

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1799

By: David

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to exotic felines; amending 29 O.S.  
8 2011, Section 4-107, which relates to commercial  
9 wildlife breeders' licenses; removing certain  
10 requirements related to cats; creating the Oklahoma  
11 Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership Act; providing short  
12 title; stating purpose of act; specifying classes of  
13 exotic felines under act; requiring certain permit;  
14 directing the Department of Wildlife Conservation to  
15 issue certain permits; specifying fee for certain  
16 permits; specifying requirements for certain  
17 applications; providing for certain noncompliance;  
18 providing for permit expiration; providing for permit  
19 renewal; requiring maintenance of certain records;  
20 providing for the inspection of certain facilities;  
21 specifying requirements of certain facilities;  
22 requiring certain equipment; specifying cage sizes  
23 for certain animals; providing certain exceptions;  
24 providing for the watering and feeding of certain  
animals; requiring certain care; requiring certain  
removal and disposal; requiring certain letter;  
providing for certain inspections; permitting certain  
appeals; requiring certain notification; requiring  
certain persons to be liable for specified costs;  
requiring certain housing; requiring certain  
maintenance; directing the Wildlife Conservation  
Commission to promulgate certain rules; providing for  
exceptions to the act; providing for codification;  
and providing an effective date.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 4-107, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 4-107. A. Except as otherwise provided for in this  
4 title or in the Oklahoma Farmed Cervidae Act, no person may breed,  
5 possess or raise native wildlife, except fish, amphibians, aquatic  
6 reptiles, aquatic invertebrates or exotic livestock, for commercial  
7 purposes without first obtaining a commercial wildlife breeder's  
8 license from the Director.

9 B. No person licensed under this section with a commercial  
10 wildlife breeder's license may sell native ~~eats~~ or bears specified  
11 in subsection E of this section to any person who does not possess a  
12 commercial wildlife breeder's license.

13 C. A commercial wildlife breeder's license may be issued to any  
14 person whom the Director believes to be acting in good faith, and  
15 whom the Director believes does not intend to use the license for  
16 the purpose of violating any of the laws of the State of Oklahoma,  
17 and who proves that the brood stock to be used will be obtained in a  
18 lawful manner.

19 D. The fee for a commercial wildlife breeder's license issued  
20 under this section, and all renewals of the license, shall be Forty-  
21 eight Dollars (\$48.00). All commercial wildlife breeder's licenses  
22 issued pursuant to this section shall expire on June 30 of each  
23 year.

24

1 E. Any person who keeps or maintains any native bear ~~or native~~  
2 ~~eat~~ that will grow to reach the weight of fifty (50) pounds or more  
3 shall be licensed under this section with a commercial wildlife  
4 breeder's license. Any person licensed pursuant to this subsection  
5 shall at all times keep such wildlife confined to the premises  
6 described in the commercial wildlife breeder application, and  
7 controlled and restrained in a manner so the life, limb or property  
8 of any person lawfully entering the premises shall not be  
9 endangered. Any person licensed to possess native ~~eats or~~ bears  
10 pursuant to this subsection shall control and restrain the wildlife  
11 so that there is no direct contact between the public and the  
12 wildlife, and the public shall not be allowed to enter into any  
13 enclosures occupied by the wildlife.

14 F. 1. Any person who is a nonresident or entity not  
15 permanently located within the state which exhibits ~~native eats or~~  
16 native bears that will grow to reach the weight of fifty (50) pounds  
17 or more in this state on a temporary basis shall be required to  
18 obtain from the Director a nonresident ~~eat or~~ bear temporary  
19 exhibitor's permit. Any person with a permit issued pursuant to  
20 this paragraph shall be exempt from acquiring a commercial wildlife  
21 breeder's license issued under this section and shall be exempt from  
22 the requirements set forth in subsection E of this section. The fee  
23 for a nonresident ~~eat or~~ bear temporary exhibitor's permit shall be  
24 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and shall be valid for thirty (30)

1 days. To obtain a nonresident ~~eat-or~~ bear temporary exhibitor's  
2 permit, the person shall be required to hold a valid exhibitor's  
3 license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

