

SUMMARY: An ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by modifying provisions related to exotic animal permits; and by adding and revising various definitions.

BILL NO. _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHOE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 55 BY SEPARATING EXOTIC ANIMALS INTO A THREE-TIERED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM; BY EXEMPTING TIER 1 EXOTIC ANIMALS FROM THE EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT PROCESS; BY REQUIRING PERSONS WISHING TO POSSESS TIER 2 OR TIER 3 EXOTIC ANIMALS TO OBTAIN AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT; BY AMENDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION FOR AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT, THE PROCESSING OF AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT, THE REQUIREMENTS OF AND CONDITIONS IMPOSED UPON AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT, THE APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT, THE REVOCATION OF AN EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT, AND THE APPEAL PROCESS; BY MODIFYING MINIMAL STRUCTURAL ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMATES, FELINES, CANINES, REPTILES, BEARS, HOOFED ANIMALS, MARSUPIALS AND RAPTORS; BY AMENDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE IMPOUNDMENT OF EXOTIC ANIMALS; AND BY ADDING AND REVISING VARIOUS DEFINITIONS.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Section 55.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to add the following new definitions:

"Alternative livestock" means the following species, including subspecies, of the family Cervidae, if they are born and reared in captivity and raised on private property to produce meat or other animal by-products, or as breeding stock to produce alternative livestock:

1. Fallow deer (*Dama dama*); and
2. Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*).

Persons with alternative livestock must be in compliance with Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC") 503 and 504.

"Amphibian" means any cold-blooded vertebrate of the class Amphibia, comprising frogs, toads, newts, salamanders and caecilians, the larvae being typically aquatic and breathing by gills, and the adults being typically semi-terrestrial and breathing by lungs and/or through the moist, glandular skin.

"Tier 1 exotic animal" means an exotic animal for which an exotic animal permit is not required. Tier 1 exotic animals are

those animals that are customarily sold in a retail pet store, and include but are not limited to, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, gophers, chinchillas, domestic ferrets, domestic farm animals, birds, hedgehogs, sugar gliders and coldblooded species not otherwise listed in tier 2 or tier 3.

"Tier 2 exotic animal" means an exotic animal that may be allowed within all areas of Washoe County with an exotic animal permit. Tier 2 exotic animals include:

1. Any constrictor greater than 10 feet in length and 30 pounds in weight, such as but not limited to, the Burmese python;
2. Any Varanidae greater than 15 pounds in weight, such as but not limited to, the Nile monitor;
3. Potos flavus, the kinkajou;
4. Cynomys, the prairie dog; and
5. Any other exotic animal that is not identified as a tier 1 or tier 3 exotic animal.

"Tier 3 exotic animal" means an exotic animal that may be allowed within all areas of Washoe County with an exotic animal permit. Tier 3 exotic animals include:

1. All Marsupial (except the sugar glider), such as but not limited to, the kangaroo;
2. All Mustelidae (except the domestic ferret), such as but not limited to, the otter, badger and weasel;
3. All Felidae (except the domestic cat), such as but not limited to, the lion, tiger, or ocelot;
4. All Ursidae, such as but not limited to, the black or brown bear;
5. All Canidae (except the domestic dog), such as but not limited to, the wolf;
6. All Hyaenidae, such as but not limited to, the spotted hyena or striped hyena;
7. All Procyonidae (except the kinkajou), such as but not limited to, the ring-tailed cat or coati;
8. All non-human primates of the family Hominoidea, such as but not limited to, the gorilla, gibbon, chimpanzee or orangutan;
9. All Cercopithecidae (old world monkey), such as but not limited to, a macaque or baboon;
10. All Aotidae, such as but not limited to, a night monkey;
11. All Atelinae, such as but not limited to, the howler monkey or spider monkey;
12. All Pitheciidae, such as but not limited to, a titi or saki;
13. All Viverridae, such as but not limited to, a binturong or African palm civet;

14. All venomous reptiles and amphibians that are harmful to humans and pets, such as but not limited to, a rattlesnake;
15. All Crocodilia, such as but not limited to, a crocodile or alligator;
16. The Komodo dragon;
17. All Heloderma, such as a Gila monster or beaded lizard;
18. All Tapiridae, such as a tapir;
19. All Giraffidae, such as a giraffe;
20. All Elephantidae, such as an elephant;
21. The Hippopotamidae, such as a hippopotamus;
22. The Rhinocerotidae, such as a rhinoceros;
23. The Hydrochoerus hydrocaeris, such as a capybara; and
24. Any wild hybrids thereof, such as a tigon or liger.

