

I, Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, North Carolina do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of An Ordinance Regulating the Keeping of Wild or Vicious Animals within Chatham County, North Carolina, which was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on January 24, 1983 and April 21, 2003.

The original of which is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board of Chatham County, North Carolina.

In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of Chatham County, North Carolina.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.



Jenifer K. Johnson, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County, North Carolina



**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE KEEPING OF WILD OR VICIOUS  
ANIMALS WITHIN CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County is concerned for the safety and welfare of all residents of Chatham County and desires to enact an ordinance regulating the keeping of wild animals in Chatham County, pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY as follows:

Section 1. **Definitions.** Whenever used in this ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

- a. Board - The Chatham County Board of County Commissioners
- b. Director - The Director of the Chatham County Public Health Department
- c. Animal Control - An officer or officers of Chatham County Animal Control, which operates as a division of the Chatham County Public Health Department

- d. Wild or Vicious Animal - A wild animal dangerous to person and property. The term applies to the following animals: all felines (other than the domestic house cat), nonhuman primates, civets, raccoons, bears, wolves, coyotes, reptiles (poisonous, crushing, and giant), and any crossbreed of such animals or animals which have similar characteristics of the animals specified herein. In order to properly administer the provisions of this ordinance. The Board of Commissioners may add or remove from the classification of wild animal any bird, mammal, reptile, aquatic and amphibious forms, or other members of the animal kingdom. Additions or deletions from the animals regulated herein may be made only if the Board determines, after receiving evidence, that such animals because of habit, mode of life or other natural instinct are either capable or incapable of being domesticated, requires the exercise of art, force or skill to keep them safely in subjection, and would or would not create a reasonable likelihood of hazard to the public.
- e. Owner - Any person, firm, corporation, or association who keeps, has charge of, shelters, feeds, harbors, or takes care of any wild or vicious animal in Chatham County.
- f. Permittee - Any person, firm, corporation, or association granted a permit to keep, shelter, feed, harbor, or take care of any wild or vicious animal in Chatham County.
- g. Primary Enclosure - Any building, wire cage, pen, or similar enclosure designed and used "for the purpose of restraining and confining any animal, the keeping of which is regulated by this ordinance. All such enclosures shall be constructed and maintained according to the standards set out in Appendix A of this ordinance.
- h. Secondary Enclosure - An enclosure which is not used for primary confinement, exercise, or training of wild or vicious animals, but which surrounds or encompasses all primary enclosures where such animals are kept. Requirements for construction and maintenance of a secondary enclosure are specified in Appendix A of this ordinance.
- i. Double Safety Doors - All primary enclosures shall have double safety doors, which consist of a safety door providing access into a caged area from which entry is provided into the primary enclosure containing the animal by means of another safety door. When a human entrance is being made, the outer door must be securely closed and fastened before entrance is made through the inner door. When human entrance is not being made, the inner door shall be locked, and the outer door shall be fastened securely.
- j. Permit - Except where otherwise qualified (e.g., "Federal permit") is the document issued to an owner by the county permitting the keeping of wild or vicious animals in Chatham County, North Carolina.

Section 2. **Primary and Secondary Enclosures Required.** No owner shall keep, shelter, feed, harbor, or take care of any wild or vicious animal within Chatham County unless all such animals be confined continuously within a secure and locked primary and secondary enclosure. Each enclosure shall be constructed and maintained to standards specified in Appendix A of this ordinance.

- a. Primary and secondary enclosures shall be maintained such that no single event could compromise the structural integrity of both enclosures. This would include damage by a resident animal, falling trees, acts of nature such as a hurricane or snowstorm, or structural failure due to wear.

Section 3. **Double Safety Doors Required** All primary enclosures must be equipped with double safety doors. and appropriate use of these doors must be in place at all times.

Section 4. **Liability Insurance Required** As a condition precedent to the keeping, sheltering, or harboring of any wild or vicious animal, the prospective owner shall continuously maintain liability insurance coverage in at least the amount of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) per claim to compensate persons for personal injury and property damage which may result from the keeping of said animals.

Section 5. **Presence of Experienced Person(s) Required** Any owner, as defined in this ordinance, shall have on site with said animals a person (or persons) of at least 18 years of age who is experienced in the handling of such animals.