4 2. Any resident of the state who has a commercial wildlife  
5 breeder's license issued pursuant to this section who wishes to  
6 exhibit ~~native cats-or~~ native bears that will grow to reach the  
7 weight of fifty (50) pounds or more at the permanent facility  
8 described in the commercial wildlife breeder's license or at a  
9 temporary facility shall be required to obtain from the Director a  
10 resident ~~eat-or~~ bear exhibitor's permit. Any person with a permit  
11 issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be required to also have a  
12 commercial wildlife breeder's license issued under this section and  
13 shall comply with the requirements set forth in subsection E of this  
14 section when not exhibiting the wildlife. The fee for a resident  
15 ~~eat-or~~ bear exhibitor's permit shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and  
16 shall be valid for one (1) year. To obtain a resident ~~eat-or~~ bear  
17 exhibitor's permit the person shall be required to hold a valid  
18 exhibitor's license issued by the United States Department of  
19 Agriculture.

20 3. Any person with a permit to exhibit native ~~eats-or~~ bears  
21 pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection shall at all times  
22 keep the wildlife controlled and restrained in a manner so the life,  
23 limb, or property of any person lawfully entering the premises where  
24 the wildlife is being exhibited shall not be endangered by the

1 wildlife. Any person with a permit to exhibit native ~~eats or~~ bears  
2 pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection shall control and  
3 handle the wildlife so there is no direct contact between the public  
4 and the wildlife, and the public shall not be allowed to enter into  
5 any enclosures occupied by the wildlife. Any native ~~eat or~~ bear and  
6 any facility covered under a permit issued pursuant to paragraph 1  
7 or 2 of this subsection shall be available for inspection at all  
8 reasonable times by authorized representatives of the Department.

9 G. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this  
10 section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred  
11 Dollars (\$500.00) and, if applicable, shall have the wildlife  
12 license of the person revoked. No person whose license has been  
13 revoked shall be eligible to obtain a new license until after the  
14 date on which the revoked license would have expired.

15 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.3 of Title 29, unless  
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
19 Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership Act".

20 B. The purpose of the Oklahoma Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership  
21 Act is to protect the citizens and wildlife in this state by  
22 establishing minimum requirements for the keeping and breeding of  
23 exotic felines in captivity.

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1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.4 of Title 29, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 For the purpose of public safety, exotic felines shall be  
5 divided into three (3) classes as follows:

- 6 1. Class I feline species shall include tigers, lions,  
7 leopards, jaguars, or any hybrid thereof;
- 8 2. Class II feline species shall include cougars, cheetahs,  
9 snow leopards, clouded leopards, or any hybrid thereof; and
- 10 3. Class III feline species shall include all other species of  
11 wild cats, including, but not limited to, servals, bobcats, Canadian  
12 lynx, European lynx, caracals, jungle cats, ocelots, fishing cats,  
13 Asian leopard cats, European Wildcats, margays, Geoffroy cats, or  
14 any hybrid thereof except for domestic and wild feline hybrid  
15 crosses.

16 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.5 of Title 29, unless  
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. No person shall possess any native or nonnative nondomestic  
20 feline in captivity except as authorized by a permit issued by the  
21 Department of Wildlife Conservation. Upon payment of the required  
22 fees and demonstration of the requirements of the provisions of the  
23 Oklahoma Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership Act, the Department shall  
24 issue a permit to possess, exhibit and/or breed exotic felines.

1 B. The permit fee for a noncommercial breeder shall be Ten  
2 Dollars (\$10.00) and the permit fee for a commercial breeder shall  
3 be Forty Eight Dollars (\$48.00) per year for all classes of exotic  
4 felines. Permit fees shall be commensurate with the actual  
5 administrative costs required to administer permits. In no case  
6 shall the permit fees be intended to be punitive or prohibitive.

7 C. Permits shall specify which class of feline species may be  
8 possessed by the permit holder. Class I permits shall allow for the  
9 possession of Class I, Class II, and Class III feline species.  
10 Class II permits shall allow for the possession of Class II and  
11 Class III feline species, and Class III permits shall only allow for  
12 the possession of Class III feline species.

