

INFORMATION PAPER



January 29, 2020
Planning, Building and Development
Eric Waggoner, Director

SUBJ: PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS FOR ANIMAL EXHIBITIONS IN UNINCORPORATED LAKE COUNTY

Summary:

In September 2019, following discussion at the Public Works, Planning and Transportation Committee, the Committee gave direction to staff to draft proposed ordinance amendments regulating entertainment-oriented animal exhibitions in unincorporated Lake County.

Background:

- It is recognized that there is inherent value in wildlife and animal welfare and that non-domesticated animals have specific biological requirements best met in their natural habitat. Further, holding non-domesticated animals in captivity necessarily raises concerns regarding diminished welfare.
- Animals used for entertainment purposes may be at increased risk of abusive training and excessive confinement, and harm to the public, especially when part of traveling shows. Local and state government faces more challenges to ensure that exhibition animals are treated properly due to the temporary nature of traveling shows.
- Since state statute does not allow for an outright ban on animal exhibitions, staff has drafted a series of text amendments that would regulate the use of animals for entertainment purposes by requiring that all exhibition animals to be used have to be permanently housed on site. The draft exempts animal exhibitions for educational and agricultural purposes from this requirement.

Analysis:

- The proposed draft amendments create a new “animal exhibition use” that incorporate all animal shows, racetracks, and animal exhibitions into a single use category.
- The current regulations for animal racetracks are utilized as a template for this “animal exhibition use” category. Highlights of the use standards include the following:
 - Allowed only in Recreational Commercial zoning district with non-delegated Conditional Use Permit (CUP).
 - May only be sited on location comprised of a minimum 20 acres.
 - All facilities for housing and maintaining other animals will be required to meet any/all conditions specified in the CUP.
- Agriculture Exempt/Agriculture education uses and science-based animal education/rehabilitation uses would be exempted from animal exhibitions.

Way Ahead:

Following PWPT Committee discussion on January 29, 2019, PB&D staff will seek direction on next steps prior to finalizing any amendments for consideration by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Attachment: EXHIBIT A: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 151

COORDINATION & ALIGNMENT	Staff Coordination	Strategic Initiatives			2019 Strategic Goals					2019 Strategic Themes									
	✓ CAO ✓ PB&D	X							X		X								
		Regional Leadership	Fiscal Responsibility	Exceptional Service and Operational Excellence	Public Safety & Justice	Econ. Opportunities	Infrastructure	Sustainable Enviro.	Build Healthy Communities	Inter-Org. Coop.	Quality of Life	Econ. Development	Infrastructure	Enviro. Sustain.	Sustainability	County Branding	Mental Health	Specialty Funding	Diversity & Inclusion