

**REGULATIONS FOR THE POSSESSION, SALE,
AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS BELONGING
TO THE ZOOLOGICAL ORDER CARNIVORA
OTHER THAN THE DOMESTIC FERRET, DOG, AND CAT
AND MAINTENANCE OF OTHER WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMALS**

Be it ordained by the New Hanover County Board of Health that the following regulations are hereby adopted, pursuant to authority granted by Chapter 130 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and shall apply throughout New Hanover County for the possession, sale, and distribution of animals belonging to the zoological order *Carnivore* other than the domestic ferret, dog, and cat, and the maintenance of other wild or exotic animals.

Section 1. Possession, Sale, and Distribution of Animals Belonging to the Zoological Order *Carnivore* other than the Domestic Ferret, Dog, or Cat Unlawful. It shall be unlawful in New Hanover County to possess, sell, distribute, trade, barter, exchange, adopt, or give animals belonging to the zoological order *Carnivore* other than the domestic ferret, dog, and cat. These animals shall include, but are not limited to foxes, raccoons, skunks, weasels, mink, otters, bobcats, civet cats, margays, ocelots, golden cats, fishing cats, leopard cats, cheetahs, lynxes, cougars, leopards, jaguars, wolves, coyotes, dingoes, and hybrids resulting from crossbreeding domestic dogs with wolves, coyotes, and dingoes, except as follows:

- (1) Institutions registered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture pursuant to the Animal welfare Act, as amended, the North Carolina Zoological Park, and other zoological Park Council may possess these animals. Dealers licensed pursuant to the Act may distribute or sell such animals to these parks and institutions.
- (2) A person in possession of a carnivore included in this regulation on October 1, 1987, may continue to possess the animal, if, by January 1, 1988, the person obtains a permit from the Animal Control Division of the New Hanover County Health Department. To obtain a permit for each animal in possession, the person shall submit the following information:
 - a) The person's name, address, and telephone number.
 - b) Location of where the carnivore will be maintained.
 - c) Number of carnivores in possession on October 1, 1987, and
 - d) Statements from a licensed veterinarian that each carnivore has been spayed or neutered.

All permits issued pursuant to this subsection are nontransferable, and shall expire at the death of the animal. Upon the death of the animal, the Animal Control Division must be notified.

- (3) A licensed veterinarian may have in possession any of the aforementioned carnivores for the sole purpose of providing veterinary services.

Section 2. Other Wild or Exotic Animals, Maintenance Of. Employees of the Animal Control Division of the New Hanover County Health Department shall have the right to inspect the premises where any animals commonly categorized as wild or exotic are to be kept to determine if the animal may be kept or maintained without menacing the health and safety of any persons or property. In furtherance of such goals, The Board of Health may require that any such animals be caged or secured, and may, after due notice, make additional rules regulating the keeping of these animals.

Section 3. Animal control officers are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section and shall have the right of entry pursuant to G.S. S130A-17 for this purpose.

Section 4. This act shall be effective the first day of February 1994.