SECTION 2. Section 55.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

“Exotic animal” includes any bear, canine, feline, hoofed animal, marsupial, primate, **any wild hybrids thereof**, raptor and reptile.

~~“Primate” includes any mammal having more than four digits with nails on hands and feet, binocular vision, a large brainpan and other such characteristics. “Primate” does not include any homo sapien~~ **means any non-human member of the order Primates.**

~~“Reptile” includes any venomous member of the family reptilia and any other member of that family which, when fully grown, is greater than 5½ feet in length or weighs 10 or more pounds~~ **means any cold-blooded, usually egg-laying vertebrate of the class Reptilia, comprising snakes, lizards, turtles and tortoises, having an external covering of scales or horny plates and breathing by means of lungs.**

SECTION 3. Section 55.650 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.650 ~~Exotic animals~~ **permit**: application for permit to keep **a tier 2 or tier 3 exotic animal; inspection; fees.**

1. It is unlawful for any person to keep any **tier 2 or tier 3** exotic animal within the county without an **exotic animal** permit ~~therefor~~ approved by ~~the animal control board~~ **regional animal services.**

2. Application to keep an **tier 2 or tier 3** exotic animal. **All persons wishing to keep a tier 2 or tier 3 exotic animal** must ~~be filed with the county~~ **submit an application to regional animal services** and must:

- (a) Specify the exotic animal(s) ~~or animals~~ for which the

permit is requested; ~~and~~

(b) ~~Be accompanied by construction~~ **Submit** drawings showing the proposed design and location of the appropriate enclosure required under sections 55.680, 55.690, 55.700, 55.710 **and/or** 55.720. If the animal ~~(s) or animals~~ are to be kept in an existing enclosure, a detailed drawing of the enclosure must be submitted. All drawings must specify the type and size of the enclosure, the type of material used to construct the enclosure and the location of the enclosure on the premises;

(c) **Submit a list of animal enrichment devices that the applicant will obtain for the species;**

(d) **If applicable, submit a letter of approval from the applicant's homeowners' association for the subject property;**

(e) **Submit a certification that the proposed enclosure comports with the applicable local jurisdiction's zoning restrictions;**

(f) **Submit a proposed emergency plan, which must include animal evacuation and animal escape procedures;**

(g) **If an exotic animal is to be imported into the county, submit a copy of the written approval received from the department of wildlife pursuant to NRS 503.597; and**

(h) **Submit a certification of veterinary inspection (required for tier 3 exotic animals only).**

3. ~~Upon receipt of the application to keep a tier 2 or tier 3 exotic animal, the county will review the drawings of the enclosure and provide for an animal control officer~~ **shall review the submitted materials and conduct an investigation to verify:**

(a) **Keeping the animal at the location specified in the application comports with the local jurisdiction's zoning requirements; and**

(b) **The applicant's emergency plan is adequate to safely move the animal during times of emergency and to adequately protect the public in the event the animal escapes.**

4. **The animal control officer shall also consider:**

(a) **Any animal related complaints pertaining to the premises; and**

(b) **Whether the applicant has received a citation for more than one violation of Washoe County Code Chapter 55 within one year immediately preceding the application for an exotic animal permit.**

5. **The animal control officer shall ~~to~~ inspect the premises for which the application for an exotic animal permit is made to determine that:**

(a) **Keeping the animal ~~(s) or animals~~ at the location specified in the application will not violate any state or local animal welfare laws or regulations;**

(b) **The enclosure will meet the applicable requirements ~~of~~ set forth in sections 55.680, 55.690, 55.700, 55.710 or 55.720;**

(c) Maintenance of the animal ~~(s) or animals will not~~ **is not likely to** endanger the peace, health or safety of persons residing in the county; **and**

(d) The premises are capable of being maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and any **exotic animal (s)** ~~or animals~~ therein **housed on the premises will are not likely to** be subjected to neglect, cruelty or abuse.