13 D. In order to receive a permit, individual applicants or, in  
14 the case of facilities which are operated by corporations, the  
15 individual responsible for the oversight of animal care, shall:

16 1. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

17 2. Not have been convicted of a felony violation of captive  
18 wildlife regulations, illegal commercialization of wildlife, or  
19 offenses involving cruelty to animals;

20 3. Possess husbandry knowledge and handling experience  
21 commensurate with the class of permit requested as follows:

22 a. Class I permits: A minimum of five hundred (500)  
23 hours of practical experience providing care for one  
24 or more felines from a Class I species. Experience

1 may be obtained by volunteering at an exotic sanctuary  
2 which cares for exotic cats or by being a private  
3 owner who has more than two (2) years experience with  
4 a Class I feline,

5 b. Class II permits: A minimum of two hundred fifty  
6 (250) hours of practical experience providing care for  
7 one or more felines from a Class II species.

8 Experience may be obtained by volunteering at an  
9 exotic sanctuary which cares for exotic cats or by  
10 being a private owner who has more than two (2) years  
11 experience with a Class II feline, and

12 c. Class III permits: A minimum of one hundred (100)  
13 hours of practical experience providing care for one  
14 or more felines from a Class III species. Experience  
15 may be obtained by volunteering at an exotic sanctuary  
16 which cares for exotic cats or by being a private  
17 owner who has more than two (2) years experience with  
18 a Class III feline;

19 4. Demonstrate compliance with the experience requirements by  
20 submitting documentation of such experience, including:

- 21 a. a description of the specific experience acquired,  
22 b. the dates the experience was obtained and the specific  
23 licensed location or locations where the experienced  
24 was acquired, if applicable,



1 c. references of not less than two (2) state or federally  
2 licensed facility operators having personal knowledge  
3 of the applicant's stated experience, and

4 d. additional documentation as required by the  
5 Department, which may include records of prior permits  
6 for the keeping of captive wildlife, evidence of prior  
7 ownership, and employment records;

8 5. Demonstrate significant practical knowledge on the subject  
9 of exotic feline captive husbandry. The applicant shall provide a  
10 letter from a licensed sanctuary or individual owner stating that  
11 the applicant is recommended for a permit. The sanctuary or  
12 individual owner shall not be held responsible for applicants. Once  
13 an applicant is granted a permit, the permit holder shall not be  
14 required to repeat such practical knowledge requirements in order to  
15 change the class of permit; and

16 6. Submit a written plan for providing emergency and routine  
17 health care, including vaccinations, parasite control, dietary  
18 programs, and euthanasia protocol, as approved by a licensed  
19 veterinarian who has signed and dated the plan.

20 E. Upon the effective date of this act, applicants for a permit  
21 already in possession of exotic felines shall have sixty (60) days  
22 to apply for and be issued a permit for the highest class of exotic  
23 feline they possess at the time of application, or for the highest  
24 class they can prove ownership of for two (2) consecutive years.

1 Such persons shall be exempt from the experience and testing  
2 requirements of this section.

3 F. All permits issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Responsible  
4 Exotic Cat Ownership Act shall expire on June 30 of each year.  
5 Permit holders who wish to continue possession of an exotic feline  
6 shall file an application for permit renewal at least thirty (30)  
7 days prior to the expiration date of the permit.

8 G. All permit holders shall keep current records of the origins  
9 of all permitted exotic felines on hand and records of exotic feline  
10 transfers. The recipient's name, address, and permit number, if  
11 required, shall be entered in the transferor's records and made  
12 available for inspection upon request by the Department for a period  
13 of three (3) years after transfer.

14 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.6 of Title 29, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Applicants for permits under the Oklahoma Responsible Exotic  
18 Cat Ownership Act shall specify the location of the facility at  
19 which exotic felines shall be maintained. Such facility may be  
20 inspected and approved by the Department of Wildlife Conservation  
21 prior to the issuance of a permit.

22 B. Class I and Class II felines shall not be possessed on any  
23 premises of less than five (5) acres of land area. This requirement  
24 shall not apply to facilities that possess either Class I or Class

1 II felines for at least thirty (30) continuous days prior to the  
2 effective date of this act. Class III felines shall not be  
3 possessed on any premises of less than two (2) acres of land area.

