

## EXOTIC ANIMALS ORDINANCE OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Pursuant to Section 3.2-6544 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Board adopts an ordinance to prohibit keeping or exhibiting wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animals and fowl within the County.

For the purpose of this article the definition of an exotic animal shall mean any live monkey or non-human primate, raccoon, skunk, wolf, wolf-canine hybrid, squirrel, fox, non-domesticated porcine, leopard, tiger, lion, panther, or any other wild animal, venomous reptile, to include, but not limited to coral snakes, rattle snakes, copperhead snakes, cottonmouth snakes, vipers and cobras, sea snakes, gila monsters, Mexican beaded lizards, or non-venomous reptiles six (6) feet or longer in length which can normally be found in the wild, all constrictor type snakes six (6) feet or longer, poisonous arachnids to include, but not limited to: Black Widow spiders, Brown Recluse spiders, scorpions, poisonous amphibians, to include but not limited to poison arrow frogs, or any member of the crocodylian family, including, but not limited to alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials, or any other animal or fowl that would require a standard of care and control greater than that required for customary household pets sold by commercial pet shops, or domestic farm animals. Ferrets and birds which are normally purchased through pet stores, nonpoisonous reptiles less than six (6) feet in length, domestic rabbits, domestic rodents which have been bred in captivity and which never have known the wild shall be excluded from the definitions of wild and exotic animals or fowl.

Definition of Owner: A person who:  
Has a right of property in an animal;  
Keeps or harbors an animal;  
Has an animal in his/her care;  
Acts as a custodian of an animal; or,  
Any person who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about the premises occupied by him.

The term wild animal means any warm-blooded animal that is normally found in a wild state.

The term poisonous and/or venomous animal shall mean any animal, fowl, reptile, or amphibian that causes injury, illness, or death by chemical means.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or exhibit or permit to be kept or exhibited upon any property within the county limits any wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal without a permit from the animal control officer. In no case, however, shall any such wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal(s) be exhibited, displayed, or kept in such a manner so as to permit said animal(s) to escape, be at large, or to otherwise come in direct physical contact with any person unless under the direct care and control of the handler.

It shall be unlawful for any person to acquire from another person or in any way bring any wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal or fowl into the county after the effective date of this ordinance, July 1, 2012.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

Institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)

Registered nonprofit humane societies

Animal control officers or law enforcement officers acting under the authority of this act.

Veterinary hospitals or clinics.

Any wildlife rehabilitator licensed by the state.

Any wildlife sanctuary as defined under this act.

Any licensed or accredited research or medical institution.

Any licensed or accredited educational institution.

Any circus, rodeo, or trade-show.

A person temporarily transporting an exotic animal through the county if the transit time is not more than forty-eight (48) hours and the animal is at all times maintained within a confinement sufficient to prevent the exotic animal from escaping.

2. The owner of any wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal shall apply to the animal control officer within ten (10) working days for a permit, or in the case of an exhibition ten (10) working days prior to the exhibition, for a permit authorizing the keeping of said animal within the county limits. Each applicant for a wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal permit shall by affidavit and/or supporting written documentation provide the following:

Name and street address of each owner(s)/custodian(s), eighteen (18) years of age or older;

Location of animal(s) storage facility;

The common and scientific name of the subject animal(s);

The date of acquisition of each animal;

The source of acquisition of each;

The sex, age, height, and/or length of each animal;

Any identifying marks or numbers unique to each animal;

A statement of understanding signed by the owner(s)/custodian(s) concerning human exposures in relation to the current state and local laws involving rabies control;

Verifiable documentation the animal was brought into the country legally. Proof the animal was purchased from a reputable dealer or pet store may constitute sufficient proof. The animal control officer has final authority in determining what constitutes sufficient proof.

A current veterinarian's certificate the animal is disease free.

The current phone number and street address of owner(s)/custodian(s) and animal(s), if storage location differs from residence of owner(s)/custodian(s).

At least one (1) emergency phone number where owner(s)/custodian(s) can be contacted in case of emergency.

Proof the owner has a secure pen, cage, or enclosure of sufficient size and strength to provide adequate shelter for the animal and to reasonably protect the public.

