

REGULATING DANGEROUS, WILD ANIMALS WORKGROUP MEETING NOTES August 30, 2011

Phone: Henry Heffner, Ohio Association of Animal Owners; **Present:** Evan Huesinkveld, US Sportsmen's Alliance; Polly Britton, Ohio Association of Animal Owners; Alan Sironen, Zoo Association of America; Mike Bumgarner, Ohio Farm Bureau; Dale Schmidt, Columbus Zoo; Debbie Leahy, Humane Society US; Andy Montoney, USDA, APHIS Lewis Greene, American Zoo Association; Michelle Holdrege, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association; Scott Zody, ODNR-Administration; Ron Ollis and Paul Kurfis, ODNR- Division of Wildlife; Ben Pendery, ODNR-Legislative Liaison; Kim Berridge, ODNR-Administration; Dee Hammel (Facilitator).

Handouts: B-Virus (Cercopithecine herpesvirus 1), Infection in Humans and Macaques Potential for Zoonotic Disease (Emerging infectious Diseases, Vol.9 No. 2 February 2003) List of Snakes-Neurotoxic, Hemotoxic Snakes, Venomous Lizards and Large Constrictors 10ft. +. Licensing and Registration and Fee Schedule (USDA). The Zoological Association of America. Florida Couple Sentenced to 12 years in Python Strangling of Daughter (abcnews.go.com) Monkey handlers can't give blood (canada.com). Concerns regarding smaller primates. Monkey goes bananas in Fremont (sanduskyregister.com). Constrictor Snake Incidents Resulting in Death. Financial Impact of Regulations on Owners of "Dangerous Wild Animals" in Ohio.

Introductions & Discussion of Meeting Notes (Scott):

- **Scott** welcomed everyone to the Workgroup.
- **Scott** introduced **Dr.Smith**-State Public Health Veterinarian at the Ohio Department of Health-Concern of deadly disease which nonhuman primates can carry (B-Virus (Cercopithecine herpesvirus 1).
- **Scott** went over the list of "Dangerous Wild Animals" with the group, asking for additions or corrections. The African greens, all Langur species were additions to the list that were omitted from the last list. A correction to the list was made that all Macaca species (Macaques) be added to the list.
- **Scott** was asked by **Carolyn McKinnie**-USDA, APHIS to hand out the licensing and registration book, along with the Fee schedule.

What animals should be listed as DWA/Comments

➤ **Primates, excluding humans.**

Dr.Smith/State Public Health Veterinarian at the Ohio Department of Health agrees that all Macaca's need to be listed as "dangerous wild animals", bites are the biggest concern. **Lewis**/wanted to make sure that langurs were also added to the list. **Dr. Heffner**/asked if any disease transmission from primate bites to humans was reported in Ohio. **Dr.Smith**/she had no knowledge of any in Ohio. **Debbie**/all primates can transmit disease. She handed out an article pertaining to people who work with monkeys can no longer give blood, because of fears they may spread a virus similar to HIV. She also, expressed concerns for the capuchins and the Herpes B virus. She feels that all capuchins and grivets should be added to the list of "dangerous wild animals". The Humane Society wants all nonhuman primates ban. **Scott**/concern is where to draw the line? Main focus is the physical threat/the ability not to put the public at risk. **Dr. Heffner**/would like to have a clear definition of

“dangerous wild animal”. **Scott/** I would be concerned with all law enforcement agencies and their responsibilities. If we add all nonhuman primates to our list, this would become a safety, training and enforceability concern. Therefore I am not in favor of adding all nonhuman primates to the list of “dangerous wild animals.”

Alan/approves of the animals that we have listed as “dangerous wild animals”.

Michelle/wants African greens added to the list of “dangerous wild animals”.

Scott/we are trying to focus on size and disease. **Dr. Smith/**not only size to be concerned about, but these are smart animals.

Dr. Heffner/feels that any animal could potentially be dangerous if it feels like it is being threatened. **Debbie/**there has been many attacks from nonhuman primates all over the country. **Polly/**feels we should be focusing on the state of Ohio only and no other states. **Scott/**wants to move on and parking lot all other nonhuman primates.

- **All venomous snakes.** **Dale/Lewis** provided the group with a list of Neurotoxic snakes, hemotoxic snakes, venomous lizards and large constrictors 10ft +. **Scott/**venomous lizards a concern or not. **Lewis, Alan and Dale/** they have no concern for the safety of people in regards to the venomous lizards/not large in size or fast. **Scott/**does the list that we have of the large constrictors fit our criteria for constrictors 10ft plus. **Lewis/**it fits the criteria. **Debbie/**wondered why we are using 10 foot rather than an 8 foot designation? The group agreed with the list of large constrictors. **Scott/**we are listing all venomous snakes. The next issue is how to enforce the process without putting a burden on the state resources. Should the owner have to have liability insurance? **Polly-**liability insurance is too expensive to have and it is hard to obtain. **Henry/**how many incidents in the state of Ohio from venomous snakes? **Ron/**Illinois has a total ban on all venomous snakes. **Polly/**Ohio has remained open for owning exotics – private enterprise is not a bad thing. She agrees with Henry – do not base on preferences rather than statistics. **Polly/**make sure legislation is fair and consistent. **Dr. Smith/** should be severe penalties to discourage ownership. **Scott/**would have to be enforced by city, county and township law enforcement. **Mike/**we need to figure out what animals should be on the list, before we discuss how to enforce regulations. **Michelle/**I think we need to list the animals with different tier levels.
- **Venomous lizards** – will not be put on DWA list due to the fact they are small and slow so they are easy to escape from.
- **Financial Impact of Regulation on Owners of “DWA” in Ohio** – **Polly** provided a handout with 2 thoughts: 1) A low, low number represents minor business, so why spend millions of dollars over-regulating something that is only in the thousands, and 2) To get some idea of the exotic animal industry in Ohio, take the 5 or 6 AZA zoos’ budgets; that alone will represent over 5 billion dollars in the state of Ohio. **Dale/**disagreed with the financial numbers listed. Discussion ensued on the 5 major exhibitors listed on the handout as to whether they were licensed by AZA, ZAA or USDA and whether they were exhibitors versus a business.
- **ZAA/AZA** – Discussion ensued on accreditation standards for ZAA, AZA and USDA. A handout was distributed comparing ZAA with AZA accreditation. We need USDA to walk us through their licensing process. ODNR holds AZA in highest regard. Rehabilitators are permitted through the Division of Wildlife while sanctuaries are not addressed.

Next Meeting Dates: Scott will email everyone with the next meeting date after he talks to Carolyn so we can make sure she is in attendance.

Parking Lot:

1. List of DWA to be broken down by Tier 1, 2, or 3?
2. Is a “living” list better than a “fixed” list? DOW would like to see “living” list while for legal purposes a “fixed” list might be better.
3. Caging requirements, keeping anti-venom on hand, liability insurance, reimbursing zoos and hospitals for anti-venom.
4. Permitting versus bands?

Tasks/Action Items:

- Scott-Will send updated list out of Dangerous Wild Animals.

Adjournment (Scott): Scott thanked everyone for their participation and looks forward the next meeting, which will be scheduled according to Carolyn McKinnie’s availability. He will let everyone know of the date via email.