1) Failure to exercise sufficient restraint necessary to control an animal as required by Section 5-5.

(2) Allowing or permitting an animal to damage the property of anyone other than its owner, including, but not limited to, turning over garbage containers or damaging gardens, flowers, or vegetables.

(3) Failure to maintain a dangerous animal in a manner other than that which is described in Section 5-4.

(4) Maintaining animals in an environment of unsanitary conditions which results in offensive odors or is dangerous to the animal or to the public health, welfare or safety.

(5) Maintaining his or her property in a manner that is offensive, annoying, or dangerous to the public health, safety, or welfare of the community because of the number, type, variety, density, or location of the animals on the property.

(6) Allowing or permitting an animal to bark, whine, or howl in an excessive, unwarranted, and continuous or untimely fashion, or make other noise in such a manner so as to result in a serious annoyance or interference with the reasonable use and enjoyment of neighboring premises.

(7) Maintaining an animal that is diseased and dangerous to the public health.

(8) Maintaining an animal that habitually or repeatedly chases, snaps at, attacks, or barks at pedestrians, bicycles, or vehicles.

(c) An animal that has been determined to be a habitual nuisance by the Animal Care Department may be impounded and may not be returned to the owner until said owner can produce evidence to demonstrate that the situation creating the nuisance has been abated.

(d) Every female animal in heat shall be kept confined in a building or secure enclosure in such manner as will not create a nuisance by attracting other animals.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § VI, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-9. Animal care, generally.

(a) It shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide his or her animal(s) with sufficient good and wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and humane care and treatment.

(b) It shall be unlawful for a person to beat, cruelly treat, torment, overload, overwork, or otherwise abuse an animal, or cause, instigate, or permit any dogfight or other combat between animals or between animals and humans.

(c) It shall be unlawful for a person to dye or color artificially any animal or fowl, including but not limited to rabbits, baby chickens, and ducklings, or to bring any dyed or colored animal or fowl into the County.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any owner to abandon an animal in the unincorporated area of the county.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04)

Sec. 5-10. Sale of pets.

(a) No person shall sell, trade, barter, auction, lease, rent, give away, or display for commercial purpose, any live pet, on any roadside, public right-of-way, public property, commercial parking lot or sidewalk, or at any flea market, fair or carnival.

(b) No person shall offer a pet as an inducement to purchase a product, commodity or service.

(c) No person shall sell, offer for sale or give away any pet under eight (8) weeks of age, except as surrender to a municipal and/or county animal care facility or to a licensed pet rescue organization.

(d) Licensed pet shops, commercial kennels, municipal and/or county animal care facilities, and licensed pet rescue organizations are exempt from the requirements of this section.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § VIII, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-11. Care of animals during transport.

During transportation, an animal must be provided adequate space and ventilation, and must not be confined in one area for more than thirty-six consecutive hours without being adequately exercised, rested, fed, and watered.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04)

Sec. 5-12. Seizure and right of entry to protect abandoned, neglected, or cruelly treated animals.

(a) If the owner does not give permission, the Animal Care Officer may obtain a search warrant to enter any premises upon which it is suspected a violation of this chapter exists. Once upon the premises, the officer may examine such animal and may take immediate custody of the animal when, in his or her opinion, it requires removal from the premises. The Animal Care Officer shall thereafter petition the appropriate magistrate for a hearing, which shall be a civil proceeding. The hearing shall be set not more than ten days from the date of the seizure of the animal to determine whether the owner, if known, is able to adequately provide for the animal and is a fit person to own the animal. The Animal Care Officer shall cause to be served upon the owner, if known and residing within the jurisdiction wherein the animal is found, written notice at least five (5) days prior to the hearing of the time and place of the hearing. If the owner is not known or cannot be found within the jurisdiction wherein the animal was found, the Animal Care Officer shall post a copy of the notice at the property where the animal was seized. The pet or animal shall remain in the custody and care of the Animal Care Department until such matter is heard before the magistrate. The magistrate shall make the final determination as to whether the animal is returned to the owner or whether title is transferred to the Animal Care Department whereby the animal may be put up for adoption or humanely destroyed. If the magistrate orders the return of the animal to its owner, the animal care facility shall release the animal upon receipt from the owner of all redemption fees as described in Section 5-14, below. If the owner does not pay the redemption fees within five (5) days of the magistrate's order, the animal shall become the property of the Animal Care Department and may be placed for adoption or euthanized. The court, in determining whether the owner is able to adequately provide for the animal or is a fit person to own the animal, may take into consideration, among other things, the owner's past record of convictions under this chapter, or one similar thereto, and the owner's mental and physical condition.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the euthanization of a critically injured or ill animal for humane purposes.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § IX, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-13. Impounding.