~~(e) Keeping and maintaining the animal or animals will not constitute a nuisance as defined herein and by state law; and~~

~~(f) If an exotic animal is to be imported into the county, a copy of the written approval received from the department of wildlife pursuant to NRS 503.597 must accompany the application.~~

The animal control officer may notify and/or contact persons residing within 200 feet of the location at which the exotic animal(s) will be kept or maintained and persons residing on property adjacent to the property for which the exotic animal permit application has been submitted to discuss the application.

46. Each application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee set by the board of county commissioners.

SECTION 4. Section 55.660 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.660 **Exotic animal permit: Approval, or disapproval denial of application to keep exotic animal; issuance of permit; appeals.**

~~1. Upon receipt of the completed application and within 10 days following the inspection of the premises, the county will set a date for a hearing before the animal control board. The county will notify any person residing within 200 feet of the location at which the exotic animal will be kept or maintained and each person residing on property adjacent to the property for which the permit application has been filed. The notification will indicate the type of animal for which the permit is sought, the address of the applicant, and the date of the hearing.~~

~~2. Any person notified pursuant to subsection 1, may file a written objection within 15 days of receipt of the notification. The written objection must be filed with the county.~~

~~3. All proceedings of the animal control board shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 241 of the NRS. At the time and place set for the hearing, the animal control board will consider all objections filed and other evidence presented and may approve or prohibit the keeping of the exotic animal. The animal control board shall not approve a permit to keep an exotic animal unless the board can make the findings set forth in section 55.650(3).~~

~~4. In taking action at the hearing to approve the permit, the animal control board~~ Upon completion of the animal control officer's review, investigation and inspection, the animal control officer shall submit his or her written recommendation to approve or deny the application for an exotic animal permit, along with all supporting documentation, to the director of regional animal services. The animal control officer shall not recommend approval of the permit unless the officer can make the findings set forth in section 55.650(3) and (5). The animal control officer may also recommend conditions on the issuance of the permit.

2. The director of regional animal services or the director's designee shall review the animal control officer's recommendation, and approve or deny the application for an exotic animal permit. If approved, the director may impose conditions ~~it~~ he or she deems necessary or advisable to the permit, including, but not limited to at what times and under what conditions the animal may be removed from its enclosure. In considering removal of the animal from its enclosure, the ~~animal control board~~ director shall consider, among other things, and in the following order of priority:

(a) The effect on public health and safety if such removal is allowed;

(b) Whether the ~~need exists for secure restraint of the animal~~ **should be restrained** by leash or other device, while the animal is removed from the enclosure;

(c) Whether, and by what method, the animal will be transported to other areas within or without the county; and

(d) Whether the method of transportation of the animal is adequate to insure public health and safety.

~~Except in cases of emergency wherein the life, health or safety of the exotic animal is threatened or immediate medical treatment is required,~~ ~~the owner thereof~~ **holder of an exotic animal permit** shall strictly adhere to each condition imposed by the ~~animal control board~~ **director of regional animal services** pursuant to this section. Failure to do so constitutes cause for ~~immediate suspension and~~ revocation of the permit to keep the animal.

3. Regional animal services shall impose the following conditions on all exotic animal permits:

(a) Within 30 days of the exotic animal permit's approval, the applicant must provide evidence of liability insurance to cover any personal injuries and property damage inflicted by the exotic animal for which the permit has been issued. Liability insurance must be obtained from an insurer authorized to do business in Nevada, and Washoe County shall be listed as an additional interest for notification purposes. Required insurance coverage is \$25,000 for a tier 2 exotic animal and

\$250,000 for a tier 3 exotic animal;

(b) Within 90 days of the exotic animal permit's approval, the applicant must provide proof that the exotic animal has been spayed or neutered to ensure breeding will not occur.

Exemptions to the spay/neuter requirement may be approved for the following reasons:

(1) The exotic animal is a reptile (which are not commonly spayed or neutered);

(2) The applicant provides a letter from a veterinarian licensed in Nevada requesting a medical exemption on the grounds that the procedure is detrimental to the animal's health;

(3) The applicant provides proof that the exotic animal(s) is enrolled in a nationally or internationally recognized program for the breeding of endangered species;

(c) Within 90 days of the exotic animal permit's approval, the applicant must provide identification for each exotic animal, such as a microchip, tattoo or other form of permanent identification;

(d) The applicant must maintain an annual certificate of veterinary inspection for each tier 3 exotic animal. This certificate must be made available to animal control officers upon request, and during the annual renewal inspection; and

(e) The applicant must grant animal control officers' access to inspect the premises where the exotic animal(s) are located upon reasonable notice at a reasonable time.