Section 6. **Tranquilizing and Annihilating Equipment Required** At the discretion of the Director some permittees shall have on hand at all times sufficient equipment and chemicals to tranquilize any animal for which he or she has permitted to keep. Each permittee shall have reasonable access to sufficient equipment to kill any animal for which he or she has a permit to keep.

Section 7. **Permit Required:**

- a. Scope: Only one (1) permit shall be required for each location at which wild animals are to be kept. Amendments to a permit shall be made if a new species is introduced to the facility.
- b. Requirements: As a condition precedent to keeping, sheltering, or harboring of any wild or vicious animal in the county, an owner or prospective owner shall make written application for and receive from the Director a permit and authorization to keep any such animal. The following are the list of minimum requirements for obtaining a permit from Chatham County for the keeping of wild or vicious animals within the county:
  - 1. Name and address of person making application;

2. Proof of date of birth of applicant. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older;
3. If a corporation: the name of the corporation. the state under which incorporated, the date of the incorporation, the address of the principal officers, and the names and addresses of its officers;
4. If other any other type of organization: its name, the location of its office, and the names and addresses of the principal officers, directors. trustees, or managing officials or partners;
5. Address where the animal is to be housed;
6. Statement of the owner's purpose in keeping the animal;
7. The place of origin (city or county and state) of the animals, including the method of acquisition;
8. Species, size, and all identifying characteristics of each wild or vicious animal the applicant desires to keep;
9. Medical and behavioral history of animal including documentation of rabies immunization if animal is of a species which can harbor or transmit the disease, and documentation of whether the animal has ever escaped or harmed a human being;
10. History of owner's relevant experience with animals, particularly the species in the application. In the case of an inexperienced owner, there must be included the names and addresses of any manager, keeper, or husbandry expert upon which the owner will rely for guidance;
11. Relevant personal history of the owner or any operator, manager, or employee who will be working with the animals. This should include any criminal record, and work history, including references;
12. Proof of the applicant's ability to respond in damages for bodily injury to or death of any person that may result from the ownership, keeping, or maintenance of such animal, which shall be given by filing with the Director a certificate of insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in the state stating that the applicant is, at the time of application, insured by a policy of \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit liability for bodily injury and property damage, and which will provide that no cancellation of the insurance will be made unless ten (10) days' written notice is first given to the Director. A copy of the current policy shall be attached to the application. In such case any insurance policy is not renewed, the issuer shall give the Director ten (10) days' written notice prior to the expiration of the policy.
13. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons residing within one (1) mile of the proposed location for the keeping of said animals;

14. If private ownership, a copy of owner's typical daily schedule, including contact numbers. If a multi-animal facility, a schedule of personnel who will service and maintain the facility on a daily basis, including contact numbers;
  15. Copies of all State and Federal permits and licenses required for the acquisition and keeping of such animals including whether the license has been obtained. If the applicant has ever had any such permit or license revoked or suspended, include the reason for such;
  16. Description of the nature, size, type of construction, and location of any primary and secondary enclosure in which the applicant intends to keep said wild or vicious animal;
  17. A list of tranquilizing equipment, chemicals, and instruments of destruction as required by Section 6 of this ordinance;
  18. A copy of the owner's disaster preparedness plan in the event of a natural or man-made disaster such as fire, flood, infectious disease epidemic, or act of war. The Disaster Preparedness Plan must be approved by the County Director of Emergency Management.
- c. Amendments. Application for amendment to an existing permit must be made with the introduction of a wild or vicious species not previously listed on the permit into the facility. Application for an amendment involves fulfilling all of the heretofore stated requirements with the exception of #s 11, 12 and 13 above, as this information will already be on file with the county. An inspection by the Animal Control Officer to approve enclosure construction for the new species is also required. Amendments shall be approved or denied in the same manner as permits are approved or denied.
- d. Investigation by Director
1. Each application for permit or amendment shall be filed with the Director who shall inspect all locations for the keeping of any wild or vicious animal for cleanliness and safe possession of the animal.
  2. Prior to the granting of a permit or amendment, the applicant shall be required to present to the Director, for his or her inspection, a state wildlife resources permit if the keeping of such an animal in this state requires such a permit.
  3. Such permit or amendment shall be issued by the Director after satisfactory completion of the application, proof of insurance, and evidence satisfactory to the Director and Animal Control that the applicant will confine any wild or vicious animal in facilities that meet the standards contained in Appendix A of this ordinance.
  4. Such permit or amendment will not be issued by the Director when he or she finds one or more of the following:
    - a) Uncorrectable deficiencies in the requirements for the permit;

