

## Legislation Text

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File #: 15-12910, Version: 1

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### Amend Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 - Animals

#### **Action:**

- A. Receive public comment on proposed amendments to the City of Charlotte Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 - Animals, and**
- B. Adopt an ordinance amending City of Charlotte Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 - Animals.**

#### **Staff Resource(s):**

Patrick Baker, City Attorney's Office  
Johnny Jennings, Police  
Joshua Fisher, Police

#### **Current Ordinance**

- In the City of Charlotte Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 - Animals, one of the stated purposes of this chapter is "the protection of animals from abuse or conditions harmful to their well-being."
- The section on Exotic or Wild Animals has not been updated since 1985. The current provisions include:
  - Defining exotic and wild animals,
  - Restraint requirements, and
  - Establishing who can possess these types of animals.
- To address recent concerns over the treatment of circus animals, adding provisions for the protection of exotic animals used in performances is proposed.

#### **Proposed Changes**

- The proposed amendment is for the following changes:
  - Update Section 3-3 - Definitions to add the definition of bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
  - Update Section 3-73 - Exotic or Wild Animals to add subsection (f):
    - (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 to handle, train, or otherwise interact with exotic or wild animals 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.
- The proposed effective date of these amendments is March 31, 2022.

#### **Attachment(s)**

Chapter 3 Animals Ordinance Revisions