Where required by Section 29.1-542 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended a copy of the special permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

3. The permit shall not be transferable and shall be valid through December 31 of the year of issue and shall be renewed by January 31 of each subsequent year. Permits for temporary

exhibit shall be valid for the time period specified in the permit. One (1) permit per address will be required with the county. On the permit shall be listed each animal held within the county limits as identified in subsection (b). The county's wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal permit shall be required in addition to any required federal or state permits. Information supplied on such permit shall be provided to relevant county departments as notification for public health and safety purposes. No permit for an exotic animal will be issued by the Patrick County Animal Control Officer unless all required special permits from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for wolves, coyotes or birds or animals otherwise classified by the commission as predatory or undesirable have been obtained by the owner or custodian of the exotic animal. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or custodian of the exotic animal to provide a valid copy of the special permit to the animal control department at the time the request for local exotic animal permit is made.

4. It shall be unlawful to release, or permit to be released, any wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal(s) into the wild.

5. The initial fee to cover the cost of the permit issuance shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per address. A charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be collected for annual permit renewal, the adding of additional animals to an existing permit, or the duplication of an existing permit.

6. It shall be unlawful for any person to furnish false information for the purpose of obtaining a permit pursuant to subsection (2). Any permit obtained under fraudulent pretenses shall be null and void with any animals named thereon subject to impoundment by an animal control officer pending a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction as to the appropriate disposition of the animal(s). Upon redemption of the animal, the owner shall pay impoundment and boarding fees and cover all costs incurred by the county plus any additional cost for medical care or treatment.

7. Any person applying for a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit shall provide evidence of surety bond or liability insurance or bond in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), which covers incidences or occurrences involving the wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animals.

8. The animal control officer or his designee may reject an application for a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit, renewal of a permit, or the addition of an animal to an existing permit for any of the following reasons:

Failure to comply with or supply any information required in subsection (2); or

Falsification of any information required in subsection (2); or

Previous or current violations of any provisions of this section; or

Previous or current violations of any local, state, or federal law relating to animals; or

The history or demonstration of a vicious or dangerous nature of an animal.

9. The animal control officer or his designee may revoke a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit and impound the animal(s) for any of the following reasons:

Failure to comply with the terms of this ordinance; or

Falsification of any information required in section (2); or

Violation of any local, state, or federal law applicable to animals.

10. The permittee shall post a placard approved by the animal control officer in an area of public view on any premises, building, or structure where the wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal is kept or housed. Failure to post the placard shall be a violation of this ordinance.

11. The owner of an exotic animal shall notify the animal control officer of the death or removal from the county of the dangerous animal, and shall provide this notice within ten (10) days of the death or removal.

12. The owner of an exotic animal shall notify the animal control officer immediately upon the escape of the dangerous animal from the owner's premises or from confinement.

13. The owner of any exotic or poisonous animal found to be running at large off of the owner's property shall reimburse the county for its actual costs incurred, including without limitation the actual cost of the time expended by the animal warden, deputy animal control officer, or other county personnel, in locating and capturing or otherwise disposing of the animal.

14. Penalty: Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be required to pay a fee to cover the counties' actual cost of locating and capturing or otherwise disposing of the animal.

15. Enforcement: The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the animal control officer.

16. Disposal of wild, exotic, or vicious animals: Any person who owns a wild, exotic, or vicious animal(s) not permitted in accordance with this ordinance shall dispose of the animal(s) by removal of the animals(s) from the county, by giving or selling the animals to a zoological park, or by releasing the animal(s) to the animal control officer. The animal control officer is authorized to release the animal(s) to the wild, to a zoological park, or to a responsible adult, or euthanize the animal, if the circumstances warrant.

Voting Aye: Foley, Hayden, Weiss, Boyce  
Voting Nay: Harris

# EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Patrick County Animal Pound  
22 Transfer Station Lane  
Stuart, Virginia 24171

The definition of an exotic animal shall mean any live monkey or non-human primate, raccoon, skunk, wolf, wolf-canine hybrid, squirrel, fox, non-domesticated porcine, leopard, tiger, lion, panther, or any other wild animal, venomous reptile, to include, but not limited to coral snakes, rattle snakes, copperhead snakes, cottonmouth snakes, vipers and cobras, sea snakes, gila monsters, Mexican beaded lizards, or non-venomous reptiles six (6) feet or longer in length which can normally be found in the wild, all constrictor type snakes six (6) feet or longer, poisonous arachnids to include, but not limited to: Black Widow spiders, Brown Recluse spiders, scorpions, poisonous amphibians, to include but not limited to poison arrow frogs, or any member of the crocodylian family, including, but not limited to alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials, or any other animal that would require a standard of care and control greater than that required for customary household pets sold by commercial pet shops, or domestic farm animals. Ferrets and birds which are normally purchased through pet stores, nonpoisonous reptiles less than six (6) feet in length, domestic rabbits, domestic rodents which have been bred in captivity and which never have known the wild shall be excluded from the definitions of wild and exotic animals.

Each owner(s)/custodian(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # where owner(s) can be reached in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of animal(s) storage facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address of owner(s)/custodian(s) if storage location differs from residence of owner(s)/custodian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Common and scientific name of the subject animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of acquisition of each animal: \_\_\_\_\_

The source of acquisition of each animal: \_\_\_\_\_

The sex, age, height, and/or length of each animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Any identifying marks or numbers unique to each animal: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Along with the application, you must provide the following documents:**

1. Documentation that proves the animal was legally brought into the United States. Proof that the animal was purchased from a reputable dealer or pet store may constitute sufficient proof. The animal control officer has final authority in determining what constitutes sufficient proof.
2. A current veterinarian's certificate indicating that the animal is disease free.
3. Proof the owner has a secure pen, cage, or enclosure of sufficient size and strength to provide adequate shelter for the animal and to reasonably protect the public.
4. Where required by Section 29.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, a copy of the special permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
5. The initial fee to cover the cost of the permit issuance shall be One hundred dollars (**\$100.00**) per address. A charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be collected for annual permit renewal, the adding of additional animals to an existing permit, or the duplication of an existing permit.
6. Documentation showing liability insurance or a surety bond for \$50,000.00 or more protecting the public from actions or incidences involving the animal.
7. The animal control officer or his designee may revoke a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit and impound the animal(s) for any of the following reasons:
  - a. Falsification of any information on this application.
  - b. Violation of any local, state, or federal law applicable to animals.



I further understand that I hold the County of Patrick, Virginia harmless from liability for any actions of this animal relating to damages, injuries, or litigation, past present, or future.

I will be liable to pay all costs incurred by the County in locating and capturing or otherwise disposing of any wild animal or fowl pursuant to his permit.

No permit shall be issued to any person who has acquired wild animals or fowl consistent with the definition of an exotic animal after July 1, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of owner/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal Control Officer

## Adoption Receipt and Sterilization Agreement

Patrick County Animal Pound  
22 Transfer Station Lane  
Stuart, Virginia 24171

**Sterilization of Dogs or Cats is required under *Article 3.2-6574* of the Virginia Code and Patrick County Ordinance. Any person violating this Article is subject to a civil penalty.**

Adoption owner name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species of adopted animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex & description: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sterilization must be completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proof of sterilization by : \_\_\_\_\_  
Adoption fee received prior to possession: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to have my adopted pet sterilized by the date required above and I understand this pet must receive a rabies vaccination if age appropriate prior to taking possession. I agree to provide proof of sterilization with thirty (30) days of today's date, if the animal is sexually mature; or within 30 days after the animal reaches six months of age, if the animal is not sexually mature at the time of adoption. I have never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment. I further understand that I hold the County of Patrick, Virginia harmless from liability for any actions of this animal relating to damages, injuries, or litigation, past present, or future.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of adopting owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Releasing Agency signature

## Sterilization Confirmation

Adoption owner(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption owner(s) address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex and description of adopted animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Sterilization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXOTIC ANIMALS ORDINANCE  
OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Patrick, held at the Patrick County Administration Building thereof on Monday, May 10, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., after having been duly advertised for adoption as provided by law following public notification of same, on motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board does hereby adopt the following Exotic Animals Ordinance:

**Sec. 3-5. Prohibition of keeping or exhibiting of wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animals within the county.**

For the purpose of this article the definition of an exotic animal shall mean any live monkey (nonhuman primate), raccoon, skunk, wolf, wolf-canine hybrid, squirrel, fox, nondomesticated porcine, leopard, tiger, lion, panther, or any other warm blooded animal, venomous reptile, to include, but not limited to coral snakes, rattle snakes, copperhead snakes, cottonmouth snakes, vipers and cobras, sea snakes, gila monsters, Mexican beaded lizards, or nonvenomous reptiles six (6) feet or longer in length which can normally be found in the wild, all constrictor type snakes six (6) feet or longer, poisonous arachnids to include, but not limited to: Black Widow spiders, Brown Recluse spiders, scorpions, poisonous amphibians to include but not limited to poison arrow frogs, or any member of the crocodilian family, including, but not limited to alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials, or any other animal that would require a standard of care and control greater than that required for customary household pets sold by commercial pet shops, or domestic farm animals. Ferrets and birds which are normally purchased through pet stores, nonpoisonous reptiles less than six (6) feet in length, domestic rabbits, domestic rodents which have been bred in captivity and which never have known the wild shall be excluded from the definitions of wild and exotic animals.

**Definition of Owner: A person who:**

1. Has a right of property in an animal;
2. Keeps or harbors an animal;
3. Has an animal in his/her care;
4. Acts as a custodian of an animal; or,
5. Any person who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about the premises occupied by him.

The term wild animal means any warm-blooded animal that can normally be found in the wild state.

The term poisonous and/or venomous animal shall mean any animal, fowl, reptile, or amphibian that causes injury, illness, or death by chemical means.

**1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or exhibit or permit to be kept or exhibited upon any property within the county limits any wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal without a permit from the animal control officer. In no case, however, shall any such wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal(s) be exhibited, displayed, or kept in such a manner so as to permit said animal(s) to escape, be at large, or to otherwise come in direct physical contact with any person unless under the direct care and control of the handler.**

**The provisions of this section shall not apply to:**

- a. Institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)**
- b. Registered nonprofit humane societies**
- c. Animal control officers or law enforcement officers acting under the authority of this act.**
- d. Veterinary hospitals or clinics.**
- e. Any wildlife rehabilitator licensed by the state.**
- f. Any wildlife sanctuary as defined under this act.**
- g. Any licensed or accredited research or medical institution.**
- h. Any licensed or accredited educational institution.**
- i. Any circus, rodeo, or trade-show.**
- j. A person temporarily transporting an exotic animal through the county if the transit time is not more than forty-eight (48) hours and the animal is at all times maintained within a confinement sufficient to prevent the exotic animal from escaping.**

**2. The owner of any wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal shall apply to the animal control officer within ten (10) working days for a permit, or in the case of an exhibition ten (10) working days prior to the exhibition, for a permit authorizing the keeping of said animal within the county limits. Each applicant for a wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal permit shall by affidavit and/or supporting written documentation provide the following:**

- a. Name and street address of each owner(s)/custodian(s), eighteen (18) years of age or older;**
- b. Location of animal(s) storage facility;**
- c. The common and scientific name of the subject animal(s);**
- d. The date of acquisition of each animal;**
- e. The source of acquisition of each;**

- f. The sex, age, height, and/or length of each animal;
- g. Any identifying marks or numbers unique to each animal;
- h. A statement of understanding signed by the owner(s)/custodian(s) concerning human exposures in relation to the current state and local laws involving rabies control;
- i. Verifiable documentation the animal was brought into the country legally. Proof the animal was purchased from a reputable dealer or pet store may constitute sufficient proof. The animal control officer has final authority in determining what constitutes sufficient proof.
- j. A current veterinarian's certificate the animal is disease free.
- k. The current phone number and street address of owner(s)/custodian(s) and animal(s), if storage location differs from residence of owner(s)/custodian(s).
- l. At least one (1) emergency phone number where owner(s)/custodian(s) can be contacted in case of emergency.
- m. Proof the owner has a secure pen, cage, or enclosure of sufficient size and strength to provide adequate shelter for the animal and to reasonably protect the public.
- n. Where required by Section 29.1-542 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended a copy of the special permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

