

MOTION

To amend Ordinance No. 2023-130 as follows:

Page 1, Line 18

After the comma following the word “wild”, insert the text “except birds legally removed from the wild under authorization of a federal or state agency” followed by a comma

Page 2, Line 4

At the beginning of the line, strike the word “and”

After the word “rats”, insert a comma followed by the text “non-venomous reptiles, amphibians, and fish”

Page 2, Line 9

After the word “for”, insert the text “individuals, organizations” followed by a comma

Page 2, Line 10

After the word “are”, strike the word “property” and insert the word “properly”

Page 2, Line 11

After the word “licensed”, insert the text “or permitted”

Page 2, Line 12

After the word “the”, strike the word “department” and insert the word “Department”

Page 2, Line 13

After the word “animal”, strike the comma and the following text “except that persons holding a Category I, II, or III Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and applicable state law”

Page 2, Line 16

After the comma following the word “Richmond”, insert the word “or”

Page 2, Line 17

At the beginning of the line, strike the text “giving or selling” and insert the word “relinquishing”

After the comma following the word “park”, strike the text “or by releasing the animal to”

Page 2, Line 18

After the word “Department”, strike the text “which shall release the animal to the wild, to a zoological park” and the following comma

Page 2, Line 19

After the word “licensed”, insert the text “or permitted”

Page 3, Line 6

After the first occurrence of the inserted word “the”, strike the inserted word “department” and insert the word “Department”

INTRODUCED: April 24, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-130

As Amended

To amend ch. 4, art. IV, div. 3 of the City Code by adding therein a new section 4-401, concerning exotic and wild animals.

Patrons – Mayor Stoney and President Jones

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAY 8 2023 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Chapter 4, Article IV, Division 3 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) be and hereby is amended and reordained by **adding therein a new section** numbered 4-401 as follows:

Sec. 4-401. Exotic and wild animals.

(a) For purposes of this section, the term “exotic or wild animal” means any live monkey (non-human primate), raccoon, opossum, skunk, wolf, coyote, squirrel, fox, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx, caracal, bobcat, bear or any other warm-blooded animal which can normally be found in the wild, except birds legally removed from the wild under authorization of

AYES: 7 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JUL 24 2023 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

a federal or state agency, as well as any venomous or poisonous reptile or amphibian or any member of the crocodilian family, including but not limited to, alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gavials. Ferrets, rabbits, chinchillas, sugar gliders, hedgehogs, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice, ~~[and]~~ rats, non-venomous reptiles, amphibians, and fish that have been in captivity and that have never known the wild and domestically bred or legally imported birds, non-venomous reptiles, amphibians, and fish shall not constitute “exotic or wild animals.”

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, breed, purchase, sell, offer for purchase or sale, keep, maintain, or have in such person’s possession or in such person’s control any exotic or wild animal in the city, except for individuals, organizations, zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, circuses, wildlife rehabilitators, or veterinary clinics that are ~~[properly]~~ properly licensed or permitted by the federal government or state government or unless that person previously has obtained a permit issued by the ~~[department]~~ Department for such exotic or wild animal~~[, except that persons holding a Category I, II, or III Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and applicable state law].~~

(c) Any person who keeps an exotic or wild animal in contravention of this section may dispose of the animal by removing the animal permanently from the city of Richmond, or by ~~[giving or selling]~~ relinquishing the animal to a zoological park, ~~[or by releasing the animal to]~~ the Department, ~~[which shall release the animal to the wild, to a zoological park,]~~ or other entity approved for the care and protection of the particular species and that is properly licensed or permitted by the federal government or the state government.

(d) This ordinance shall not apply to employees of federal and state wildlife management agencies, or to employees of private wildlife control companies permitted by the

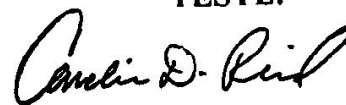
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to possess wild animals while acting in their official capacities.

(e) The owner of a venomous or poisonous reptile or amphibian whose ownership or maintenance began on or before the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section shall be permitted to maintain any such animal, provided, however, that such owner registers such animal with the ~~[department]~~ Department on forms provided by the Director as required by this subsection. In the case of a person who (i) was the owner of such an animal on or before the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section and (ii) has kept or maintained such animal in the city on or before the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section, such person shall register the animal in accordance with this subsection within 180 days after the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section. In the case of a person who, (i) on or before the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section, (a) was the owner of such an animal and (b) resided in another jurisdiction and (ii) first keeps or maintains any such animal in the city after the effective date of the ordinance providing for this section, such person shall register the animal in accordance with this subsection within 180 days after the date on which the owner first kept or maintained such animal in the city.

[(e)] (f) Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camille D. Reed".

City Clerk



2023-060

Richmond Animal Care & Control

O&R REQUEST

DATE: January 24, 2023

EDITION 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

THROUGH: Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Robert C Steidel

Digitally signed by Robert C Steidel
Date: 2023.01.27 17:13:31 -05'00'

FROM: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Animal Care & Control

RE: Create new City Code Sec. 4-401 which concerns exotic and wild animals

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to create Section 4-401 of the Richmond City Code, ownership and prohibition of exotic and wild animals.

REASON: The City of Richmond does not have an ordinance allowing or prohibiting certain exotic or wild animals. The requested code will be keeping the practices and procedures of Richmond Animal Care and Control in alignment with industry best practices while prioritizing the safety and welfare of residents and responders.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

BACKGROUND: The City of Richmond does not have an exotic or wildlife code.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: None at this time.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None at this time.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: March 13, 2023

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: March 27, 2023

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent Agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Governmental Operations Standing Committee

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Richmond Animal Care & Control

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): None

ATTACHMENTS: Requested text for new Richmond City Code Sec. 4-401

STAFF: Christie Chipps Peters, Director, RACC x5740