

ORDINANCE 08-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HAHIRA ANIMALS REGULATIONS ARTICLE I, IN GENERAL

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira, Georgia that the City of Hahira Animals Regulations Article I, In General, is hereby amended, as follows:

Sec. 14-1. Definitions.

Wild or Exotic Animal means any animal of a species prohibited by Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, or otherwise controlled by the State of Georgia. It shall include any animal which is wild, fierce, dangerous, noxious or naturally inclined to do harm. "Wild animals," however domesticated, shall also include but not be limited to:

Dog family (Canidea): all except domesticated dogs, including wolf, fox, coyote, dingo, wolf hybrids, etc.

Cat family (Felidea): all except commonly accepted domestic cats, including lions, pumas, panthers, mountain lions, leopards, jaguars, ocelots, margays, tigers, wild cats, etc.

Bears (Ursidea): all bears, including grizzly bears, brown bears, black bears, etc.

Weasels (Mustelidea): all, including weasels, martens, mink, wolverine, ferrets, badgers, otters, ermine, mongoose, etc.

Raccoons (Procynnidae): all raccoons and civets.

Porcupine (Erethizontidae): all porcupines.

Skunks.

Snakes: all venomous and constricting snakes.

Venomous lizards.

Crocodillians: all alligators, caimans, crocodiles, gavials, etc.

Venomous fish and piranha.

Sec. 14-2. Dangerous, Vicious, Wild or Exotic animals.

- (a) Except as provided in Sec. 14-3, it shall be unlawful for any owner to have any dangerous, vicious, wild or exotic animal of any kind within the city.
- (b) The police officers of the city shall be authorized to use such force as is necessary to prevent any such dangerous or vicious animal from causing harm to any person or property.
- (c) Any dangerous, vicious, wild or exotic animal found within the City limits shall result in a fine to the owner of \$250 upon discovery of such animal. Each additional day during which the animal remains in the City shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.

State law references: Injuries or damage done by animal, O.C.G.A. § 51-2-6 et seq.

Sec. 14-3 Pre-existing ownership or possession of exotic animals

- A. Any owner having pre-existing ownership or possession of any Exotic Animal shall be permitted to continue to possess said animal(s) within the city provided that within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this ordinance, the owner registers said animal(s) as provided in Sec. 14-4.
- B. Failure to commence the permit/registration process for a pre-existing Exotic Animal within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this ordinance shall be governed by Sec. 14-2.

Sec. 14-4 Permit/registration process for pre-existing exotic animals.

- A. Payment of the nonrefundable permit fee of \$_____ per Exotic Animal shall constitute the beginning of the permit/registration process. Any other cost incurred during this permit/registration process shall be the responsibility of the owner or possessor of the Exotic Animal. All permit fees shall be waived for owners or possessors of pre-existing Exotic Animals, provided the owner or possessor 1) commences the permit/registration process within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this ordinance and 2) completes the list of restrictions associated with the permit/registration process no later than 90 days from the beginning of the permit/registration process, unless extended by the police chief.
- B. Applicants shall submit a permit application on a form to be provided by the City police department. Applicants beginning the permit/registration process for an Exotic Animal shall be given a list of restrictions that must be in place before a permit will be issued.
- C. Restrictions for the issuance of a permit for an Exotic Animal shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. Proof of insurance coverage with a minimum of \$1,000,000 per claim to compensate any person for personal injury or property damage caused by the Exotic Animal, or in lieu of insurance, a surety bond posted with the city manager in the same amount, conditioned upon payment of such damages.
 - 2. At the direction of City of Hahira police chief or fire chief, installation of permanent signage at all points of entry to the property in question to identify the

- presence of the Exotic Animal to any law enforcement or emergency personnel having valid reason to enter the property.
3. Required signage shall consist of a minimum size of three (3) square feet and shall at a minimum identify the following in reflective letters of a contrasting color as to be easily read on the background of the sign:
 - i. The word “Warning” in all capitals at least four (4) inches high;
 - ii. The common name of the Exotic Animal;
 - iii. The location on the property of the Exotic Animal; and
 - iv. The potential danger posed by the Exotic Animal (biting, clawing, venom, constriction, kicking, etc.)
 4. Implantation by a city-approved veterinarian of a microchip under the skin of the Exotic Animal to aid in identification, or approval by a city-approved veterinarian of a previously implanted microchip. The veterinarian can be chosen by the owner or possessor of the Exotic Animal if so approved by the City police chief, or can be referred to the owner or possessor by the police chief upon request.
 5. Obtaining from a city-approved veterinarian a health certificate detailing the health and condition of the Exotic Animal.
 6. Written emergency response plan, approved by the police chief, in the event of any escape of the Exotic Animal, including a paragraph detailing owner or possessor’s understanding and agreement that if the escaped Exotic Animal poses any immediate danger whatsoever to life, limb, or property (other than property of the Exotic Animal owner), then it may be destroyed at that time by law enforcement officers, emergency responders, or any citizen having the means to do so. This emergency response plan shall be signed by the owner and notarized.
 7. All Exotic Animals shall be housed in facilities designed with the characteristics and potential dangers of the particular Exotic Animal in mind.