3. The permit shall not be transferable and shall be valid through December 31 of the year of issue and shall be renewed by January 31 of each subsequent year. Permits for temporary exhibit shall be valid for the time period specified in the permit. One (1) permit per address will be required with the county. On the permit shall be listed each animal held within the county limits as identified in subsection (b). The county's wild, exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal permit shall be required in addition to any required federal or state permits. Information supplied on such permit shall be provided to relevant county departments as notification for public health and safety purposes. No permit for an exotic animal will be issued by the Patrick County Animal Control Officer unless all required special permits from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for wolves, coyotes or birds or animals otherwise classified by the commission as predatory or undesirable have been obtained by the owner or custodian of the exotic animal. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or custodian of the exotic animal to provide a valid copy of the special permit to the animal control department at the time the request for local exotic animal permit is made.

- 4. It shall be unlawful to release, or permit to be released, any wild,

exotic, venomous, or poisonous animal(s) into the wild.

5. The initial fee to cover the cost of the permit issuance shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per address. A charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be collected for annual permit renewal, the adding of additional animals to an existing permit, or the duplication of an existing permit.

6. It shall be unlawful for any person to furnish false information for the purpose of obtaining a permit pursuant to subsection (2). Any permit obtained under fraudulent pretenses shall be null and void with any animals named thereon subject to impoundment by an animal control officer pending a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction as to the appropriate disposition of said animal(s). Upon redemption of the animal, the owner shall pay impoundment and boarding fees and covering all county costs, plus any additional cost for medical care or treatment.

7. Any person applying for a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit shall provide evidence of surety bond or liability insurance or bond in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), which covers incidences or occurrences involving the wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animals.

8. The animal control officer or his designee may reject an application for a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit, renewal of a permit, or the addition of an animal to an existing permit for any of the following reasons:

- a. Failure to comply with or supply any information required in subsection (2); or
- b. Falsification of any information required in subsection (2); or
- c. Previous or current violations of any provisions of this section; or
- d. Previous or current violations of any local, state, or federal law relating to animals; or
- e. The history or demonstration of a vicious or dangerous nature of an animal.

9. The animal control officer or his designee may revoke a wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal permit and impound the animal(s) for any of the following reasons:

- a. Failure to comply with the terms of this section; or
- b. Falsification of any information required in subsection (2); or
- c. Violation of any local, state, or federal law applicable to animals.

10. The permittee shall post a placard approved by the animal control officer in an area of public view on any premises, building, or structure where the wild, exotic, venomous or poisonous animal is kept or housed. Failure to post the placard shall be a violation of this section.

11. The owner of a dangerous animal shall notify the town manager of the death or removal from the town of the dangerous animal, and shall provide this notice within ten (10) days of the death or removal.

12. The owner of a dangerous animal shall notify the town manager immediately upon the escape of the dangerous animal from the owner's premises or from the means of constraints there in use.

13. The owner of any exotic or poisonous animal found to be running at large off of the owner's property shall reimburse the county for its actual costs incurred, including without limitation the actual cost of the time expended by the animal warden, deputy animal warden, or other county personnel, in locating and capturing or otherwise disposing of the animal.

#### **Sec. 4-81. Penalty**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Each day of a violation of this article shall continue as a separate offense.

#### **Sec. 4-82. Enforcement**

The provisions of this article shall be enforced by the animal warden.

#### **Sec. 4-83. Disposal of wild, exotic, or vicious animals.**

Any person who owns a wild, exotic, or vicious animal(s) not permitted in accordance with this article shall dispose of the animal(s) by removal of the animal(s) from the county, by giving or selling the animal(s) to a zoological park, or by releasing the animal(s) to the animal warden. The animal warden is authorized to release the animal to the wild, to a zoological park, or to a responsible adult, or euthanize the animal, if the circumstances warrant.

**Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young**

**Voting Nay: None**