54. If the **director of regional animal services** determines that the applicant ~~is required to~~ **must** construct or remodel an enclosure to comport with sections 55.680, 55.690, 55.700, 55.710 or 55.720, ~~he~~ the applicant must immediately apply to the building department ~~in~~ **of** the local jurisdiction where the enclosure is to be located for the appropriate permits. The enclosure must be constructed or remodeled within 60 days of issuance of the building permit and in strict compliance with the provisions this chapter, including any conditions imposed by the ~~animal control board~~ **director of regional animal services**.

~~6. Upon completion of the construction or remodeling of the enclosure, the county shall issue the exotic animal permit.~~

75. If the ~~animal control board~~ **director of regional animal services** denies ~~the~~ **an** application for an exotic animal permit, the director shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the denial.

6. If the **director of regional animal services** denies an application for an exotic animal permit, or if the applicant disagrees with a condition ~~of approval of~~ **on** the permit, the applicant may file an appeal with the administrative hearing office not later than 14 days after receiving the director's written notification that the application has been approved or denied. A failure to appeal the decision within 14 days

precludes further administrative or judicial review.

7. The administrative hearing office shall hold a hearing on the appeal as soon as practicable. If the administrative hearing officer affirms the director's decision, the applicant ~~may seek file a petition for~~ judicial review ~~thereof and must file a petition for writ of mandamus in the district court~~ within 30 days ~~of the animal control board's decision at its meeting.~~

8. ~~As a condition of approval of an exotic animal permit, the permittee agrees to allow an animal control officer to inspect the premises that are the subject of the permit upon reasonable notice at a reasonable time.~~ **Any person having custody or control of a tier 2 or tier 3 exotic animal must provide immediate notice to regional animal services of the animal's death, relocation or escape. Such person shall be liable for costs incurred by regional animal services and/or any law enforcement agency involved as a result of the animal's escape.**

9. ~~Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a A permit obtained under this section is valid for as long as the permittee owns the animal;~~ **one year and must be renewed annually.** ~~hHowever, when the permittee's address or the location where the animal is kept changes, the permit automatically becomes void and a new application must be submitted to the county regional animal services.~~

10. **Any person who holds a valid exotic animal permit with regional animal services as of March 24, 2017 may continue to possess the permitted exotic animal(s) at their current permitted location, and shall continue to comply with the conditions placed on their permits.**

SECTION 5. Section 55.670 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.670 ~~Suspension; rExotic animal permit: revocation of exotic animal permit; appeal to animal control board; hearing.~~

1. The holder of an exotic animal permit is subject to continued compliance with the provisions of sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, and to any conditions imposed on the permit. An exotic animal permit issued under sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, may be ~~suspended or revoked for~~ **if the permittee failures** ~~of the permittee~~ to comply with the provisions of sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, or with any condition(s) imposed on the permit.

2. If an animal control officer ~~becomes aware~~ **determines** that a permittee ~~is~~ **is** not complying with the provisions of sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, or with any conditions imposed on the permit, the animal control officer may serve notice of ~~suspension or revocation~~ on the permittee. The notice ~~must~~

~~shall~~ advise the permittee in writing of the reason(s) ~~or~~ reasons for the ~~suspension or~~ revocation, and the permittee may appeal that decision to the ~~animal control board~~ **administrative hearing office** not later than 14 days after receiving the notice. A failure to appeal ~~the decision of the animal control officer's decision~~ within 14 days ~~constitutes an admission that the decision is well founded and precludes further administrative or judicial review.~~

3. **Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions,** in cases where an animal control officer believes that the health and safety of the public or the **exotic** animal is in jeopardy, the animal control officer may take **immediate** action to suspend ~~immediately~~ the permit, and **may** take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of the public or the animal, including, but not limited to, ~~the removal of~~ **removing** the animal from the premises.

