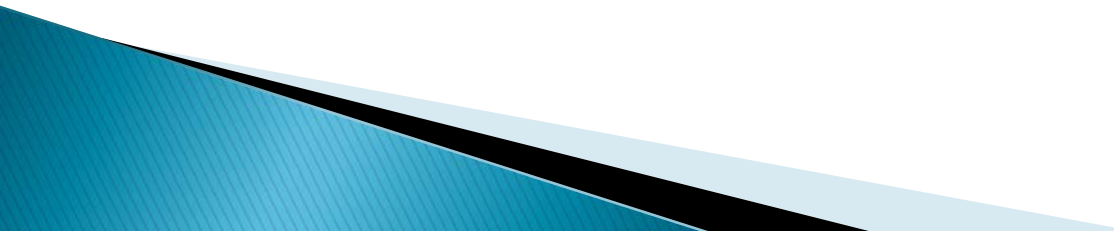
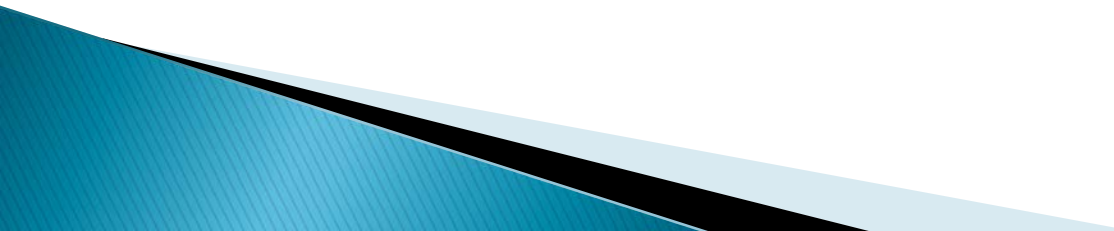


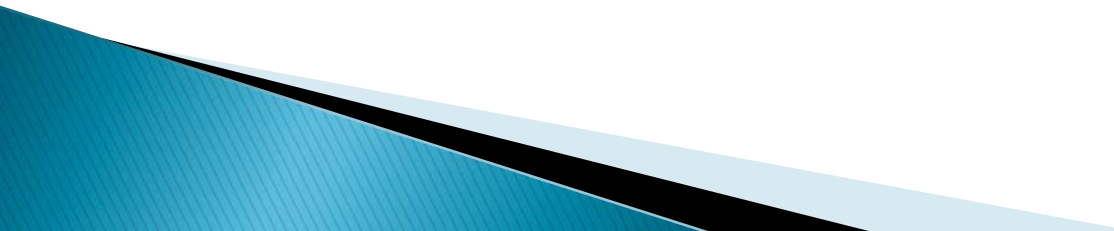
# Exotic Animals: Rabies, Other Communicable Diseases & Ownership

- ▶ Dr. Carl Williams, DVM
  - ▶ State Public Health Veterinarian
  - ▶ North Carolina Division of Public Health
  - ▶ Medical Consultation Unit
  
  - ▶ Jodi Reber, RN
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- 

# Exotic Animals: Rabies, Other Communicable Diseases & Ownership

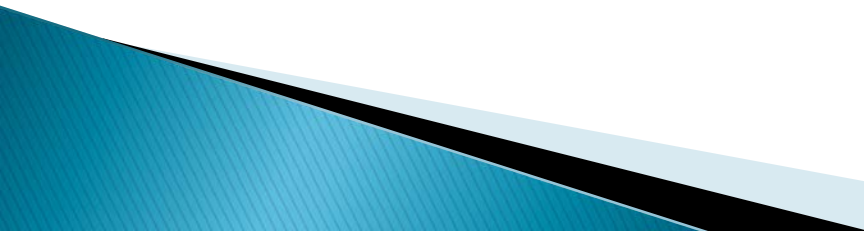
- ▶ Wake AHEC requires all speakers to disclose any relevant financial conflicts of interest.
  - ▶ Dr. Carl Williams has no relevant financial conflicts of interest to disclose.
  - ▶ Jodi Reber has no relevant financial conflicts of interest to disclose.
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# Overview

- ▶ Legal status of exotic animal ownership
  - ▶ County ordinances
  - ▶ Communicable disease concerns
  - ▶ Differences from dogs and cats
- 