- b) Intentional misstatements or misleading statements of fact in the application;
  - c) That the animal cannot or will not be kept or maintained without menacing the safety of any person or property;
  - d) That the animal is not, will not be, or cannot be maintained in a humane manner;
  - e) The facilities or resources of the owner are inappropriate for the quantity of animals housed.
  - f) Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance, a permit shall not be issued to any owner who has previously had such a permit revoked based upon continued violations of any ordinance regulating the keeping of animals in Chatham County. Any person denied a permit for such reason shall be entitled to appeal such denial to the Board within the same time and under the procedure set forth in Section 7.e.2 below. Upon hearing, the Board may deny such a permit if it finds that the applicant has in the past failed to comply with an ordinance regulating the keeping of wild or vicious animals and that such conduct was a continuing matter, and that such conduct placed the safety of one or more residents in jeopardy;
5. Each applicant shall be notified by mail of the issuance or denial of a permit or permit amendment by the Director;
  6. If the Director does not issue a permit or amendment, the reasons for not doing so shall be stated in writing and shall accompany the notice of denial;
  7. An applicant may request a hearing before the Director by written request within 10 days after the receipt of notice of denial of a permit or permit amendment. The Director shall render a decision, including findings of fact based on the evidence presented at such a hearing. If the Director denies the permit after the hearing, the permittee shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board by requesting a hearing within 10 days of the receipt of notice of denial;
  8. No wild or vicious animal shall be brought into or kept in Chatham County until after the permit is received by the applicant. Copies of the approved permit shall be kept on file and displayed on the premises where the animals are housed. Copies shall remain on file in the Animal Control office, in the County Manager's office, and in the office of the Director of the Public Health Department. in the Sheriff's office, and at the county Emergency Operations Center.
- e. Revocation or Suspension of Permit.
1. The permit of any permittee may be suspended by the Director upon finding any one or more of the following:
    - a) That the permit was issued to a permittee not entitled thereto under this ordinance;

- b) That the permittee's enclosures do not comply with this ordinance or that the permittee has otherwise violated the provisions of this ordinance;
  - c) That one or more animals have been brought into the county or kept by the permittee without first obtaining a permit therefor;
  - d) That the permit application contained false or misleading information, or failed to disclose a fact pertinent to the application;
  - e) That the permittee does not possess all licenses or permits required by the State of North Carolina and the Federal Government;
  - f) That the permittee has failed to report an escape;
  - g) That the permittee does not possess and have the ability to promptly use the tranquilizing and annihilating equipment required by Section 6 of this ordinance;
  - h) That the permittee is or has become a convicted felon;
  - i) That an animal or animals cannot or will not be kept or maintained without endangering the safety of any person or property;
  - j) That the animal is not, will not be, or cannot be maintained in a humane manner.
2. The permittee shall be notified in writing of any such suspension, and shall have the right to appeal said decision to the Board, provided notice of appeal is delivered to the Director within ten (10) days of notification of such a suspension. The Board shall promptly schedule a hearing upon the matter and give the permittee not less than 48 hours' notice of said hearing at which the permittee shall be afforded an opportunity to offer evidence as to why the permit should not be revoked. Following the hearing, the commissioners may revoke the permit or may reinstate it with conditions as the Board shall determine. The decision of the Board after the hearing and the Board's reasons for its decision shall be sent by mail or hand delivered to the permittee and shall constitute a final administrative decision.
- f. Transfer of Permit. The permit shall not be transferable with respect to persons and locations.
  - g. Renewal. The permit shall be renewable annually on the anniversary of the original permit issue. All information set out in Section 7.b. shall be updated at that time and the permit fee paid if applicable. An inspection of the primary and secondary enclosures may be performed by Animal Control at the time of renewal to confirm continued compliance with the ordinance.

## Section 8. Exemptions and Exceptions

The following exemptions and exceptions shall apply to the "Ordinance Regulating the Keeping of Wild or Vicious Animals in Chatham County":

- a. Facilities which maintain a license with the US Department of Agriculture shall be exempt from the Primary Enclosure requirements (Section 1) in Appendix A of this ordinance. They shall NOT be exempt from the requirements in the body of the ordinance (specifically Sections 1 through 13) or the requirements for Secondary Enclosures (Section 2) in Appendix A of this ordinance;
- b. Pet stores shall be exempt from this ordinance;
- c. Travelling fairs, circuses, and carnivals shall be exempt from this ordinance;
- d. Owners travelling with their wild or vicious animals through Chatham County from a place outside the county to another place outside of the county shall be exempt from this ordinance provided that the owners do not stop and shelter their animals within the county limits.

