

ORDINANCE NUMBER: _____

AMENDING CHAPTER 3

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES I AND III OF CHAPTER 3 OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY CODE ENTITLED “ANIMALS”

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, that:

Section 1. Article I of Chapter 3 of the Charlotte City Code is amended as follows:

“Sec. 3-3. - Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

...

Bullhook means a tool or device, also known as an elephant goad or an ankus, used in handling and training elephants, consisting of a spike, hook or combination thereof, attached to a shaft or handle.

...

Electric prod means any device that delivers an electric shock to control or affect animal behavior.

...

Whip means a strip of leather, length of cord or other similar material used to control or affect animal behavior.”

Section 2. Article III of Chapter 3 of the Charlotte City Code is amended as follows:

“Sec. 3-73. – Exotic or wild animals.

...

(f) *Handling*. The handling of exotic or wild animals exempted from subsection (a) of this section by subsection (b) of this section must meet the regulations promulgated by the state wildlife commission, the minimum standards under the Animal Welfare Act and all applicable rules promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture. In addition to meeting these minimum standards, no permanent or transient animal exhibition or circus shall induce or encourage animals to perform through the use of chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual devices in a manner that is likely to cause physical injury or suffering. Further, the use of bullhooks, electric prods, or whips or other devices to handle, train, or otherwise interact with elephants, felines, and primates when they are on display, performing or being trained is prohibited. All equipment used on a performing animal shall fit properly and be in good working condition. An animal control officer shall be authorized to inspect the premises at any time on demand.”

Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective July 1, 2022.

Approved as to form

City Attorney