

**VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS  
ORDINANCE 2024-002**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-ANIMALS OF THE VILLAGE  
CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Vernon Hills is a home rule municipality pursuant to Article 7, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution and is acting in accordance with its home rule authority in enacting this ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Vernon Hills have reviewed the recommendation of the Vernon Hills Police Department regarding revisions and updates to the Village Code regarding Wild Animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Vernon Hills have determined that the public interest can be best served and have deemed it to be in the best interests of the health, welfare, and safety of the residents, property owners and the businesses of the Village.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1: INCORPORATION**

The recitals set forth above shall be and are hereby incorporated in this Section 1 as if restated herein.

**SECTION 2: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS**

That Chapter 4, Section 7 of the Vernon Hills Village Code be hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Sec. 4-7. – WILD ANIMALS:

(a) Definitions, as used in this section.

- (1) *Wild animal* means any species of mammal, reptile, amphibian, arachnid or fowl which is not naturally tame or gentle but is of a wild nature or disposition, and which, because it is carnivorous in its wild state, or is poisonous, or because of its size, physical makeup, vicious nature or other characteristics, would constitute a danger to human life, domestic animals or property, including racoon, squirrel, lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, serval cat, margay, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, jaguarundi and other wild cat of the family felidae, hyena, bear, wolverine, badger, wolf, coyote, boar, alligator, crocodile, any poisonous or venomous biting or injecting species of amphibian, arachnid, or reptile or any life-threatening reptile. Any animal which is of a species listed specifically shall be considered a wild animal and any poisonous, venomous biting or injecting species of amphibian, arachnid or reptile or life-threatening reptile shall be considered a

wild animal, and the provisions of this chapter regarding such wild animals shall apply.

**(b) PROHIBITION AGAINST KEEPING WILD ANIMALS:**

It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to harbor or keep any wild animal in the village, except the provisions of this section shall not apply to any keeping of such animals in a bona fide licensed veterinary hospital for treatment, bona fide educational institution, museum, circus, carnival, zoo or other event for entertainment, which is authorized by the proper and responsible official or officers of the village in accordance with all applicable laws and ordinances, and provided that proper bond and/or insurance has been posted in accordance with village ordinances, all federal, state, county and local permits and licenses have been procured and the applicant thereunder is in compliance with all federal, state, county and local rules, regulations, laws and ordinances. It shall not be a defense to a violation of this section that the person or entity violating said section has attempted to, or has in fact, domesticated the wild animal.

**(c) NOTICE OF KEEPING OF WILD ANIMALS:**

Upon the written complaint of any person that a person, firm or corporation procured, owns, possesses or harbors a wild animal on premises in the village, the chief of police shall forthwith cause the matter to be investigated, and if after investigation the facts indicate that such person, named in the complaint, is in fact the owner or is keeping or harboring any such wild animal in the village, the chief of police shall forthwith send written notice to such person, requiring such person to safely remove said wild animal from the village within ten (10) days of the date of said notice. Notice as herein provided shall not be required where such wild animal has previously caused serious physical harm or death to any person, or has escaped and is at large, in which case the chief of police shall cause said wild animal to be immediately seized and impounded, according to the provisions of section 4-7(d) of this chapter, or killed, if seizure and impoundment are not possible without risk of serious physical harm or death to any person, domestic animal or property.

**(d) SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDING OF WILD ANIMALS:**

The chief of police shall forthwith cause to be seized and impounded any wild animal where the person owning, keeping or harboring such animal has failed to comply with the notice sent pursuant to section 4-7(c) of this chapter. Any health officer or any police officer of the village shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, taking possession of any wild animal the officer reasonably believes is being kept, possessed or harbored in violation of this chapter. If the person in possession refuses to relinquish possession of the wild animal, the health officer or police officer shall so notify the chief of police, and the chief of police shall obtain an appropriate court order, with the assistance of the village attorney, to obtain possession. This section shall not be interpreted to authorize or attempt to authorize entry into places not open to the public, without either the consent of the owner or person in possession of a warrant or other court order. Upon seizure and impoundment, said animal shall be delivered to a place of confinement for safekeeping with a qualified zoological park,

humane society, veterinary hospital or animal refuge, authorized by law to accept, own, keep or harbor such wild animals.

(e) **FORFEITURE OF WILD ANIMAL:**

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this section 4-7 shall, in addition to any fine, penalty or equitable relief granted against it, forfeit the wild animal to the village for permanent disposition to a zoological or animal refuge authorized by law to accept, keep or harbor such animals, if reasonably possible, or, if not, for destruction of said wild animal.

**SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE**

The ordinance shall be in full force and effect from its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

**SECTION 4: ORDINANCE NUMBER**

This ordinance shall be known as ordinance number 2024-002.

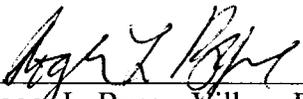
Dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

Adopted by roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5 – Marquardt, Oppenheim, Forster, Schenk, Byrne

NAYS: 0 - None

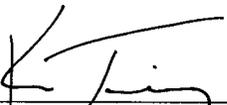
ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 2 – Koch, Takaoka

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger L. Byrne, Village President

PASSED: 01/09/2024

APPROVED: 01/09//2024

ATTEST: 01/09/2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Timony, Village Clerk



VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-ANIMALS OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE  
VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS

Published in pamphlet form by the Authority of the  
President and Board of Trustees of the Village of  
Vernon Hills, Lake County, Illinois, this  
9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024

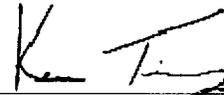
STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 )  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

CERTIFICATE

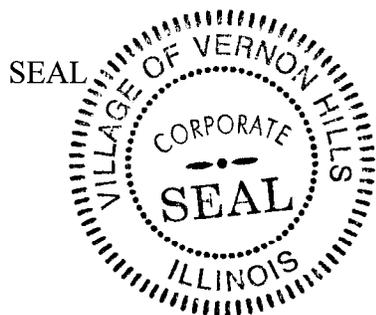
I, KEVIN TIMONY, CERTIFY THAT I AM THE DULY APPOINTED AND ACTING VILLAGE CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT ON JANUARY 9, 2024, THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES OF SUCH MUNICIPALITY PASSED AND APPROVED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-ANIMALS OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS.

THE PAMPHLET FOR ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002 INCLUDING THE ORDINANCE AND A COVER SHEET THEREOF, WAS PREPARED, AND A COPY DATED JANUARY 9, 2024 AND CONTINUING FOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS THEREAFTER. COPIES OF SUCH ORDINANCE WERE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UPON REQUEST IN THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK.

DATED IN VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS, THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024.



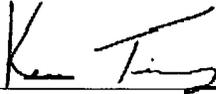
Kevin Timony, Village Clerk



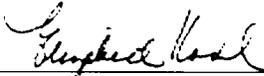
AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF LAKE     )

I, KEVIN TIMONY, BEING FIRST DULY APPOINTED, DEPOSES AND SAYS ON OATH THAT AS VILLAGE CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, HE DID CAUSE THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATE FOR ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-ANIMALS OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS TO BE POSTED IN THE VILLAGE HALL AS REQUIRED BY LAW FROM JANUARY 9, 2024 TO JANUARY 19, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Timony, Village Clerk

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME  
THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