## Section 9. Wild Animals At Large Prohibited

- a. It shall be unlawful for any wild animal to be off the premises approved for the confinement of the animal without having the animal in a secure enclosure approved by and with the permission of Animal Control. It shall be the duty of the permittee or the person who keeps and maintains the animal to care for the animal at all times and maintain confinement as provided in the Appendix of this Ordinance. When any wild animal is found off the premises where it is kept and maintained without permission from Animal Control, the permittee or keeper may be charged with a criminal act. If convicted of a violation of this Section, the court may order the animal to be euthanized, or the permittee or keeper subjected to penalties as provided in Section 11 or both euthanization and such penalties.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person to release from captivity any wild or vicious animal within Chatham County.
- c. Any person who possesses a wild animal in the county in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be liable for the expenses incurred by the county and any law enforcement agency or other federal, state or local agency aiding in the search for, containment of, return of or disposal of an animal when it is at large.
- d. If at any time after the permit referred to hereinabove is issued, any wild or vicious animals are brought into the county, and any of these animals escape their primary and secondary enclosure confinement the following steps shall be taken to assure that the public is notified and all possible measures are taken for the protection of the public:



1. Immediately upon knowing that any wild animal is outside the secondary enclosure and out of sight of the owner, the owner shall contact the Chatham County Emergency Operations Center and give a detailed report of how many animals are at large, what kind of animals are at large, the area where they are expected to be, any particular dangers which are created for the public, and any precautions which the public should take to avoid harm;
  2. The Emergency Operations Center will then notify the neighbors who are listed on the original application, the sheriff, Animal Control, all rescue squads, fire departments, and all schools in the county if in session;
  3. All owners shall report to Animal Control in writing within 5 days of an escape and recapture any change in the status of the escaped animal (death, illness, change of location, transfer of possession).
- e. If a wild or vicious animal escapes from its primary and secondary enclosure it may be tranquilized by an Animal Control officer with or without prior notice to the owner. If an Animal Control officer does tranquilize such an animal or reptile, he shall submit a written report of the incident to the Animal Control supervisor and shall make a good faith effort to notify the owner as soon as possible.
- f. If a wild or vicious animal escapes and is determined by an Animal Control officer to pose an immediate danger to the health and safety of any person or property, the animal may be humanely destroyed at the Animal Control officer's discretion with or without prior notice to the owner. If the Animal Control officer does destroy such an animal or reptile, he shall submit a written report of the incident to the Animal Control supervisor and shall make a good faith effort to notify the owner of the incident as soon as possible.
- g. All owners shall immediately report to Animal Control any primary enclosure escapes which were successfully resolved without breach of the secondary enclosure.

Section 10. **Exhibit** No owner shall exhibit any wild or vicious animal in Chatham County without a permit and the necessary Federal and State permits and licenses to do so.

- a. Exemptions: Travelling fairs, circuses and carnivals are exempt from this requirement.

#### Section 11. **Enforcement**

- a. Initial compliance. Any person possessing or harboring a wild or vicious animal at the date of the adoption of this ordinance shall comply with the application and permit provisions herein within 30 days of the adoption of this ordinance and shall meet primary and secondary enclosure standards within 120 days of the adoption of this ordinance.
- b. Inspections

