



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CANINE-WILD ANIMAL HYBRID ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT
OCTOBER 21, 2006**

Tucson, Arizona – October 18, 2006 – On Saturday, October 21, 2006, new regulations go into effect concerning canine-wild animal hybrids. A canine-wild animal hybrid is any animal that is part dog and part wolf or coyote.

The Ordinance will require hybrid owners to purchase a permit for each animal owned. The cost of the permit is \$10 for animals older than 5 months. Owners will also be required to have the dog spayed or neutered, and verify that the animal has, by a licensed veterinarian, been implanted or affixed with either a microchip or tattoo.

Most or all canine-wild animal hybrids, as a result of their unpredictable and predatory nature, pose a threat to human health and safety. The new regulations will require owners to have a secure fenced or walled yard that is accessible to and usable by the animal that will prevent it from escaping. The purpose is to protect not only the animal, but the public as well.

A fact sheet is also attached. For additional information, please call the Enforcement Section of the Pima Animal Care Center at 520.743.7550 ext. 207 or log onto www.pimaanimalcare.org

FACT SHEET – CANINE-WILD ANIMAL HYBRID ORDINANCE

Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid Ordinance 2006-57, sections 6.04.20-6.05.060 becomes effective October 21, 2006. If you are an owner of a Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid, you must:

- 1). Provide proof to the Pima County Animal Care Center that the animal has been altered and microchipped or tattooed by a licensed veterinarian.
 - If the animal is five (5) months of age or older. If the animal is less than five (5) months of age and is unaltered, the applicant may be issued a temporary permit that will expire on the day the animal reaches the age of five (5) months.
- 2). Obtain a valid Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid permit issued by the Pima County Animal Care Center for each animal owned.
 - A standard permit issued requires payment of a ten dollar (\$10.00) fee and must be renewed annually. **Permits must be purchased and obtained in person at the Pima Animal Care Center, at 4000 N. Silverbell Rd.**
- 3). To obtain a valid Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid permit you will need to bring a valid picture I.D. such as an Arizona Drivers license and verification from a licensed Veterinarian that each Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid owned is spay or neutered and has a microchip or tattoo. Veterinarian verification must include each permanent number.
- 4). For Specific Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid permit conditions, please see below or visit our website at www.pimaanimalcare.org.

Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid permits shall not be issued unless the following conditions are met:

- The applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age.
- The applicant must provide proof from a licensed veterinarian that the animal has permanent identification in the form of a microchip or tattoo.
- The applicant must provide proof that the animal has been altered.
- The applicant must have a secure fenced or walled yard that is accessible to and useable by the animal that will prevent the animal from escaping. Apartments without yards are not acceptable. **If, after obtaining a permit, the owner no longer has the required yard, the permit will be invalid.**
- The applicant has not been convicted of or found responsible for neglect or mistreatment of an animal and has not within the past ten (10) years been convicted of a felony.
- The applicant is not subject to a court order requiring the forfeiture of a canine-wild animal hybrid or prohibiting the ownership or possession of such an animal.
- If ownership of the animal is to be transferred, the releasing owner, before the transfer occurs, must notify Pima Animal Care Center in writing of the new owner's name, address and telephone number; together with the animal's description; permit number, and tattoo or microchip number. The new owner shall obtain a new permit.
- Permits must include the name, address and telephone number of the permit holder and the address where the Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid will be kept.
- If a Rabies vaccination for the Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid receives approval of the Arizona State veterinarian, the owner of these hybrids shall have them vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and shall keep the vaccination current.
- By owning or having custody of a permitted Canine-Wild Animal Hybrid, an owner, or custodian gives consent to Pima County Animal Care or any peace officer to inspect the animal, the premises where the animal is kept, and any documents or records relating to the animal.
- Owners of Canine-Wild Animal Hybrids are required to comply with all other requirements of Title 6 of the Pima County Code.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the Pima Animal Care Center at 743-7550.