~~4. Upon an appeal being filed, the animal control board shall, within 30 days, hold a hearing on the appeal.~~

~~5. The animal control board may take any testimony and evidence it deems necessary. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 241 of the NRS.~~

~~6. The decision of the animal control board sustaining, reversing, or sustaining with conditions the action of the animal control officer shall include findings of fact and be transmitted in writing within 10 working days.~~

74. TheA permittee aggrieved by the **administrative hearing officer's** decision ~~of the animal control board~~ may seek **file a petition for** judicial review thereof and must file a petition for writ of mandamus **in the district court** within 30 days ~~of the animal control board's decision at its meeting.~~ During the course of judicial review, ~~any the~~ **exotic animal permit's revocation** shall be ~~continued~~ **held in abeyance** until a decision is rendered by the district court.

85. If an **exotic animal** permit is revoked, the owner of the animal which is the subject of the permit shall transfer ownership of the **exotic** animal ~~by sale or gift~~ to another person who is capable of compliance with this chapter, or **alternatively,** shall remove it from the county. If ~~ownership of the~~ **exotic** animal is transferred **within Washoe County,** the transferee shall immediately apply for an **exotic animal** permit to be issued not later than 60 days from the date of transfer of ownership. If a permit is not obtained ~~by the end of the 60-day period,~~ the animal shall be ~~removed from the county~~ **confiscated by regional animal services.**

SECTION 6. Section 55.680 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.680 Enclosures for primates; minimum structural requirements.

1. The minimum enclosure and shelter requirements specified in subsections 2 to 8 inclusive, shall be adhered to before a primate may be kept pursuant to a permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660.

2. Enclosures for small size primates, such as marmosets and squirrel monkeys, shall be not less than 3 feet by 4 feet **by 4 feet** (48 cubic feet) for two or less of such primates. The size of the enclosure shall be increased by not less than 1 foot by 3 feet by 4 feet (12 cubic feet) for each additional small size primate.

3. Enclosures for medium size primates, such as capuchins, shall be not less than 6 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet (216 cubic feet) for two or less of such primates. The size of the enclosure shall be increased by 2 feet by 4 feet by 6 feet (48 cubic feet) for each additional medium size primate.

4. Enclosures for large size primates, such as spider monkeys, woolies and macaques, shall be not less than 10 feet by 10 feet by 8 feet (800 cubic feet) for two or less of such primates. The size of the enclosure shall be increased ~~to by~~ **not less than** 10 feet by 20 feet by 8 feet (1,600 cubic feet) when there are more than two but less than five of such primates. The size of the enclosure shall be increased by 4 feet by 10 feet by 8 feet (320 cubic feet) for each additional large size primate thereafter.

5. Enclosures for large size primates, such as chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and gibbons, shall meet zoo specifications unless ~~the animal control board~~ **regional animal services** determines, under the circumstances, that other specifications are appropriate.

6. Enclosures for small and medium size primates shall be constructed of not less than ~~11~~ **9** gauge chain link or heavy wrapped wire. The floor of such enclosures shall consist of concrete, wood or gravel. All enclosures shall have a secure top.

7. All primates shall have access at all times to an area sheltered from adverse climatic conditions. The sheltered area shall be heated during winter months **and cooled during summer months.**

8. ~~The animal control board~~ **Regional animal services** may require security fencing surrounding any primate enclosure if it determines, under the circumstances, that such fencing is warranted.

SECTION 7. Section 55.690 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.690 Enclosures for felines; minimum structural requirements.

1. The minimum enclosure and shelter requirements specified in subsection 2 to 7 inclusive, shall be adhered to before a feline may be kept pursuant to a permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660.

2. Enclosures for small size felines, such as margays, servals and ocelots, shall be not less than 10 feet by 10 feet by 6 feet (600 cubic feet) for two or less of such felines. The size of the enclosure shall be increased ~~by 6~~ **to at least 20** feet by ~~6~~ feet (2161,200 cubic feet) for each additional small size feline.

