

Order No. 2023-1001

The Commissioners Court of Mc Mullen County hereby adopts the following order, pursuant to Chapter 240, Local Government Code and Chapter 822E, Texas Health and Safety Code.

- 1) The Commissioners Court hereby determines that wild animals, as defined in this order, are dangerous and in need of control.
- 2) A wild animal means a lion, a tiger, an ocelot, a cougar, a leopard, a cheetah, a jaguar, a lynx, a serval, a hyena, a bear, a jackal, a baboon, a chimpanzee, an orangutan, a gorilla, or any hybrid of an animal listed in this definition.
- 3) The keeping of a wild animal in the unincorporated area of this county is hereby prohibited.
- 4) This order shall not apply to the owner of a wild animal being kept in this county on the effective date of this order; provided the owner of the animal: 1) holds a valid Class "A, B, or C" license issued by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States under the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. Section 2131, et. Seg.); and 2) fully complies with this order and Texas health and Safety Code, Chapter 822 E, with respect to all wild animals owned.
- 5) A person described in Section 4) above may not own, keep, or have custody of a wild animal after February 13,, 2023 unless the person obtains an annual certificate of registration from the Sheriff. The Sheriff shall implement, administer and enforce the registration program in accordance with Health and Safety Code, Chapter 822 E. The Sheriff shall prescribe the application form and the certificate of registration required by Health and Safety Code, Chapter 822 E.
- 6) The Sheriff shall collect with each annual registration application submitted under this order a non-refundable fee of \$50 for each wild animal being registered. However, a person may not be charged more than a total of \$500 in annual fees regardless of the number of animals the person is registering.
- 7) A person described in Section 4) above commits an offense if that person violates the registration requirements imposed under this order or otherwise fails to comply with all applicable provisions of Health and Safety Code, Chapter 822 E.
- 8) A violation of this order is an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor.
- 9) A violation or threatened violation of this order may be enjoined by an action in District Court.
- 10) This order supersedes any previously filed order and shall become effective immediately.

READ and ADOPTED this 13th day of February 2023.


County Judge James E. Teal

Larry Garcia

Commissioner, Pct. 1 Larry Garcia

Murray Swaim

Commissioner, Pct. 2 Murray Swaim

Scotty McLaugherty

Commissioner, Pct. 3 Scotty McLaugherty

Max Quintanilla

Commissioner, Pct4 Max Quintanilla

Matthe Sadovsky

Attested: County Clerk, ~~Matthe Swaim~~

Sadovsky