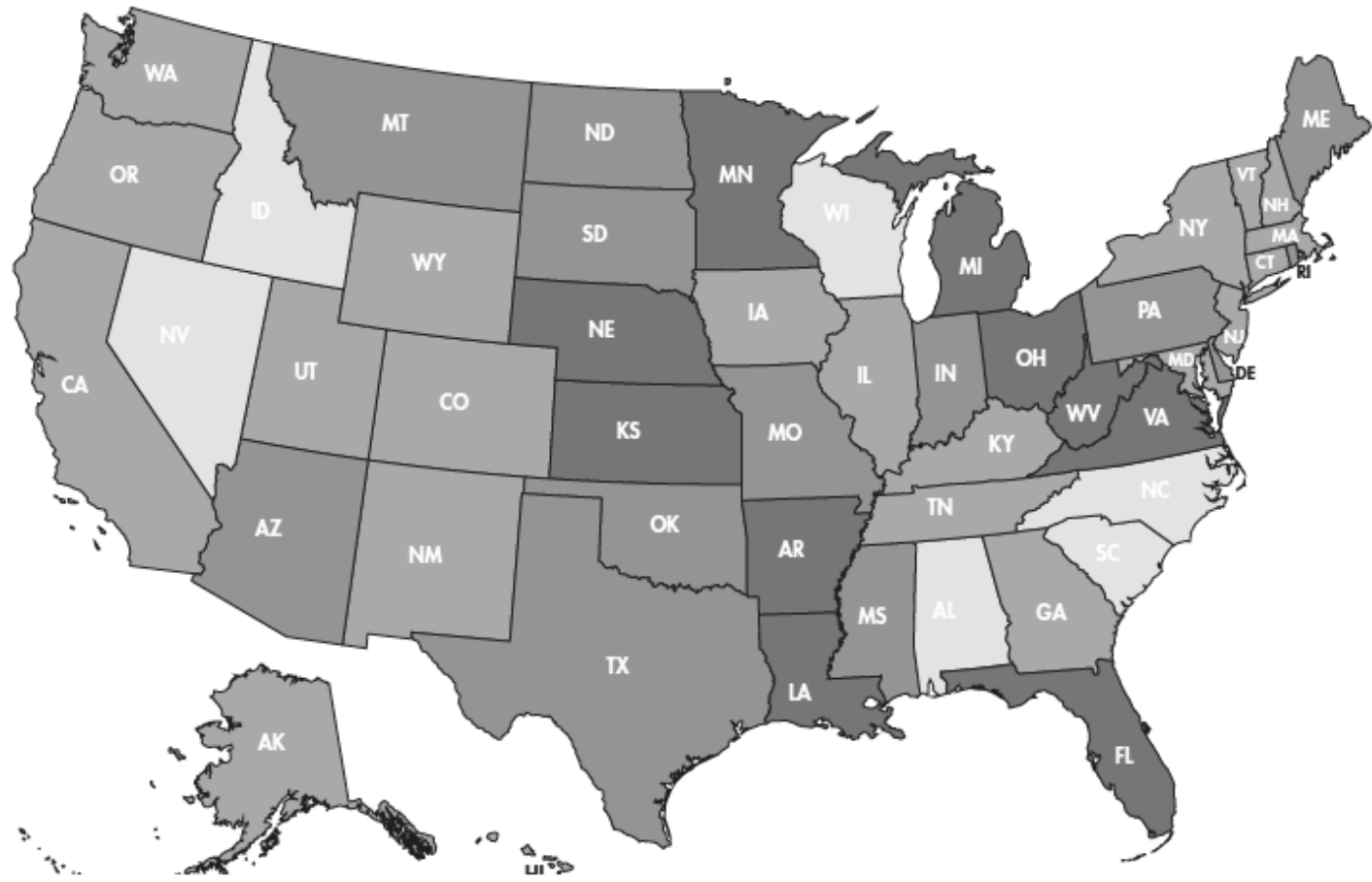


# Legal Status of Exotic Animal Ownership in NC

- ▶ NC Senate Bill 954; 1997 – did not pass
    - Exotic: an animal that is not indigenous to North Carolina; and that poses a significant threat to human health and safety
    - Intent of bill was to create a registry so exotic animals could be known to community
  - ▶ There is no statewide law restricting possession of “exotic” animals
    - NC WRC does generally prohibit possession of native wildlife
- 



# Summary of State Laws Relating to the Private Possession of Exotic Animals



**21 states** have a ban on private ownership of exotic animals — at least large cats (some of them ban all wild cats), wolves, bears, reptiles and most non-human primates: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming

**10 states** have a partial ban on private ownership of exotic animals — allowing ownership of some exotic animals but precluding others: Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia

**13 states** require the "owner" of the exotic animal to obtain a license or permit from the relevant state agency to privately possess the animal (excludes states only requiring import permits): Arizona, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas

**6 states** have no license or permit requirements, but may regulate some aspect thereof (entry permit, veterinary certificate, etc.) or have no state statute governing this issue: Alabama, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin

# Legal Status of Exotic Animal Ownership in NC

- ▶ Counties have acted independently and created ordinances that restrict ownership / possession / keeping of exotics
- ▶ Legal Authority
  - NCGS 153A-131 Possession or harboring of dangerous animals
    - A county may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the possession or harboring of animals which are dangerous to persons or property
  - NCGS 160A-187 Possession or harboring of dangerous animals
    - A city may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the possession or harboring within the city of animals which are dangerous to persons or property



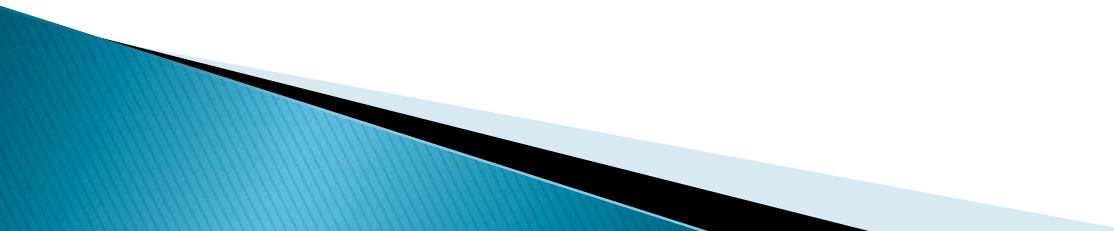
# Definitions vary by County

- ▶ **Non human primates**
- ▶ Member of family canidae excluding *Canis familiaris*
- ▶ Member of the family felidae excluding *Felis catus*, if over 15 pounds
- ▶ Member of the family ursidae
- ▶ reptiles, insects, or arachnids which are venomous and which are not indigenous to Surry County
- ▶ Reptiles which are poisonous or constricting and more than ten (10) feet in length.
- ▶ **Nonhuman primates weighing greater than twenty-five (25) pounds**
- ▶ Members of the feline family other than domestic house cats, including, but not limited to lions, tigers and leopards
- ▶ Reptiles that are members of the crocodile family, including, but not limited to alligators and crocodiles.

Surry: Inherently  
Dangerous Exotic Animal

Iredell: Wild and Exotic  
Animals

# Know the ordinances

- ▶ Most counties have “dangerous dog” ordinances
  - ▶ These do not cover exotic animals
  - ▶ Ideally a county should have both types of ordinances
- 





# Why have Ordinances?

## Monkey to Be Euthanized After Biting 3 in North Carolina

Published February 02, 2011 · FoxNews.com



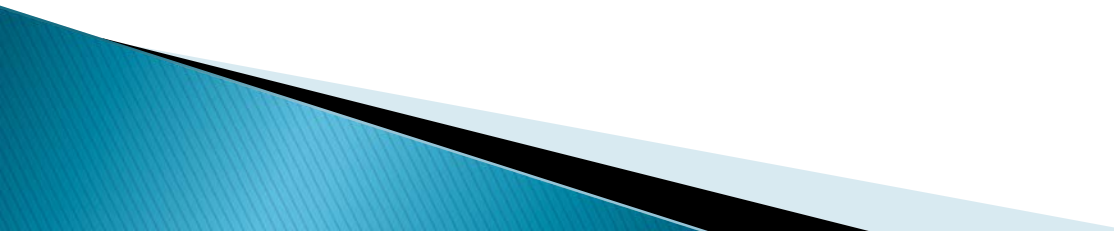
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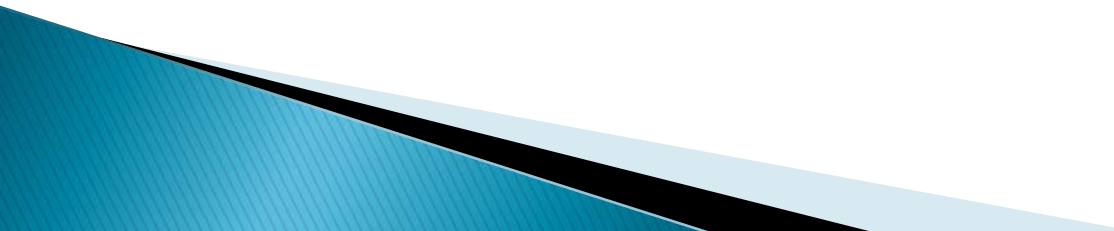
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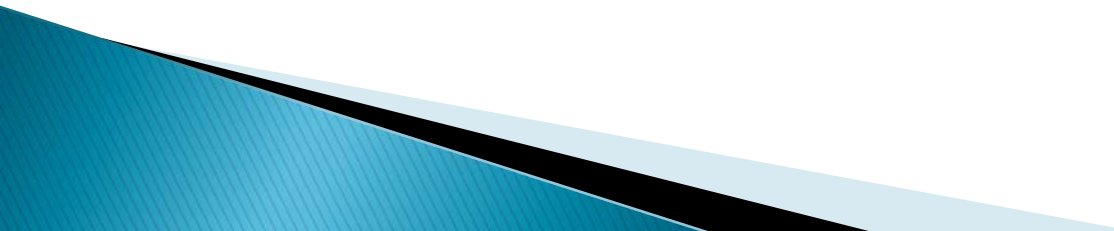
# Would a State Law be of Value?