4 C. Exotic felines shall not be possessed in multi-unit dwelling  
5 or in housing residential communities.

6 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.7 of Title 29, unless  
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. All exotic feline cages and enclosures shall be equipped to  
10 provide for the protection and welfare of the exotic felines. Such  
11 equipment shall include, but not be limited to:

12 1. A shelter provided by a structure that provides protection  
13 from the elements and extremes in temperature that could be  
14 detrimental to the health and welfare of the exotic felines;

15 2. A nest box or den provided by an enclosed shelter that  
16 provides a retreat area attached to or inside a cage or enclosure  
17 that provides protection from the elements and extremes in  
18 temperature that could be detrimental to the health and welfare of  
19 the exotic felines;

20 3. An elevated platform or area that provides a resting area  
21 for the exotic felines as well as shade;

22 4. Enrichments that provide the opportunity for physical  
23 stimulation or manipulation compatible with the species. Such  
24 enrichments shall be noninjurious and may include, but not be

1 limited to, boxes, balls, bones, barrels, rawhides, pools, and  
2 scratch posts;

3 5. Cages or enclosures sufficiently strong enough to prevent  
4 escape and to protect a caged exotic feline from injury. Cages  
5 shall be well braced and securely anchored at ground level to  
6 prevent escape by digging or erosion. The fasteners and fittings  
7 used in construction shall be constructed of materials that are at  
8 least the equivalent in strength as those prescribed for cage  
9 construction for each particular species;

10 6. Cage barriers that have a minimum height of four (4) feet  
11 and that are a minimum distance of three (3) feet away from the  
12 primary exotic feline enclosure. Barriers may be constructed from  
13 materials such as fencing, moats, or closed meshed wire, provided,  
14 however, that all materials shall be safe and effective in  
15 preventing public contact if the facility is open to the public;

16 7. A perimeter fence sufficient to deter entry by the public.  
17 Such perimeter fence shall completely surround the cage where exotic  
18 felines are housed or exercised outdoors and shall be at least eight  
19 (8) feet in height for Class I and Class II felines;

20 8. Doors or gates which may be locked when the perimeter is not  
21 attended;

22 9. Safety entrances for all cages and enclosures which shall  
23 allow a keeper to enter or exit a cage without providing an avenue  
24 of escape to exotic felines. Safety entrances may include, but are

1 not limited to, a double-gated entry door, interconnecting cages  
2 which can be isolated from each other, or a lock-down area. Safety  
3 entrances shall be constructed of materials that are at least the  
4 equivalent in strength as those recommended for cage construction  
5 for each particular species;

6 10. For Class I and Class II species, lockout areas that allow  
7 the keeper to access and clean the cage while the exotic feline is  
8 contained in a separate area. Lockout areas may consist of a den  
9 box with a door that also has access from outside the cage so that  
10 the cage may be cleaned, or any other method that allows positive  
11 separation of the exotic felines and the keeper; and

12 11. Safety equipment which is available at all times. Such  
13 equipment may include carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, darting  
14 equipment, and pepper spray.

15 B. Additional facility requirements for each class of exotic  
16 felines shall be as follows:

17 1. Class I and Class II species:

18 a. cage construction materials shall consist of nine (9)  
19 gauge chain link fencing or equivalent, and

20 b. exotic felines shall have access to an outdoor  
21 enclosure; and

22 2. Class III:  
23  
24

- a. enclosures shall be constructed with a minimum of eleven (11) gauge chain link fencing or equivalent in a welded wire,
- b. exotic felines shall have access to an outdoor exercise enclosure, and
- c. exotic felines shall only be housed in the house of the permit holder if all possible routes of escape have been remedied.