3. Enclosures for large size felines, such as cougars, leopards and jaguars, shall be not less than 10 feet by 20 feet by 8 feet (1,600 cubic feet) for one of such felines. The size of the enclosure shall be increased to **at least 20 feet by 20** feet by 8 feet (3,200 cubic feet) when there is more than one but less than four of such felines. The size of the enclosure for four or more of such felines shall be established by ~~the animal control board~~ **regional animal services** on a case-by-case basis.

4. Enclosures for lions shall be not less than 15 feet by 20 feet by 8 feet (2,400 cubic feet) for each lion. ~~No more than one lion may be housed in each enclosure. When more than one lion is kept, each additional enclosure may adjoin the primary enclosure.~~

5. Enclosures for tigers shall be not less than 15 feet by 20 feet by 10 feet (3,000 cubic feet) for each tiger. ~~No more than one tiger may be housed in each enclosure. When more than one tiger is kept, each additional enclosure may adjoin the primary enclosure.~~

6. ~~Enclosures for small size felines shall be constructed of not less than 11 gauge chain link or heavy wrapped wire. Enclosures for large size~~ **all** felines shall be constructed of not less than 9 gauge chain link. The floor of all enclosures for felines shall consist of concrete or wood. Gravel or dirt flooring may be used if the enclosure is properly secured against escape by such felines through digging. All enclosures must have a secure top.

7. All felines shall have access at all times to an area sheltered from adverse climatic conditions.

8. ~~The enclosure requirements for felines set forth in subsections 2 to 7, inclusive, may be waived by the animal control board if it finds that the size and disposition of the feline are such that the feline poses no danger to public health and safety.~~

SECTION 8. Section 55.700 of the Washoe County Code is hereby

amended as follows:

55.700 Enclosures for canines; minimum structural requirements.

1. The minimum enclosure and shelter requirements specified in subsection 2 to ~~54~~, inclusive, shall be adhered to before a canine may be kept pursuant to a permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660.

2. Enclosures for canines, such as wolves and coyotes, shall be not less than 10 feet by 20 feet by 6 feet (1,200 cubic feet) for one of such canines. The size of the enclosure shall be increased to **at least** 20 feet by 20 feet by 6 feet (2,400 cubic feet) when there is more than one but less than five of such canines. The size of the enclosure for five or more of such canines shall be established by ~~the animal control board~~ **regional animal services** on a case-by-case basis.

3. Enclosures for canines shall be construed of not less than 9 gauge chain link. The floor of such enclosures shall consist of concrete or wood. Gravel or dirt flooring may be used if the enclosure is properly secured against escape by such canines through digging. All enclosures shall have a secure top.

~~4. Canines may be kept in areas other than enclosures of the type described in subsections 2 and 3 if approved by the animal control board, however, the area shall be fenced to a height of not less than 6 feet by at least 11 gauge chain link.~~

~~5.~~All canines shall have access at all times to an area sheltered from adverse climatic conditions.

SECTION 9. Section 55.710 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.710 Enclosures for reptiles; minimum structural requirements.

1. The minimum enclosure and shelter requirements specified in subsections 2 to ~~45~~, inclusive, shall be adhered to before a reptile may be kept pursuant to a permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660.

2. Enclosures for reptiles shall be of an escape-proof design with sufficient area to insure that the reptile obtains necessary exercise. **Enclosures shall be constructed of materials that allow for proper sanitation, and cage furnishings must be removable to facilitate sanitation.** Enclosures shall be constructed in such a manner as to produce as closely as possible the temperature, humidity and other conditions found in the reptile's native environment.

3. Enclosures for reptiles shall conform to the following specifications:

(a) Size requirements for snakes:

(1) Floor space: 1 square foot of floor space per linear foot of the snake; and

(2) Height: twice the flat coil for arboreal and one time the flat coil for terrestrial.

(b) Size requirements for lizards:

(1) Floor space (length of enclosure): at least one and one-half times the length of the animal;

(2) Floor space (width of enclosure): at least one-half the length of the animal;

(3) Height: equal to or greater than the length of the animal for arboreal;

(4) Height: at least one-half the length of animal for terrestrial.

34. Enclosures for venomous reptiles shall not be constructed of screen wire unless the wire is at least 2 layers thick with a space of not less than 1 inch between layers.

45. Enclosures for potentially dangerous or venomous reptiles shall have an appropriate warning sign affixed thereto and shall be equipped with a locking device.

