

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I CHAPTER 3 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE TO ADD PROVISIONS RELATED TO PROHIBITING OWNERSHIP OR KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK AND WILD ANIMALS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence; South Carolina (the “City”) seeks to protect its residents from the harmful ramifications associated with the ownership and keeping of livestock, wild, and dangerous animals;

WHEREAS, the ownership and keeping of livestock, wild, and dangerous animals present foreseeable risks and potential safety hazards within the City; and

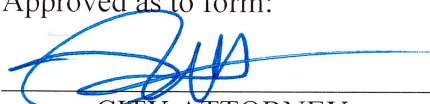
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City (“the City Council”) desires to regulate ownership or keeping of livestock, wild, and dangerous animals within the City by adding to the Code of Ordinances within the City (“the Code”) provisions related thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City in meeting duly assembled that:

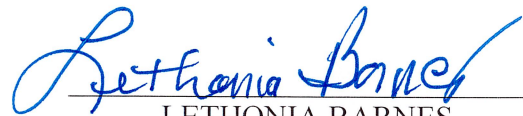
- a. There is added to Article I Chapter 3 of the Code a Section 3-7.1 entitled “Prohibited Ownership or Keeping of Livestock and Wild Animals,” such section being set forth in the attached Exhibit A.
- b. The definitions of “Feral animal” and “Wild animals” in Section 3-2 of the Code are deleted.
- c. A new definition of “Wild animal” is added to Section 3-2 of the Code, such provision being set forth in the attached Exhibit B.
- c. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City.

ADOPTED this 10 day of March, 2025

Approved as to form:



CITY ATTORNEY



LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:



CASEY MOORE

EXHIBIT A

Section 3-7.1 Prohibited Ownership or Keeping of Livestock and Wild Animals

1) The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of Florence by regulating and prohibiting the ownership and keeping of livestock and wild animals within the City.

Except as allowed in Article 2, Division I-2.8 of the Unified Development Ordinance

2) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, maintain, or possess within the City any live livestock, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Any Porcine animal, including without limitation swine, pigs, and hogs;
- b) Any Equine animal, including without limitation horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys;
- c) Any Bovine animal, including without limitation cows, buffalo, bulls, calves, sheep, goats, rams, and lambs;
- d) Any Camelid animal, including without limitation camels, llamas, and alpacas.

3) It shall be unlawful for any person to have, keep, maintain, or possess within the City any wild animal, including but not limited to:

- a) Baboons, chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, or other non-human primates over 15 pounds;
- b) Bears, cheetahs, leopards, lions, tigers, jaguars, pumas, servals or other large cats;
- c) Wolves, coyotes, foxes, or any hybrid of these species with domestic dogs where the proportion of wild animals exceeds one-eighth;
- d) Raccoons, hyenas, badgers, wolverines, skunks, weasels (not to include ferrets);
- e) Porcupines;
- f) Piranhas;
- g) Nondomestic members of the Family Felidae;
- h) Bats;
- i) Rodents greater than 5 pounds;
- j) Members of the Family Cervidae.

Except as allowed in Article 2, Division 1-2.8 of the Unified Development Ordinance

4) It shall be unlawful for any person to have, keep, maintain, or possess within the City any venomous reptile, constrictor, and crocodylian, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Crocodylians of the Family Crocodylidae, including genus *Crocodylus*, *Mecistops*, and *Osteolaemus*;
- b) Crocodylians of the Family Alligatoridae, including genus *Alligator* and *Caimen*;
- c) Crocodylians of the Family Gavialidae, including genus *Gharial (Gaviali)* and *False Gharial (Tomistoma)*;
- d) Snakes of the Family Atractaspidae, including genus *Atractaspis*;