B. Caging considered unsafe or otherwise not in compliance with regulatory requirements shall be brought into compliance within sixty (60) days of notification of noncompliance.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.8 of Title 29, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Cage sizes for exotic felines permitted under the Oklahoma Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership Act shall be as follows:

1. All Class I felines and cheetahs:

- a. for one exotic feline, a cage floor size of no less than three hundred (300) square feet and a cage height of no less than eight (8) feet. The cage size shall be increased by fifty percent (50%) for each additional exotic feline, and

1           b. each cage shall have an elevated platform that shall  
2           be large enough to accommodate all exotic felines  
3           simultaneously. Each cage shall have a claw log;

4       2. Jaguars, leopards, snow leopards, and cougars:

5           a. for one exotic feline, a cage floor size of no less  
6           than two hundred (200) square feet and a cage height  
7           of no less than eight (8) feet. The cage size shall  
8           be increased by fifty percent (50%) for each  
9           additional exotic feline, and

10          b. each cage shall have an elevated platform large enough  
11          to accommodate all exotic felines in the enclosure  
12          simultaneously. Each cage shall have a claw log;

13       3. Lesser cats, including bobcats, lynx, ocelots, caracal,  
14 clouded leopards, fishing cats, and jungle cats:

15          a. for one exotic feline, a cage floor size of no less  
16          than one hundred (100) square feet and a cage height  
17          of no less than six (6) feet. The cage sizes shall be  
18          increased by fifty percent (50%) for each additional  
19          exotic feline, and

20          b. each cage shall have an elevated platform and claw  
21          log; and

22       4. Small cats, including Geoffroy cats, leopard cats, wildcats,  
23 sand cats, margays, black-footed cats, and all other species not  
24 species in this section:

1           a.    for one exotic feline, a cage floor size of no less  
2                    than one hundred (100) square feet with a cage height  
3                    of no less than six (6) feet. The cage sizes shall be  
4                    increased by fifty percent (50%) for each additional  
5                    exotic feline, and

6           b.    each exotic feline shall have an elevated platform  
7                    which shall be large enough to accommodate all exotic  
8                    felines in the enclosure simultaneously. Each cage  
9                    shall have a claw log.

10          B.    Facilities in existence at the effective date of this act  
11 shall have two (2) years to make any improvements necessary to bring  
12 the facility into compliance with this section. Such permit holder  
13 shall submit a written plan for completing the improvements to the  
14 Department of Wildlife Conservation. Extensions to the compliance  
15 deadline may be granted at the discretion of the Department on a  
16 case-by-case basis.

17          C.    Exotic felines may be temporarily housed in cages or  
18 enclosures that do not meet the requirements of this section under  
19 the following circumstances:

20            1.    For the transport of performing and nonperforming exotic  
21 felines, including a period to not exceed the forty eight (48) hour  
22 periods immediately preceding and following the time the exotic  
23 feline is actually in transit,



1           2. Exotic felines being held for sale, veterinary care, or  
2 quarantine which are temporarily housed in cages or enclosures  
3 smaller than normally required for a period not to exceed thirty  
4 (30) days within any twelve (12) month period unless under  
5 veterinary instructions; provided, however, that such temporary  
6 caging or enclosures shall not be smaller than that required for the  
7 caged exotic feline to stand up, lie down, and turn around without  
8 touching the sides of the enclosure or another feline. All such  
9 caged or housed exotic felines shall be permanently marked or their  
10 enclosure shall be permanently marked so as to be traceable to  
11 written records indicating the date the exotic feline was placed in  
12 temporary holding. The period the exotic feline may be temporarily  
13 housed in such cages or enclosures may be extended, with prior  
14 written approval by the Department, in circumstances where a  
15 licensed veterinary has certified that a longer holding period is  
16 medically necessary for the health or safety of the exotic feline or  
17 the public. Medical records concerning all exotic felines for which  
18 an extension is obtained shall be maintained at the facility and  
19 shall be made available for inspection upon request. Juvenile  
20 exotic felines shall have written documentation available to verify  
21 the age of the exotic feline, be marked or otherwise identifiable,  
22 and be provided space for exercise on a daily basis;

23           3. Newborn and juvenile exotic felines kept in enclosures below  
24 the standard caging size or strength requirements, in multi-unit

1 dwellings, or on the premises of land that is less than the required  
2 land area;

3 4. Newborn and juvenile exotic felines which are kept in  
4 incubation and rearing facilities. Nursing young may be maintained  
5 with their parents with no increase in required cage size for the  
6 adult exotic feline for up to twelve (12) weeks, provided that  
7 documentation is available to show the age of the newborn or  
8 juvenile exotic feline; and

9 5. Temporarily unconfined exotic felines which are maintained  
10 under rigid supervision and control so as to prevent injuries to  
11 members of the public. To provide for public safety, unconfined  
12 exotic felines shall be controlled in such a manner as to prevent  
13 physical contact with the public unless the facility is licensed by  
14 the United States Department of Agriculture for exhibiting purposes  
15 and the permit holder complies with all rules and guidelines  
16 specified in the federal Animal Welfare Act. No captive feline  
17 shall be tethered outdoors without supervision.