D. Issuance of a permit

1. When the Exotic Animal owner or possessor has completed the list of restrictions, but no later than 90 days from the beginning of the permit/registration process, unless extended by the police chief, the owner shall contact and arrange for an initial inspection by police chief or his designated representative, which shall not unreasonably delay this initial inspection.
2. When the police chief or his representative has conducted his initial inspection and found the list of restrictions to have been completed in a satisfactory manner, it shall issue the permit to the owner or possessor of the Exotic Animal.
3. The initial term of this permit shall be one (1) year.
4. This permit shall be renewable every year for the lesser of the life of the Exotic Animal or the length of its residency in the City, upon payment of the \$_____ permit renewal fee and satisfactory completion of a follow-up inspection by police chief of the facility housing the Exotic Animal.
5. This permit shall be presented for renewal prior to the expiration of the current term; otherwise, the permit is considered expired.
6. Any owner or possessor of an Exotic Animal and an expired permit for that Exotic Animal shall be in violation of this ordinance, and the owner or possessor shall face the possibility of immediate seizure of the Exotic Animal and the imposition of a fine of \$250 per day for each day the Exotic Animal is in the custody of the City, plus any additional costs to the county that may arise in connection with seizure of the Exotic Animal.

E. A permit holder shall correct within seven (7) calendar days any defects that may arise in connection with that permit or face seizure of the Exotic Animal and a fine of \$250.00 per day for each day the Exotic Animal is in the custody of the City, plus any additional costs to the City that may arise in connection with seizure of the Exotic Animal.

SIGNED:

Wayne Bullard, Mayor

Date

ATTEST :

Diane Bellflower, Clerk

EXOTIC ANIMAL PERMIT/REGISTRATION

Owner Information:

Owner Name: _____ DOB: _____ SS# or Driver Lic.# _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ Cell/Pager: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of business: (name & address) _____

Secondary Owner Name: _____ DOB: _____ SS#/Driver Lic.# _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ Cell/Pager: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of business: (name & address) _____

Animal Information:

Species: _____ Breed: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____

Description: _____ Name: _____

Microchip #: _____ Any distinguishing marks: _____

Location of animal's containment: _____

Type of containment: _____

Veterinarian name, address, & phone: _____

Special needs of animal: _____

Are you the original owner of this animal? Yes No If "No" who was the previous owner and or where was the animal obtained?

Have you owned this animal while residing in another county/state? Yes No

If "Yes" where? _____

Upon researching the background of this animal will there be any reports of escapes or attacks? Yes No

If yes, what were the circumstances: _____

Are there children that reside at the location of this animal? Yes No

Name/Ages: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Should you be out of town for any reason, who would be the primary caretaker of this animal in your absence?

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Two (2) Phone #'s: _____

As stated in Section 14-4 of the City of Hahira Exotic Animal Ordinance there is a requirement of proof of insurance coverage with a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 per claim to compensate for personal injury or property damage done by this animal. Please complete the information below.

Insurance Carrier: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Policy number: _____

Amount of coverage: _____

Also stated in Section 14-4. of the City of Hahira Exotic Animal Ordinance there is an option of a surety bond, in lieu of the insurance policy, to be posted with the county manager in the same amount, conditioned upon payment of such damages. If this is the option you chose please sign below. The city manager can be reached at (229-794-2330) to make an appointment for this transaction. This must be done promptly after registration is completed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The permit/registration fee is \$ _____ per Exotic Animal. This fee should be made payable to the City of Hahira. You will receive a copy of the exotic animal ordinance, along with a list of restrictions. These restrictions must be completed no later than 90 days from payment of the registration fee, unless this time is extended by the police chief. You must contact the City of Hahira Police Chief to arrange for an initial inspection once the restrictions are completed.

Please read and sign the following registration agreement.

I, the owner or possessor of said animal in this registration, have read and understand the following:

In the event that this animal should escape its confines, I understand that if the escaped Exotic Animal should pose any immediate danger whatsoever to life, limb, or property, other than my own property, then it may be destroyed at that time by any law enforcement officer, emergency and fire responders, or citizen having the means to do so.

I understand the procedures set forth in the Exotic Animal Ordinance and will follow these regulations.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____

Permit Fee \$ _____ Paid by: _____ Check# _____ Cash _____