(a) Any animal found within the unincorporated area of the county in violation of the provisions of this chapter may be caught and impounded by county authorities. If an animal cannot be caught in a safe, efficient manner, animal care personnel may tranquilize the animal by use of a tranquilizer gun. The Animal Care Department may, thereafter, make available for adoption or humanely destroy impounded animals not redeemed within five (5) days. Animals impounded at the animal care facility, which are deemed by the Superintendent of Animal Services, or his/her designee in agreement with a licensed veterinarian, to constitute a danger to other animals or persons at the facility, or which are infectious to other animals, in pain or near death, may be humanely destroyed immediately.

(b) When a person arrested is, at the time of the arrest, in charge of an animal, the county Animal Care Department may take charge of the animal and deposit the animal in a safe place of custody or impound the animal at its animal care facility.

(c) The county may transfer title of all animals held at its animal care facility after the legal detention period has expired and its owner has not claimed the animal.

(d) A positively identifiable animal is one which bears or wears a legible and traceable current permanent number, county license tag or rabies vaccination tag pursuant to Section 5-2; or traceable number, tattoo or microchip pursuant to S.C. Code § 47-3-510 (Supp. 1999).

The owner of a positively identifiable impounded animal shall be notified at the owner's last known address by registered mail if attempts by telephone are not successful. The owner has 14 days from the date of mailing to contact the animal care facility for pick-up. Redemption costs will include the cost of mailing, any established costs, fines, fees or other charges. If the owner does not make contact within 14 days of the date of the mailing, the animal will be deemed abandoned and becomes the property of the animal care facility. For animals impounded at the animal care facility, the Superintendent of Animal Services, or his/her designee in agreement with a licensed veterinarian, shall either place the animal for adoption or have the animal humanely destroyed, pursuant to S. C. Code § 47-3-540 (Supp. 1999).

Notwithstanding the above, animals impounded at the animal care facility, which are deemed by the Superintendent of Animal

Services, or his/her designee in agreement with a licensed veterinarian to constitute a danger to other animals or persons at the facility, or which are infectious to other animals, in pain or near death may be humanely destroyed.

(e) Any animal found "at large" may be impounded by the Animal Care Officer and may not be redeemed by its owner unless such redemption is authorized by the county Animal Care Department, with assurance from the owner that proper care and custody will be maintained.

(f) Any animal surrendered to the Animal Care Department or animal care facility may be adopted or euthanized at any time provided there is a completed and signed surrender form on file for the animal concerned.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person to furnish false information on the animal surrender form.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § X, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-14. Redemption.

(a) The owner or keeper of any pet that has been impounded under the provisions of this chapter, and which has not been found to be dangerous or vicious, shall have the right to redeem such pet at any time within the legal detention period outlined in Section 5-13 upon payment of a fee as follows:

(1) For a pet that has been properly inoculated, licenced, microchipped, and neutered or spayed, the fee shall be \$10.00.

(2) For other pets the fee shall be \$10.00 plus the appropriate license fee, the charge for rabies inoculation, the cost of microchipping the pet, and the cost of spaying or neutering the pet. No fertile pet shall be redeemed or adopted unless one of the criteria under the exceptions provisions in subsections 5-3(a)(1) - (3) has been met. No pet will be released without proof of inoculation and without an implanted microchip. The requirements of spaying or neutering shall not be waived under the exceptions in subsections 5-3 (a)(1) - (3) when the animal has been impounded a second time for any violations of Sections 5-4; 5-5; 5-6; 5-8; 5-9; 5-10; 5-11; 5-12 or 5-13.

(b) In addition to the redemption fee, an impound fee of \$20.00 and a board fee of \$6.00 per day per pet shall be paid by the owner or keeper when a pet is redeemed.

(c) The fees set out in this section shall be doubled for any pet impounded twice or more within the same 12-month period.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XI, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-15. Adoption.

(a) Any animal impounded under the provisions of this chapter may at the end of the legal detention period be adopted provided the new owner will agree to comply with the provisions contained herein.

