

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

ORDINANCE #269

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE EXOTIC ANIMALS
IN LANCASTER COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Animal Control Ordinance #181 does not refer to exotic animals in Lancaster County; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County Council feels a need to prohibit the ownership of exotic animals in the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Lancaster County Council that the following definition shall be added under Section 2 of Animal Control Ordinance #181:

Exotic Animals. An exotic animal shall be defined as one which would ordinarily be confined to a zoo, or one which would ordinarily not be native to this State or Country or to North America. It includes, but not limited to, such animals as Mountain Lions, Tigers, Lions, Bears, Panthers, Leopards, Wolves, Rhinoceroses, Elephants, and other such animals. Exotic animals do not include animals of a species customarily used as household pets in Lancaster County or animals customarily used in Lancaster County as domestic farm animals.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the following section shall be added to the Lancaster Animal Control Ordinance:

Keeping of Exotic Animals.

Prohibition. No person, firm, or corporation shall keep or permit to be kept on their premises any exotic animal as a pet, for display or for exhibition purposes. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to keep, maintain, possess or have under their control within the borders of Lancaster County any exotic animals. The prohibition of exotic animals is primarily based upon a concern to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Lancaster County. This section shall not be construed to apply to zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, or circuses.

Exceptions. Any exotic animals kept in Lancaster County on June 5, 1995, shall be exempted from provisions outlined above. Those exotic animals shall be subjected to the following conditions:

- (1) Lancaster County Animal Control Officers will have the authority to enter any premises where animals are confined in cages, or on open lands, pastures, fields, for the purpose of inspecting for proper care and humane treatment of animals and the safety of the surrounding public.
- (2) Any person, firm, or corporation keeping or owning exotic animals in Lancaster County shall comply with guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of construction of cages, housing of animals, and subsequent care of animals.

(3) Any person, firm, or corporation keeping or owning exotic animals in Lancaster County shall have adequate locks upon the cages housing said animals. Lancaster County Animal Control Officers will have the authority to inspect the locks on each cage housing exotic animals.

(4) Any person, firm, or corporation keeping or owning exotic animals in Lancaster County shall pay a yearly fee of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars per location. These fees shall be paid to Lancaster County. Lancaster County shall maintain records of those exotic animals in Lancaster County on June 6, 1995.

(5) The owner or an employee of any person, firm, or corporation owning exotic animals in Lancaster County on June 5, 1995, must maintain residence on the property where the said exotic animals are housed or must have a representative available on a 24-hour basis.

(6) There shall be no increase in the total number of animals on the property as of the date of the passage of this ordinance (June 5, 1995). Any birth of exotic animals, which will exceed the total number of animals established on the property as of June 5, 1995, shall be transported outside the boundaries of Lancaster County after a normal weaning period as determined by Animal Control. Any birth of exotic animals kept in Lancaster County shall be reported by the owner to the Lancaster County Animal Control office within one (1) week of the birth.

Any violation of this section of this Ordinance shall be punished by a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to thirty (30) days.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED this 5th day of June, 1995.

LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Ray E. Gardner, Chairman

W. R. Crimminger, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

J. Kim Roberts, County Attorney

ATTEST:

Irene Plyler, Clerk to Council

1st reading: 02-27-95
2nd reading: 04-24-95
3rd reading: 06-05-95
Public Hearing: 03-27-95