

REGULATING DANGEROUS, WILD ANIMALS WORKGROUP

MEETING NOTES – SEPTEMBER 27, 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; Caroline McKinnie, USDA, APHIS, Animal Care; Michelle Holdreave, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association; Scott Zody, ODNR-Administration; Ron Ollis and Paul Kurfis, ODNR- Division of Wildlife; Tom Stalf, Columbus Zoo/Wilds; Ben Pendery, ODNR-Legislative Liaison; Kim Berridge, ODNR-Administration; Dee Hammel (Facilitator).

Handouts: Carolyn McKinnie- USDA, APHIS, Animal Care- Fee schedule. Ron Ollis- ODNR Division of Wildlife- Restricted Species, Suggested Ohio Revised Code and Restricted Species; Suggested Ohio Revised Code-Partial Ban.

Introductions & Discussion

- **Scott-** Welcomed everyone to the Workgroup and appreciates all the time that everyone has given out of their busy schedules to attend the meetings.

Caroline McKinnie-USDA, APHIS Licensure Process

- There are three basic licenses (A,B and C)
- Class "A" and "B" Licenses-Dealers, Brokers, and Operators of an Auction Sale.
- Class "C" License-Exhibitors -Includes Zoo's, Circuses and Marine Mammal facilities.
- Farm shows or County Fairs do not need to be licensed as long as they are agricultural exhibits.
- If you have less than three breeding females, you don't need a license.
- You must be licensed to sell or breed exotic animals regardless of the number of breeding females.
- You can only hold one type of license.
- The annual license fee for Class A or B ranges from \$40 to \$760, depending on the income from the business.*see updated fee schedule
- The annual license fee for licensed animal exhibitors-Class C ranges from \$40 to \$310, depending on the number of animals.*see updated fee schedule
- There is a renewal fee schedule and a new applicant fee schedule. In the renewal fee schedule it doesn't specify the separation of the "processing fee" and the "license fee." *refer to schedules
- Class "C" exhibitors should be open to the public and have posted hours.
- Research facilities are exempt from being licensed. However, they are required to be registered and are inspected as other facilities are. Note: quite a few of the research facilities have class B licenses.
- The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires that all regulated animals be provided adequate veterinary care. Facilities which don't have a full-time veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis. The licensee is required to keep a record of each visit.

- APHIS has minimal care standards, the same standards apply to all licensed businesses. It covers adequate veterinary care, handling, housing, space, feeding and watering, sanitation, shelter from extreme heat and cold weather, lighting and adequate personnel. APHIS inspectors make periodic unannounced visits to all locations.
- Applying for a license: if the facility does not meet the required standards, they will have up to three inspections to correct the issues (not to exceed a 90 day period from the date of their first pre-license inspection).
- An owner is not required to have a license if an animal is a pet. This is true regardless of the type/species of the animal.
- USDA licenses are not species-specific.
- The licensee is required to have basic husbandry knowledge of the animals they are handling, but it is difficult to enforce. There is no master certification available. However, those wanting to be licensed with exotic and dangerous animals must submit their handling experience for approval before they can be licensed.
- Facilities are ideally inspected during extremes in heat and cold weather.
- The state of Ohio has seven inspectors, which consist of Vet Medical Officer's, Animal Care Inspectors, and one Compliance Specialist.
- If a licensee has a complaint registered against them or cases pending, they are inspected more frequently.
- Even if a place has multiple problems, they can often obtain a license renewal. By allowing them to still maintain a license, it gives USDA the opportunity to still go in and inspect to make sure the animals are being taken care of.
- Types of Citations: Some examples include veterinary care issues, sanitation, facility maintenance and proper husbandry (e.g. grooming care).
- A citation is given before a penalty. A citation can either be a non-compliant item "NCI's", a "repeat" or a "direct." Directs and repeats are much more serious.
- Enforcement is handled by the Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES).
- IES establishes the amount of the penalty to be assessed.
- USDA/AHPHIS Animal Care can confiscate animals if deemed necessary. However, a process must be followed. If the state regulates these same facilities, they can often confiscate animals immediately.
- It may take longer to place confiscated exotics. The USDA or State has to find a facility that can provide for the animals needs and have the space to accept them.
- Total Licenses in the state of Ohio (as of October 2011):

Class A: 150

Class B: 19

Class C: 64

Total of 233

RENEWAL FEE SCHEDULE

Table 1.--Dealers, Brokers, and Operators of an Auction Sale--Class ``A`` and ``B`` License

FROM	TO	RENEWAL FEE
\$0	\$500	\$40
501	2,000	\$70
2,001	10,000	\$130
10,001	25,000	\$235
25,001	50,000	\$360
50,001	100,00	\$485
100,001	AND OVER	\$760

Table 2.--Exhibitors--Class ``C`` License

NUMBER OF ANIMALS	RENEWAL FEE
1 to 5	\$40
6 to 25	\$85
26 to 50	\$185
51 to 500	\$235
501 AND OVER	\$310

RENEWAL OF LICENSE: Subpart A – Licensing 2.1(d)(1) A licensee who wishes a renewal must submit to the appropriate Animal Care regional office a completed application form and the annual license fee indicated in Table 1 or Table 2, by certified check, cashier’s check, personal check, money order, or credit card. The application form and the annual license fee must be received by the appropriate Animal Care regional office on or before the expiration date of the license.

FEE SCHEDULE

Table 1.--Dealers, Brokers, and Operators of an Auction Sale--Class ``A`` and ``B`` License

FROM	TO	PROCEESING FEE	LICENSE FEE	TOTAL
\$0	\$500	\$10	\$30	\$40
501	2,000	10	60	70
2,001	10,000	10	120	130
10,001	25,000	10	225	235
25,001	50,000	10	350	360
50,001	100,00	10	475	485
100,001	AND OVER	10	750	760

Table 2.--Exhibitors--Class ``C`` License

NUMBER OF ANIMALS	PROCESSING FEE	LICENSE FEE	TOTAL
1 to 5	\$10	\$30	\$40
6 to 25	10	75	85
26 to 50	10	175	185
51 to 500	10	225	235
501 AND OVER	10	300	310

NEW LICENSE: Please send ONLY the \$10.00 (non-refundable) application fee with the application (APHIS Form 7003-A). Payment may be made by certified check, cashier's check, personal check, money order or credit card.

Ron Ollis-Presented Draft on Restricted Species, Suggested Ohio Revised Code.

Ron Ollis- presented the workgroup with a **DRAFT** of the Suggested Ohio Revised Code regarding Restricted Species. A fund would need to be established in DOW because Fund 15 (Restricted Species Fund) cannot be used. 1531.13 and 1531.14 gives Wildlife Officers the right to inspect for restricted species.

Next Meeting Dates: Scott- will email everyone regarding the next meeting date.

Tasks/Action Items:

- Scott- Asked the members to review the draft on the Restricted Species, Suggested Ohio Revised Code and bring changes to the next meeting.
- **At our next meeting we will be reviewing the draft and making the necessary changes as a group.**

Adjournment (Scott): Scott thanked everyone for their participation and looks forward to the next meeting.