



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1717 E. Park Street
P.O. BOX 87
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0087



Date: April 26, 2024
To: Gregory E. Buckley, City Manager
From: Ben Meinnert, Chief of Police
Ref: Ordinance Amendments:

Addition to Sec. 6-5-7. Restrictions of keeping dogs, cats and other animals.

The City of Two Rivers finds that wild animals are inherently dangerous and do not adjust well to captive environments. The City Community Service Officer, patrol officers, and the Inspections Dept has received increasing calls related to the possession or harboring of wild, farm, exotic, and/or dangerous animals and/or reptiles. The intent of these additions to the ordinance restrictions is to protect against health and safety risks that such animals pose and hereby prohibit possession of such animals within the City of Two Rivers.

This amendment was researched and refined since the February Council meeting. Concerns about potential preemptive laws were addressed by City Attorney explaining the state has minimal laws regarding animals. Furthermore, many jurisdictions, including Madison, Green Bay, Appleton, Wausau, and Manitowoc from which we researched for this amendment, restrict animals successfully within villages and cities.

This amendment was also further clarified to remove domestic cats, dogs, and ferrets as well as confusing language regarding furbearing animals as directed by council. Class Mammalia Order Artiodactyla, Edentatia, Perissodactyla, and Proboscidae was added to cover animal examples such as giraffes and deer, armadillos and sloths, rhinoceroses and tapirs, and elephants respectively.

Additionally, permission by the "Chief of Police or designee" was changed to "City Council" to provide that animals under these restricted species, could still be allowed within City jurisdiction if approved by City Council through a consistent case by case analysis and process.



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