1. *Approval of plans and initial inspections.* Approval of construction plans and an initial inspection shall be carried out by Animal Control officers as follows:
  - a) Upon receipt of a written application for a permit to keep a wild or vicious animal, Animal Control shall inform the applicant in writing if the enclosure standards for each type of animal as stated in Appendix A of this ordinance are different from the construction standards proposed;
  - b) Upon construction of the enclosures specified, Animal Control shall promptly inspect the primary enclosure, and the secondary enclosure intended for the keeping or harboring of any wild or vicious animals.
    - 1) If Animal Control shall determine that the proposed enclosure is reasonably and sufficiently secure to harbor and safely keep the wild or vicious animal proposed to be kept, and meets specifications set forth in this ordinance, and that the applicant is otherwise qualified, he shall communicate this to the Director for consideration in the issuance of a permit.
    - 2) If the Animal Control Officer shall determine that the proposed structure is not reasonably or sufficiently secure to harbor or keep the wild or vicious animal applied or that it fails to meet the specifications set forth herein, he shall notify the applicant and the Director in writing of any defects or irregularities which make said enclosure insecure. The applicant may cause such defects to be remedied and request another inspection by the Animal Control officer.
    - 3) If, after 3 such inspections, the facilities or the applicant fail to meet the requirements of this ordinance the permit shall be considered denied. The Director shall inform the applicant that the permit has been denied. The owner then has 10 days to make a written request for a hearing before the Director as in Section 7.d.7 above.
    - 4) If, at any time during or after the inspection of the facilities by Animal Control, it is the determination of the said officer that the "standards for the Primary and Secondary Enclosures" as set forth in Appendix A of this ordinance are inadequate for keeping any species or any individual animal of a species, the Animal Control officer shall recommend to the Director necessary changes in the standards sufficient to protect the public. The Director shall not issue a permit. The Director shall then request a review of the ordinance by the Board.
2. *Follow up inspections.* At any time after the receipt of an application and construction of a facility to house wild or vicious animals, the Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to inspect the premises at any reasonable time and shall file a written report of his findings to the Director on a quarterly basis. In case of an emergency, reported escape, or if Animal

Control has reasonable grounds to believe that the owner has committed a violation of this ordinance, the owner shall make said premises available to an Animal Control Officer for inspection immediately.

3. *Deficiencies.* Any deficiencies in the primary or secondary enclosures recognized by Animal Control after issuance of a permit shall be communicated immediately to the Director and the owner in writing and immediately corrected by the owner. A follow up inspection will be performed by Animal Control within 10 days of the owner's receipt of said communication.
- c. *Permit and Inspection Fee.* Every owner possessing or harboring a wild animal, whose premises are inspected by a member of the county health department (including Animal Control) shall pay the county an annual fee per site for permitting and inspections as set by the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance.
- d. *Investigations.* The county public health department, the county sheriff's department, and state wildlife resources commission may investigate any complaints that a wild animal is possessed or harbored in the county in violation of this ordinance to determine whether or not a violation has occurred.
- e. *Penalties.*
  1. *Criminal offenses.* Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined or imprisoned at the discretion of the court, as by law allowed.
  2. *Civil remedy.* In addition to the foregoing, this ordinance may also be enforced by means of a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive relief, or for any other relief by law provided.

Section 12. **Severance** If any part of this ordinance shall be for any reason adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall nonetheless remain in full force and effect and be unaffected by such decision.

Section 13. This ordinance shall be effective on May 5, 2003.

## APPENDIX A

### STANDARDS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENCLOSURES OF WILD OR VICIOUS ANIMALS

This Appendix specified minimum standards for the construction of primary and secondary enclosures which are to be used to keep, harbor or restrain wild or vicious animals. If, because of the breeding, history, character, or other particular trait, it is the opinion of the Animal Control Officer that these standards are insufficient to restrain any wild or vicious animal, he shall report such findings to the Sheriff and County Manager and issue no permits until standards sufficient to restrain the animal are developed and adopted by the County Commissioners.

1. Primary Enclosures used to keep, harbor, or restrain the following animals shall be constructed with the materials and in the manner specified.
  - a. Cheetah, Lion, Tiger and Hybrids Thereof. Animals in this category shall be housed within a primary enclosure which has at a minimum six hundred (600) square feet per animal. There shall be no more than one (1) male and two (2) females in any one (1) primary enclosure. There shall be no common fences between enclosures housing tigers and any other animals. If adult male animals are placed in adjacent enclosures these enclosures shall be constructed of no smaller than nine (9) gauge steel chain link fence, doubled, and spaced so as to prohibit physical contact between two (2) males. All enclosures shall have double safety doors.