(b) Any pet surrendered to the Animal Care Department or animal care facility may be adopted at any time provided there is a completed and signed surrender form on file for the animal concerned.

(c) Those individuals adopting puppies or kittens too young to be neutered or spayed or receive rabies inoculations will pay the cost of these procedures at the time of adoption and be given an appointment for a later time to have these procedures accomplished. In the event the animal is deceased prior to the appointment date, the applicable portion of the adoption fee will be returned.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XII, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-16. Prohibited; exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in subsection 5-16(d), it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, own, keep, harbor, or act as custodian of a:

- (1) a. Nondomestic member of the family felidae;
- b. Wolf-dog hybrid containing any percentage of wolf;
- c. Badger, wolverine, weasel, skunk and mink;

- d. Raccoon;
- e. Bear;
- f. Nonhuman primate to include ape, monkey, baboon, macaque, lemur;
- g. Marmoset, tamarin and other species of the order primates;
- h. Bat;
- i. Alligator, crocodile and caiman;
- j. Scorpion;

k. Constricting snake of the following species: reticulated python, python reticulatus; Burmese/Indian rock python, python molurus; rock python, python sebae, and anaconda, eunectes murinus;

l. Venomous reptile; or

m. Lizard over two feet which are members of the family varanidae.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, harbor, act as custodian of, expose to public view or contact, exhibit either gratuitously or for a fee, any wild or feral animals identified in this subsection, or any animal of mixed domestication and feral lineage within the unincorporated areas of the county on public or private property, except as provided in subsection 5-16(d).

(1) Any Richland County resident, who prior to the effective date of this ordinance, had pre-existing ownership or possession of any animal prohibited under this section shall have 180 days to comply. This 180 day period shall begin concurrent with the effective date of this ordinance.

(c) Wild or feral animal means:

(1) Any animal which is not naturally tame or gentle, and which is of a wild nature or disposition, and which is capable of killing, inflicting serious injury upon, or causing disease among, human beings or domestic animals and having known tendencies as a species to do so;

(2) Any non-domesticated member of the order Carnivora;

(3) The following animals which shall be deemed to be wild or feral animals per se:

a. All nondomestic members of the family felidae;

b. Wolves, wolf-dog hybrids containing any percentage of wolf, coyotes and foxes;

c. Badgers, wolverines, weasels, skunks and mink;

d. Raccoons;

e. Bears;

f. Nonhuman primates to include apes, monkeys, baboons, macaques, lemurs, marmosets, tamarins and other species of the order primates;

g. Bats;

h. Alligators, crocodiles and caimans;

i. Scorpion;

j. Any snakes or venomous reptile; or

k. Lizards over two feet which are members of the family varanidae;

(d) The prohibition contained in subsections (a), (b) and (c) above, shall not apply to the keeping of wild or feral animals in the following circumstances:

(1) The keeping of wild or feral animals in a public zoo, bona fide education or medical institution, humane society, or museum where they are kept as live specimens for the public to view, or for the purpose of instruction, research or study.

(2) The keeping of wild or feral animals for exhibition to the public by a bona fide traveling circus, carnival, exhibit or show, properly licensed and permitted by state and local law.

(3) The keeping of wild or feral animals in a bona fide, licensed veterinary hospital for treatment.

(4) The keeping of wild or feral animals by a wildlife rescue organization with appropriate permits from any state or local regulatory body.

(Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XIII, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-17. Interference with animal care officers.

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder, or molest an Animal Care Officer in the performance of his or her duty or seek to release any pet in his/her custody without his/her consent.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XIII, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-18. Complainant's identification to remain confidential.

The identity, or information tending to reveal the identity, of any individual who in good faith makes a complaint or otherwise discloses information, which alleges a violation of this chapter, shall remain confidential to the agency receiving the report unless the complainant authorizes the release of his or her identity.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XIV, 2-7-12)

Sec. 5-19. Penalties.

(a) Any person who violates the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment not exceeding thirty (30) days, or both. Each day's continuing violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

(b) The owner or person having charge or custody of an animal cruelly used who is convicted of any violation of this chapter forfeits ownership, charge, or custody of the animal and at the discretion of the court, the person who is charged with or convicted of a violation of this chapter must be ordered to pay costs incurred to care for the animal and related expenses.

(Ord. No. 066-04HR, § I, 10-28-04; Ord. No. 005-12HR, § XVI, 2-7-12)