



STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HAYS

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ORDER OF THE HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT RELATING TO THE
KEEPING OF DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

THIS ORDER is adopted in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Sections 240.002 and Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 822, Subchapter E and applies in the unincorporated areas of the county.

WHEREAS, to preserve and protect public health and safety, the Commissioners' Court of Hays County, Texas desires to prohibit the keeping of a dangerous wild animal in the County except by a person currently licensed as a Class "C" exhibitor under the Federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C., &2131 etc.) which person fully complies with the requirements as set out below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Hays County, Texas as follows:

1. This Order supercedes and repeals Commissioners Court Order #20026.
2. For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Wild animal" shall mean a lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, bobcat, lynx, serval, caracal, hyena, bear, coyote, jackal, baboon, chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla, or any hybrid of those animals; and
 - (b) "Hays County Animal Control Office" shall mean the Hays County Sheriff.


3. The keeping of a wild animal within any unincorporated areas of Hays County, Texas is hereby prohibited unless the wild animal is being kept by a person having a valid Class "C" exhibitor's license issued under the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. & 2131, et seq.) who meets the following requirements:
 - (a) The person must have a valid Class "C" exhibitor's license and be operating in Hays County, Texas on the effective date of this Order.
 - (b) The person must meet the registration and all other requirements of Chapter 822, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code and Section 4 of this Order.
4. The following procedures shall be followed in registering a wild animal:
 - (a) The applicant shall complete the application for certificate of registration on a form provided by the Hays County Animal Control Office. The application form and accompanying submittals must, at a minimum, include the information set forth in Section 822.104 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
 - (b) The applicant, for an original or renewal certificate of registration under this Order, shall pay to the Hays County Animal Control Office a fee of \$50.00 per wild animal being registered, up to a maximum of \$500.00.
 - (c) A certificate of registration issued under this Order is not transferable and shall be valid for one year after its date of issuance or renewal unless revoked. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the animal to seek renewal prior to the expiration of the certificate of registration each year that the owner is in possession of the animal.
5. A person commits an offense if the person is found to have violated the terms of this Order. Each animal with respect to which there is a violation and each day that violation continues is a separate offense. Each such offense is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.
6. A person who fails to register an animal in accordance with this Order or fails to comply with the provisions of Chapter 822, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and safety Code is also liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$200.00 or more than \$2,000.00 for each animal with respect to which there is a violation and for each day the violation continues.

7. The Hays County Criminal District Attorney or any attorney representing the County may file an action in a district court to enjoin a violation or threatened violation of this Order.

When approved, this Order shall be effective March 9, 2004.


County Judge, Jim Powers

Attest:


County Clerk, Lee Carlisle