SECTION 10. Section 55.720 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.720 Enclosures for bears, hoofed animals, marsupials and, raptors; minimum structural requirements.

1. The minimum structural enclosure and shelter requirements specified in subsection 2 and 3 shall be adhered to before a bear, hoofed animal, marsupial or raptor may be kept pursuant to a permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660.

2. The size of enclosures for bears, hoofed animals, marsupials and raptors shall be established by ~~the animal control board~~ **regional animal services** on a case-by-case basis. ~~The animal control board~~ **Regional animal services** may require that the enclosures be at least equal in size to county, state or federal zoo enclosures for such animals.

3. Raptors shall be kept in accordance with all applicable provisions and standards ~~therefor which are~~ found in the falconry regulations (Commission General Regulation No. 15) of the board of wildlife commissioners.

SECTION 11. Section 55.730 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.730 Additional standards. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, ~~the animal control board~~ **director of regional animal services** may require that security fencing and double gates be installed with any enclosure if ~~it~~ **he or she** determines that such fencing and gates are warranted **for animal**

welfare or to protect the public.

SECTION 12. Section 55.740 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended as follows:

55.740 Impoundment of exotic animals.

1. Any exotic animal which is kept by any person in contravention of sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, may be taken up and impounded by an animal control officer for the protection of public health and safety as well as for the protection and health of the animal. Whenever possible, the animal control officer shall take up and impound the animal in the presence of the owner.

2. If an **exotic** animal is impounded pursuant to subsection 1, **regional animal services shall notify the animal's owner**—shall be notified of that fact by the animal control officer either in person or, if the owner is not present when impoundment occurs, by certified mail, return receipt requested. Notification shall be considered completed on the date that the owner of the animal is personally notified, or if notified by certified mail, on the date indicated on the return receipt. **If the exotic animal owner holds an exotic animal permit issued under the provisions of section 55.660, the** Notice of impoundment ~~may~~ **shall** be accompanied by notice of immediate suspension ~~and~~ **or** revocation.

3. Any animal impounded pursuant to this section shall be cared for at the expense of the owner ~~for a period of not more than 30 days, or if the animal is being held pending a hearing on revocation of the permit pursuant to section 55.670,~~ **If the animal is being held pending a revocation appeal, the animal shall be kept in impound** until the hearing and any appeal is concluded **or ownership is relinquished.**

~~4. At the end of the impoundment period, or sooner if the animal has been abandoned by its owner, the animal may be sold by the county to the highest bidder capable of caring for the animal and all money received from the sale may be applied toward the payment of the expenses of the animal's impoundment. Each person who bids on the animal shall submit his bid in writing to the county and shall submit an application for a permit to keep the animal pursuant to section 55.650. Application fees shall be refunded to all unsuccessful bidders. If the amount of the highest bid exceeds the expenses of impoundment, the excess shall be refunded to the former owner of the animal if the owner's identity and whereabouts is known. If the owners' identity or whereabouts is not known, all money received shall be retained by the county.~~

5. ~~If the impounded animal is sold, the county shall notify the buyer of the permit and other requirements of sections 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive, and shall insure that the buyer has~~

~~complied or is in the process of complying with such requirements before releasing the animal to his custody.~~

~~6. If the animal is not sold during the impoundment period, the county shall publish notice in the classified section where animals are advertised of a newspaper of general circulation in the county that the animal is available for purchase at the animal services center. The advertisement shall appear daily in the newspaper for a period of not less than 2 weeks. The county shall sell the animal to the highest bidder capable of caring for the animal at the end of the 2-week period in the same manner prescribed in subsections 4 and 5 hereof.~~

74. If there is a sanctuary, rescue or releasing agency willing to accept the impounded exotic animal, regional animal services may release the animal to the sanctuary, rescue or releasing agency. If the county regional animal services is unable to sell transfer the animal to a sanctuary, rescue or releasing agency with the appropriate local, state and/or federal licensing and permits, the animal may be destroyed euthanized in a humane manner or the county may give the animal to any person who is capable of caring for the animal and complying with section 55.650 to 55.730, inclusive.

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the _____ day of _____, 2017.

Proposed by Commissioner _____.

Passed on the _____ day of _____, 2017.

Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the
_____ day of _____, 2017.