

**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
ORDINANCE 14-15**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
CHAPTER 90: ANIMALS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY** the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina that the Holden Beach Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90: Animals, be amended as follows:

**Section One:** Add the following definitions to Section 90.01 Definitions:

**Wild Animals.** Any animals not normally domesticated. For the purposes of this section, wild animals are deemed inherently dangerous. They are deemed as such because of their vicious propensities and capabilities; the likely gravity of harm inflicted by their attack; and unpredictability despite attempts at domestication. The category of wild animals includes, but is not limited to: members of the Canidae family such as wolves, coyotes and hybrids of those breeds; members of the Urdidae family which includes any members of the bear family or hybrids thereof; and members of the Felidae family such as wild cats, cougars, mountains lions or panthers.

**Exotic Animals.** Exotic animals are dangerous because of their vicious propensities and capabilities; the gravity of harm inflicted by their attack; and unpredictability despite attempts at domestication. The category of exotic animals includes, but is not limited to: reptiles which are poisonous or constricting; nonhuman primates weighing greater than twenty-five (25) pounds; members of the feline family other than domestic house cats, including, but not limited to, lions, tigers and leopards; and reptiles which are a member of the crocodile family, including, but not limited to, alligators and crocodiles.

**Section Two:** Add Section 90.03 Wild and Exotic Animals as follows:

**§90.03 Wild and Exotic Animals**

- (A) Wild and exotic animals are dangerous to humans and property. It is unlawful to keep, harbor, breed or trade any wild or exotic animal for any purpose within the corporate limits.
- (B) Any wild or exotic animal which is kept by any person in contravention of this section shall be taken up and impounded by the Animal Control Officer for the protection and health of the animal and/ or for the protection of the public.
  - 1. Any animal impounded pursuant to this section will be held for three (3) days for the owner to claim it pursuant to subsection 2, but if the animal cannot be taken up safely by the Animal Control Officer, or if proper and safe housing cannot be found for the animal, the Animal Control Officer can immediately destroy the animal.

2. The owner or harbinger of the animal can reclaim the animal if the person can satisfy the Animal Control Officer that a safe transfer of the animal to an appropriate location out of the corporate limits has been arranged.
3. If no owner or harbinger can be located or will claim the animal within three (3) days after impoundment, the Animal Control Officer may sell, adopt or euthanize the animal at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer.
4. All costs of impoundment and care of the animal will be charged to its owner or harbinger regardless of whether the animal is claimed by or returned to said owner or harbinger; and in the event the animal is reclaimed pursuant to subsection 2 such costs shall be paid in full prior to the release of the animal.

**Section Three:** The Town Clerk is directed to forward this ordinance to American Legal Publishing for inclusion in the next published supplement to the Holden Beach Code of Ordinances.

**Section Four:** This ordinance shall be effective the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

Adopted this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk