

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/01 S3/26/01 S4/3/01

A Bill

Act 1768 of 2001
HOUSE BILL 2207

5 By: Representative Fite
6 By: *Senator Faris*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE OWNERSHIP AND BREEDING OF
11 WOLVES AND WOLF-DOG HYBRIDS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE OWNERSHIP AND
16 BREEDING OF WOLVES AND WOLF-DOG HYBRIDS.
17

18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds:

22 (1) That wolves and wolf-dog hybrids are now present in this state, but
23 remain unregulated;

24 (2) That the Compendium of Animal Rabies Control advises that no
25 vaccination has been approved for use in wolves or wolf-dog hybrids;

26 (3) However, wolves and dogs are scientifically classified as the same
27 species;

28 (4) "Off" and "Extra" label use of vaccines approved for use in dogs
29 are widely used to vaccinate wolves and wolf-dog hybrids, even by the federal
30 government, to prevent diseases such as rabies;

31 (5) Failure to vaccinate wolves and wolf-dog hybrids raises the
32 possibility of creating a large pool of animals that could serve as reservoirs
33 for rabies; and

34 (6) Due to the neglect and irresponsibility of their owners, some
35 wolves and wolf-dog hybrids could pose a threat to public safety in this
36 state.

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SECTION 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this act:

(1)(A) "Wolf-dog hybrid" means any animal which is publicly acknowledged by its owner as being the offspring of a wolf and domestic dog.

(B) No animal may be judged to be a wolf or wolf-dog hybrid based strictly on its appearance.

SECTION 3. RECORDS.

(a) Owners of wolves and wolf-dog hybrids shall maintain all health records of each wolf and wolf-dog hybrid, including health certificates, records of immunization and any other documentary evidence pertaining to the health and welfare of the animal.

(b) The owner shall maintain records of acquisitions and disposals of hybrids, including the name and address of the person with whom a transaction is conducted, with entries being made on the day of the transaction.

(c) Records shall be available for inspection by law enforcement personnel at reasonable hours.

SECTION 4. Confinement, Care and Inspections.

(a) Wolves and wolf-dog hybrids shall be provided adequate confinement and adequate feeding.

(b) Adequate confinement shall include at least:

(1) A brick, concrete, or chain link enclosure surrounded by two layers of fencing as follows:

(A) For a single animal:

(i) Either an inner chain link fence a minimum of fifteen (15) feet long by eight (8) feet wide by ten (10) feet high or an electric fence that prevents climbing over, and either extending two (2) feet underground or employing some other means that prevents digging under;

(ii) An outer fence eight (8) feet high with at least four (4) feet between the two (2) fences unless the inner fence is an electric fence, posted with warning signs, and the gate locked at all times;

(B) For a pair, double the cage length for a single animal.

(C) For more than two (2) animals, add ten (10) feet to the single animal length and width for each additional animal.

1 (2) A secluded den four (4) feet square for each animal.

2 (3) No more than four (4) total of wolves or wolf-dog hybrids or
3 both per acre.

4 (c) Adequate confinement shall not include tethering of a wolf or wolf-
5 dog hybrid not under the direct supervision and control of the owner or
6 custodian.

7 (d)(1) Adequate feeding shall include daily feedings and provisions of
8 water.

9 (2) The feed used shall consist of a minimum meat-based protein
10 content of twenty-five percent (25%) and crude fat of fifteen percent (15%),
11 with exceptions for geriatric and overweight animals or under the advice of a
12 licensed veterinarian.

13 (e) Owners and custodians of wolves and wolf-dog hybrids shall allow
14 inspections by law enforcement personnel at reasonable hours to insure
15 adequate confinement and adequate feeding.

16 (f) This section applies only to owners of four (4) or more adult
17 hybrids or wolves, animals one (1) year of age or older.

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19 SECTION 5. Entry into the state.

20 (a) Wolves and wolf-dog hybrids may enter into this state only if each
21 animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection indicating
22 that the animal is free from disease or exposure to infectious or contagious
23 disease.

24 (b) No animals from rabies quarantined areas shall be admitted into
25 this state.

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27 SECTION 6. (a) Wolves and wolf-dog hybrids are required to be
28 vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against rabies with a vaccine approved
29 for dog use, and a rabies certificate may be issued.

30 (b) Veterinarians must inform the owner of the wolf or wolf-dog hybrid,
31 preferably in writing, that the vaccination is considered "off label" and that
32 protection against rabies is not guaranteed.

33 (c) If a wolf or wolf-dog hybrid bites a person, the following criteria
34 will be used by an official of the Department of Health in dealing with the
35 animal:

36 (1) The decision shall consider, at least:

1 (A) The epidemiology and risk of rabies in the
2 species of animal in question;

3 (B) Possible prior exposure to a rabies vector;

4 (C) Behavior of the animal at the time of the bite;

5 (D) Prior rabies vaccinations; and

6 (E) Other circumstances that may exist.

7 (2) In some situations, the department will consider the
8 initiative and willingness of the individual so exposed to submit to
9 postexposure anti-rabies immunization after being adequately informed of all
10 potential risks;

11 (3) Any biting animal determined to be at significant risk for
12 the transmission of rabies shall upon written order by the Director of the
13 Department of Health, or a specifically designated representative, be humanely
14 killed and the brain tissue submitted for testing; and

15 (4) The department has the authority to order the quarantine of
16 an animal, determined to be a very low risk for the transmission of rabies,
17 for a thirty (30) day observation period as an alternate method to euthanasia
18 and testing.

19 (d) Owners must be notified and given three (3) business days to
20 provide proof to the Department of Health in their animal's defense before the
21 animal can be euthanized.

22 (e) If, in the future, the United States Department of Agriculture
23 approves the use of rabies vaccines in wolves or wolf-dog hybrids or both,
24 then wolves and wolf-dog hybrids will fall under the same regulations as dogs
25 regarding biting humans and rabies control.

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27 SECTION 7. (a) If a wolf or wolf-dog hybrid bites a person or injures
28 or destroys another animal while out of its confined area, the person
29 responsible for the adequate confinement of the animal shall, upon conviction,
30 be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

31 (b) If a wolf or wolf-dog hybrid is not adequately confined or fed, the
32 person responsible for adequate confinement or adequate feeding of the animal
33 or both shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

34 (c) A person abandons or releases a wolf or hybrid into the wild shall,
35 upon conviction, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

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1 SECTION 8. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit local
2 regulation of the ownership, breeding, confinement or feeding of wolves or
3 wolf-dog hybrids.

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5 /s/ Fite

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8 APPROVED: 4/18/2001
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