

BILL NO. G-15-07-01

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. G- _____

**GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING §91.036 OF
CHAPTER 91 ANIMAL CONTROL, OF THE CITY OF
FORT WAYNE CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF FORT
WAYNE, INDIANA, CODE OF ORDINANCES:**

SECTION 1. That §91.036 of Chapter 91: ANIMAL CONTROL, of the
City of Fort Wayne, Indiana Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows

§91.036 WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMALS.

Ownership, possession, or maintenance of a wild animal indigenous to the state
of Indiana is prohibited. No other wild or exotic animal shall be owned,
possessed, or maintained within the city without all required federal and state
permits.

SECTION 2. That §91.036 of Chapter 91 of the Fort Wayne Municipal Code
shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and any and all necessary
approval by the Mayor.

Council Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Carol Helton, City Attorney

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91.036 OF CHAPTER 91 ANIMAL CONTROL, OF
THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE CODE OF
ORDINANCES.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF FORT
WAYNE, INDIANA, CODE OF ORDINANCES:**

SECTION 1. That Section 91.036 of Chapter 91: ANIMAL CONTROL, of
the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows

§ 91.036 WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMALS.

**Ownership, possession, or maintenance of a wild animal indigenous to the
state of Indiana is prohibited. No other wild or exotic animal shall be owned,
possessed, or maintained within the city without all required federal and
state permits.**

~~— No Wild or Exotic Animal shall be owned, kept or maintained within the City
without all required federal and state Permits.~~



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

Animal Care & Control

July 7, 2015

To: Members of Common Council

From: Belinda Lewis, Director
Animal Care and Control

Subject: City Ordinance Wildlife Possession Amendment

The DNR recently identified an inability to regulate wildlife in Indiana due to court action removing their authority to do so. While we currently prohibit dangerous exotic wildlife by ordinance, our local indigenous wildlife are not specifically addressed in the ordinance as they were previously covered by the DNR regulatory system. Those animals (raccoons, foxes, skunks, coyotes, deer, squirrels, rabbits, etc.) have historically presented a much more frequent public health, safety, or animal welfare issue due to their volume and availability in our area.

This amendment provides the city the necessary tools to intervene when animals have been inappropriately removed from the wild and are being held in captivity. The need to attend to this quickly is the unanticipated regulatory "no man's land" that was created for wildlife in our state with this ruling. Our most common safety risk in Fort Wayne involves human bite exposures of rabies carrier wild animals that require testing.

The DNR will continue to issue permits to trained Wildlife Rehabilitators and Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators so those resources will remain available to our agency as well as private citizens who need their assistance.

Thank you for your consideration,
Belinda Lewis

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