- ▶ Arguably, yes
  - ▶ It would bring uniformity to all counties
  - ▶ It would provide protection for those counties that do not currently have an ordinance
- 

# Rabies

- ▶ The primary concern with mammal bites is rabies...but there are some important considerations when dealing with animals kept as pets other than dogs, cats, and ferrets

# Hybrid dogs and cats that bite

- ▶ Give us a call
  - ▶ These animals are not “dogs” or “cats” as defined by NC rabies statutes
  - ▶ Standard control measures will not generally apply
- 

# What happens if a \_\_\_\_\_ bites a person?

## ▶ Rabies

- The viral shedding period is known only for dogs, cats, and ferrets
- Other mammals that bite, even if kept as pets, may need to be submitted for rabies testing

# But what if the \_\_\_\_\_ was vaccinated against rabies?

- ▶ Animal rabies vaccines are licensed for use only in: dogs, cats, ferrets, cattle, horses, sheep
- ▶ Use of rabies vaccines in other species is an “off label” use that carries no guarantee of efficacy

But my \_\_\_\_\_ has a demonstrated rabies antibody titer, therefore it is protected

▶ False

- Titers do not directly correlate with protection because other immunologic factors also play a role in preventing rabies, and our abilities to measure and interpret those other factors are not well-developed.
- Therefore, evidence of circulating rabies virus antibodies in animals should not be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposures or determining the need for booster vaccinations

# It is not always about rabies

- ▶ B-virus from Pet Macaque Monkeys: An Emerging Threat in the United States?
  - B-virus infection is highly prevalent (80% to 90%) in adult macaques and may cause a potentially fatal meningoencephalitis in humans
  - The virus must be assumed to be a potential health hazard in macaque bite wounds; this risk makes macaques unsuitable as pets
  - [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/4/1/98-0117\\_article](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/4/1/98-0117_article)





National B Virus Resource Center  
Viral Immunology Center  
Georgia State University  
161 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



## B VIRUS EXPOSURE MINI-PROTOCOL

The following is a checklist for recommended samples to be submitted for herpes B virus testing. Please familiarize yourself and your staff with this checklist and please refer to this when submitting specimens to our laboratory. Thank you.

### BASELINE/DAY OF INJURY SAMPLES

- 1. Human baseline serum (0.5 - 2.0 ml) collected as close as possible to the time of injury.
- 2. Primate baseline serum (0.5 - 2.0 ml) collected as close as possible to the time of injury..
- 3. Human virology swab samples of the wound site or exposed area as applicable. This specimen should be collected as soon as possible after the injury, after the site has been disinfected.
- 4. Primate virology swab samples of the buccal cavity, right eye, left eye, and genitalia. Please use one swab per site and send in separate media tubes. These specimens must be collected as close as possible to the time of injury, as specimens collected later may not accurately reflect the monkey's status at the time of injury.

### FOLLOW-UP/14 - 21 DAY POST INJURY SAMPLES

- 1. Human follow-up serum (0.5 - 2.0 ml).
- 2. Primate follow-up serum (0.5 - 2.0 ml).

Capuchin monkeys for sale in NC; People will buy these animals...

**Deposits are not refundable!**

For more detailed information, Call or Email me!  
rainbowprimates@gmail.com

**Jamie Crawford**

**Goldsboro  
North Carolina**

**919-222-4262**

**10/01/2013**

**Black & white Capuchins Now Available**

**Baby boys \$6,800**

**Baby girls \$7,500**

**Black cap capuchins Now Available**

**Baby boys \$6,300**

**Baby girls \$6,800**

# Exotic Animal Bites

- ▶ Often confusing as the disease risks may not be fully understood
  - ▶ Human and animal follow up can be expensive
  - ▶ People have often spent thousands of dollars to obtain exotic and are reluctant to relinquish
  - ▶ Local animal control has little to no experience in handling these species
  
  - ▶ It is better to prohibit possession / ownership through ordinance
- 