- e) Snakes of the family Colubridae, including genus *Dispholidus typus*, *Rhabdophis*, and *Thelotornis*;
- f) Snakes of the family Elapidae;
- g) Snakes of the family Hydrophiidae;
- h) Snakes of the family Viperidae;
- i) Large constrictor snakes, including Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*), Burmese Python (*Python molurus*), African Rock Python (*Python sebae*), Amethystine Python (*Morelia amethystina*), and Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), or any of their subspecies or hybrids;
- j) Venomous reptiles belonging to the family Crotalidae;
- k) Reptiles in the family Colubridae, including genus *Blanaophis*, *Macropisthodon*, *Boiga*, and *Thrasops* and reptiles in the genus *Heloderma*;
- l) Reptiles in the family Atractaspididae;
- m) Turtles of the family Cheloniidae, including genus *Caretta*, *Lepidochelys*, *Chelonia*, and *Dermochelys*;

4) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, maintain, or possess within the City any large birds or waterfowl, including but not limited to the following:

- n) Ostriches;
- o) Emus;
- p) Rheas;
- q) Cassowaries;
- r) Peafowl;
- s) Swans;
- t) Geese;
- u) Ducks;
- v) Herons;
- w) Cranes;
- x) Roosters;
- y) Penguins.

5) The following persons and entities may be exempt from the prohibitions outlined in subsections 2, 3, and 4, provided such entities are licensed by the City and all other applicable governmental or regulatory bodies, and provide to the satisfaction of the City evidence of appropriate containment and supervision:

- a) Zoos;
- b) Circuses or traveling attractions;
- c) Wildlife rehabilitation centers, including without limitation veterinarian, animal medical centers, and humane societies;
- d) Educational institutions;
- e) Licensed research facilities;

- f) Pet stores and agricultural supply stores, provided that the keeping and sale of any wild animals listed in subsection (3) above must be expressly approved by the City.

6) Animals prohibited under this section and transported into the City limits solely for veterinary purposes shall be exempted from complying with this section for the duration of the trip provided that:

- a) Such animal is under the control of its owner or a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian assistant at all times;
- b) Such animal owner receives prior documented approval from a licensed veterinarian before the visit;
- c) Such animal owner travels directly to the veterinarian office from its residence, located outside the City limits, without making a detour or additional stops;
- d) Such animal owner returns immediately to its residence upon exiting the veterinarian office.

6) Any person found in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to fines, penalties, or both, as prescribed in Section 1-7 of the Code. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

7) If a law enforcement agent or animal control officer has probable cause to believe that any of the aforementioned animals are being harbored or housed in violation of this section, the agent or officer may seize, impound, or humanely euthanize the animal while the trial is pending. A reasonableness standard shall be applied on a case-by-case basis by such agent or officer in determining if impoundment or euthanization is appropriate under the circumstances. Factors to take into account include, but are not limited to, the level of aggression such animal exhibits, the level of threat such animal poses to the community, the ability of an agent or officer to transport such animal to another location safely, and such animal owner's willingness to relocate and establish new residence with such animal outside the City limits. If an agent or officer determines that euthanization is appropriate under the circumstances, any such euthanization may only be by order of the municipal court after not less than 5 days written notice to the owner of the animal in question, if any, to appear and contest such proposed euthanization. If said owner does not appear to contest such proposed euthanization, or if the owner appears and the municipal court orders such euthanization, such euthanization may proceed subject to the owner's right of appeal pursuant to Section 6-11 of this Code.

8) The provisions of this Section 3-7.1 shall be in addition to and not in lieu of Section 3-11 of this Code.

EXHIBIT B

Wild animal:

- 1) Any animal of wild nature or exotic disposition, including but not limited to:
 - a) Animals ill-suited to captivity;
 - b) Animals commonly known to be involved in poaching or smuggling operations;
 - c) Animals known, or suspected, of becoming an invasive species in the United States if such animals are released or escape captivity;
- 2) Any animal which is capable of inflicting serious injury upon, or poses a significant risk of injury to humans and has a known propensity as a species to do so;
- 3) This definition shall not apply to dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), cats (*Felis catus*), and other common household pets that pose minimal to no threat to humans or to the well-being of the City.