



**Loudoun County**

**VIRGINIA**

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

# Proposed Addition to the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County Chapter 612 – Dogs and Other Animals

Finance/Government Operations and  
Economic Development Committee  
December 13, 2022

# What is the proposal?

- Prohibiting private ownership of certain wild, exotic and venomous species of animals, including:
  - Venomous snakes
  - Wolf-hybrids
  - Non-native species (koalas or kangaroos)
  - Primates (baboons and marmosets)
  - Other wild and/or venomous animals, such as scorpions and armadillos



# Current Situation

- Wild, exotic and venomous animals are prohibited in nearby jurisdictions of Fairfax County, Prince William County, County of Arlington, Town of Leesburg, and the State of Maryland.
- Commonwealth-level restrictions are not comprehensive.



# Wild, exotic and venomous animals held in residential settings present a public safety risk

- Risk of escaping and inflicting harm
- Risk of zoonotic diseases
- Risk to first responders entering premises
- Risk to local ecosystems and wildlife



# Proposed Exemptions

- Licensed exhibitors (zoos) and rehabilitators
- Lawfully obtained, non-venomous reptiles and amphibians
- Lawfully obtained exotic birds and ratites (ostriches, emus)
- Rear-fanged (low-risk) snakes
- Common pets, including ferrets, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, etc.



# Grandfather Clause

- Residents currently possessing species prohibited under the proposed ordinance (but otherwise possessing/caring for them lawfully) may retain ownership for the life of that animal, if it is registered with Loudoun County Animal Services.

