

TOWN OF SOMERSET
EXOTIC ANIMAL ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 2006 - _____

SECTION 1 - TITLE/PURPOSE

The Title of this Ordinance is the Town of Somerset Exotic Animal Ordinance. The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the public against the health and safety risks that exotic animals pose to the community. By their very nature, exotic animals are wild and potentially dangerous and do not adjust well to a captive environment.

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY

The Town Board has the specific authority under ss. 29.038, 169.01, Wis stats and the general authority under its Village Powers under ss. 60.22, Wis stats to adopt this Ordinance.

SECTION 3 – ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The Town Board, by this Ordinance, adopted on proper notice with a quorum and roll call vote by a majority of the Town Board present and voting, provides the authority for the Town to regulate possession of exotic animals within the Town.

SECTION 4 – DEFINITIONS

- A. "Exotic Animal" means any living member of the kingdom Animalia, including those born or raised in captivity, except the following, to which this ordinance does not apply:
1. The species *Homo sapiens* (humans);
 2. The species *Canis familiaris* (domestic dogs, excluding hybrids with wolves, coyotes, or jackals);
 3. The species *Felis catus* (domestic cats, excluding hybrids with ocelots or margays);
 4. The species *Equus caballus* (domestic horses);
 5. The species *Equus asinus* (asses, donkeys);
 6. The following members of the sub-family Bovine: the species *Bos Taurus* (cattle), the genus *Bison* (American Buffalo), and the genus *Bubalus* (water buffalo);
 7. The species *Ovis ammon aries* (sheep);
 8. The species *Capra hircus* (goats);
 9. The subspecies *Sus scrofa domestica* (swine);
 10. Domesticated races of the species *Gallus gallus* or *Meleagris gallapavo* (poultry);
 11. Domesticated races of the species *Mesocricetus auratus* (golden hamsters);
 12. Domesticated races of the subspecies *Cavia aperea procellus* (guinea pigs);
 13. Domesticated races of rats and mice (white or albino, trained, laboratory reared);
 14. Domesticated races of the species *Chinchillas laniger* (chinchillas);
 15. Domesticated races of the species *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (rabbits);

16. Domesticated species of the family Camelid (including camels, llamas, and alpacas);
17. All captive-bred members of the species of the families Psittacidae (parrots, parakeets), Anatidae (ducks), Fringillidae (finches), Columbidae (doves and pigeons), and Ratite (flightless birds, including ostriches, emus, and rheas);
18. All captive-bred members of the species *Serinus canaria* of the class Aves (canaries);
19. Domesticated races of the species *Carassius auratus* (goldfish);
20. Captive-bred members of the superorder Teleostei of the class Osteichthyes (common freshwater and salt-water aquarium fish);
21. Captive-bred, non-poisonous members of the suborder Serpentes (snakes);
22. Captive-bred members of the suborder Cryptodira (turtles);
23. All species of the class Insecta (insects) not considered life-threatening to humans, specifically including, but not limited to, *Apis mellifera* (common honeybee);
24. All species of the class Arachnida (spiders, scorpions, and related) not considered life-threatening to humans.

SECTION 5 - PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED EXOTIC ANIMALS

- A. Ownership or possession of the following Exotic Animals is prohibited in the Town of Somerset:
 1. Family Canidae, other than *Canis familiaris* (domestic dogs);
 2. Family Felidae, other than *Felis catus* (domestic cats);
 3. Family Ursidae (bears, including hybrids);
 4. Family Mustelidae (wolverines);
 5. Family Hyaenidae (hyenas);
 6. Order Primates (monkeys, apes, etc.);
 7. Order Proboscidea, Family Elephantidae (elephants);
 8. Order Perissodactyla, Family Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceroses);
 9. Order Artiodactyla, Family Suidae (warhogs) and Family Hippopotamidae (hippopotamuses);
 10. Order Crocodylia (crocodiles, alligators, and caimans);
 11. Venomous reptiles, including all members of the following families:
 - a. Helodermae (gila monsters and Mexican beaded lizards);
 - b. Viperidae vipers;
 - c. Crotalidae (pit vipers);
 - d. Hydrophilidae (sea snakes);
 - e. Elapidae (cobras, coral snakes, and related); and
 - f. Any rear-fanged snakes of the family Colubridae that are known to be life-threatening to humans, including but not limited to the following:
 - i. *Dispholidus typus* (boomslang);
 - ii. *Thebtonis kirtlandii* (twig snake); and
 - iii. *Rhabdophis* (keelbacks).
 12. Order Squamata, Family Boidae (Boa, Python and related)
 13. Any species of the class Insecta (insects) considered life-threatening to humans in general;
 14. Any species of the class Arachnida (spiders, scorpions, and related) considered life-threatening to humans in general;
 15. Any species of the genera *Catoprion*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, *Rooseveltiella*, *Serrasalmus*, *Serrasalmo*, and *Taddeya* of the superorder Teleostei of the class Osteichthyes (piranhas).
- B. Anyone bringing into The Town of Somerset after the effective date of this ordinance a prohibited Exotic Animal as defined in paragraph A of this section shall remove the Exotic Animal from the Town of Somerset within seven calendar days of the discovery of the

Exotic Animal or face the possibility of immediate seizure of the prohibited Exotic Animal and a fine for each Exotic Animal of \$1,000.00 plus \$250 per day for each day the Exotic Animal is in the custody of the Town of Somerset, plus any additional costs to the Town that may arise in connection with seizure of the Exotic Animal.

Section 6 – EXCEPTIONS

- A. This ordinance does not apply to the following:
1. Wildlife rehabilitators licensed by a state or federal agency;
 2. Veterinary clinics in possession of Exotic Animals for treatment or rehabilitation purposes;
 3. Nonresident circuses, carnivals or traveling fairs for no longer than one seven-day period, per each separate location where such circus is held within the Town of Somerset per calendar year;
 4. Persons temporarily transporting Exotic Animals through the Town of Somerset, provided that such transport time shall not exceed 24 hours.

SECTION 7 – SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or application of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION 8 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance is effective on publication.

The town clerk shall properly publish this Ordinance as required under s. 60.80 Wis. Stats.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 20__.

Ed Schachtner (Chairman) _____

Denise Gunderson _____

Douglas Plourde _____

Shane Demulling _____

Lenny Germain _____

Attest: Jeri Koester (Town Clerk) _____