



Loudoun County



VIRGINIA

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

Proposed Amendment to the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, Chapter 612, to Prohibit Private Ownership of Exotic and Venomous Animals

Public Information Session

January 5, 2023

What is the proposal?

Prohibiting private ownership of certain exotic and venomous species of animals, including:

- Venomous snakes
- Hybrid canines
- Non-native species (e.g. koalas or kangaroos)
- Primates (e.g. baboons and marmosets)
- Other wild and/or venomous animals such as scorpions and armadillos



Exotic and venomous animals held in residential settings present a public safety risk

- Risk of escaping and inflicting harm
- Risk of zoonotic diseases
- Risk to first responders entering premises
- Risk to local ecosystems and wildlife



Proposed Exemptions

- Common pets, including ferrets, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, etc.
- Licensed exhibitors (e.g. zoos), rehabilitators, others with state or federal permits
- Lawfully obtained, non-venomous reptiles and amphibians
- Lawfully obtained exotic birds and ratites (parrots, ostriches, emu)



Grandfather Clause

Residents currently possessing species prohibited under the proposed ordinance (but otherwise possessing and caring for them lawfully) may retain ownership for the life of that animal, if it is registered with Loudoun County Animal Services and housing is inspected.



Next steps

Board of Supervisors' Business Meeting January 17, 2023

Board of Supervisors' Public Hearing (tentative) February 15, 2023



For additional information

- Watch the LCAS website at loudoun.gov/Chapter612Addition
- Email staff with your questions at animals@loudoun.gov



LCAS staff are on the line and prepared to answer any questions that are asked through the Q&A box.

- To type a question:
- Click the QA symbol
- Type question in box to ask a written question
- Ask: All Panelists and click Send
- All participants are muted.
- If you get disconnected, please attempt to rejoin the meeting.