The enclosure shall be constructed of not less than nine (9) gauge steel chain link fence attached to not smaller than 2 1/2 inch diameter, schedule 40 steel poles placed at least 30 inches in the ground and anchored in 30 inches of concrete, and of sufficient length to extend to the top of the fence, and shall be placed no more than ten (10) feet apart. Enclosures with roofs shall have sides a minimum of eight (8) feet high, and enclosures without roofs shall have sides at least twelve (12) feet high. Roofs of enclosures shall be constructed of the same material as the sides and be firmly attached to the sides with no gaps.
  - b. Leopards, Mountain Lions and Hybrids Thereof. Animals in this category shall be housed in enclosures meeting all requirements set out above for tigers and in addition thereto, the enclosure shall have a roof constructed of at least nine (9) gauge steel chain link fencing, attached firmly to the sides with no gaps.
  - c. Jaguars. Jaguars of any species shall be housed in enclosures constructed to the same standards as those required for leopards, except that the fencing shall consist of not smaller than six (6) gauge steel chain link fencing for the sides and roof; however, the roof may consist of nine (9) gauge steel chain link fencing provided the sides are at least ten (10) feet high. The fencing shall be firmly secured to vertical and horizontal piping or rods and must be firmly secured at three (3) inch intervals to the bottom horizontal crossbar which shall be no more than three (3) inches above the floor.

- d. Caracal, Bobcat, Lynx, Ocelot, Serval and Hybrids Thereof. Animals in this category shall be housed in enclosures completely enclosed with a minimum of eighty (80) square feet for each animal, and of a minimum height of eight (8) feet. Walls and top or roof of cages shall be constructed of no smaller than eleven and one half gauge steel chain link fencing secured to steel poles not smaller than 1 1/2 inch diameter and placed at least thirty inches in the ground in 30 inches of concrete not more than ten (10) feet apart. Enclosures shall have double safety doors.
  - e. Bears. Large bears are considered to be among the more dangerous as well as the more escape prone of all animals. Bears shall be housed in primary enclosures with at least six hundred (600) square feet per animal. There shall be not more than one (1) male and one (1) female per primary enclosure. The primary enclosure shall be constructed of solid steel bars at least 3/4 inch in diameter, anchored in the ground at least thirty inches and in thirty (30) inches of concrete. Such enclosures shall be at least ten (10) feet high and shall have a top or roof constructed of the same material as the sides and firmly attached thereto with no gaps therein. All such enclosures shall have a crossweld at least every four (4) inches, and shall have a floor of concrete, covered with plywood or earth sufficiently to protect the animals housed therein.
2. Secondary Enclosures. The purpose of a secondary enclosure is to serve as a perimeter fence surrounding all primary enclosures, in order to protect the public by prevention of escape by an animal accidentally freed from its primary enclosure.
- a. Secondary enclosures shall be constructed of not smaller than 11 1/2 gauge steel chain link fencing at least twelve (12) feet in height and shall encompass all primary enclosures. The fencing shall be attached to steel poles not smaller than 2 1/2 inch diameter and set in thirty inches of concrete, or cedar or creosote posts of equivalent strength. All posts shall be placed at least thirty inches in the ground and be spaced not more than fifteen feet apart. Secondary enclosures shall not have any common wall with any primary enclosure, and all such enclosures shall be continuously electrified. Any secondary enclosure surrounding enclosures of animals capable of fence climbing shall be electrified at the bottom and middle and shall also have an electrified overhang to prevent climbing. Secondary enclosures housing digging animals such as hyenas, wild dogs, and bears shall be so constructed as to be tunnel proof. The strength of the secondary enclosure shall be appropriate to the animal enclosed as well as to the conditions and shall be so constructed that no single foreseeable event can jeopardize the structural integrity of both the primary and secondary enclosure. All enclosures shall have double safety doors, each of which shall be secured by a lock. All such enclosures shall be located a sufficient distance from the primary enclosure and from all other structures, rocks, trees, or terrain features that no such primary enclosure, structure, rock, tree, or terrain feature may be used as a leaping platform.

In the event that cedar or creosote posts are used for line posts, all corner posts and posts at sharp angles shall be of steel and at least four (4) inches in diameter, and all posts other than corner or angle posts shall be located on the outside of the fencing. In the event that cedar or creosote posts are used, they shall be replaced with steel posts at least 2 1/2 inches in diameter, schedule 40 when replacement is needed, or within six (6) years, whichever is earlier.

3. No variations from these standards shall be made by the Animal Control Officer.
4. No wild or vicious animal for which there appears no standard for construction of primary enclosures in this appendix shall be brought into Chatham County.
5. All primary and secondary enclosures shall be so designed and constructed that no single foreseeable event or series of events shall break the structural integrity of the primary and secondary enclosures.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by Commissioner Murchison. After discussion, its adoption was moved by Commissioner Murchison and unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session this 24th day of January 1983.