18 D. Exotic felines which are mobility impaired may be housed in  
19 cages or enclosures which do not meet the standard caging  
20 requirements if a standard cage or enclosure or any required  
21 accessories would be detrimental to the health or welfare of the  
22 exotic feline. In such instances, written documentation by a  
23 veterinarian confirming the need for such exemptions shall be  
24

1 maintained by the permit holder and shall be made available to  
2 representatives of the Department upon request.

3 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.9 of Title 29, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. A constant supply of potable water at a temperature suitable  
7 for consumption shall be available to exotic felines at all times.

8 B. Regular feeding schedules for exotic felines shall be  
9 maintained. The rations supplied to the exotic felines shall be  
10 adequate and nutritious so as to maintain proper strength and a  
11 healthy appearance.

12 C. Areas used for food preparation and storage shall be  
13 sufficiently clean so as to prevent contamination by pathogens or  
14 harmful substances.

15 D. Food for exotic felines shall be refrigerated or stored in  
16 such a manner as to prevent spoilage and contamination by rodents,  
17 insects, or other animals.

18 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.10 of Title 29, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. All exotic felines shall be provided with routine and  
22 adequate veterinary care for injuries and for the control of  
23 contagious, parasitic, and nutritional diseases. Such care shall  
24

1 include regular immunizations for the control of diseases as  
2 recommended for the species and by the veterinarian.

3 B. A facility which houses exotic felines shall be kept  
4 sanitary and regularly cleaned. Uneaten food shall be removed on a  
5 daily basis to prevent the appearance of flies and maggots. Feces  
6 shall be removed frequently enough to prevent accumulation or  
7 potential contamination of food or bedding areas.

8 C. Adequate provision shall be made for the removal and proper  
9 disposal of dirtied bedding material in a manner designed to  
10 minimize odor and vermin control.

11 D. Permit holders shall obtain a letter from a licensed  
12 veterinarian indicating that the veterinarian is willing to see the  
13 exotic feline for health care, routine check-ups, and recommended  
14 immunizations.

15 SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.11 of Title 29, unless  
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. Permit holders' facilities, exotic felines, and records may  
19 be inspected by a representative of the Department of Wildlife  
20 Conservation during normal business hours for the purpose of  
21 verifying regulatory compliance with the Oklahoma Responsible Exotic  
22 Cat Owners Act.

23 B. The inspector shall give the permit holder at least twenty  
24 four (24) hours notice prior to inspection. Prior notification of

1 an inspection is not required if the inspector has reason to believe  
2 that the health or safety of the public or an animal is in danger.

3 C. The results of conditions observed by inspectors during  
4 their inspections may be considered in determining whether to renew  
5 or revoke a permit.

6 D. Permit holders shall be granted a minimum of thirty (30)  
7 days to correct deficiencies identified during inspections.

8 E. Permit holders shall have the right to appeal inspection  
9 findings to the inspector's supervisors.

10 SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.12 of Title 29, unless  
12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. Escapes of exotic felines shall be immediately reported to  
14 the Department of Wildlife Conservation, the local animal control  
15 officer, and local law enforcement.

16 B. A permit holder found guilty of negligence resulting in the  
17 escape of a permitted animal shall be liable for any costs incurred  
18 in recapturing the exotic feline or for any damages resulting from  
19 such escape.

20 C. Any person or persons found guilty of deliberately causing  
21 an escape or damage to a facility containing exotic felines shall be  
22 liable for any costs of repair or recapture or for any damages  
23 resulting for such an escape.

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1           SECTION 12.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.13 of Title 29, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A. If a permit holder, owner, or possessor of an exotic feline  
5 is found guilty of a criminal violation of the Oklahoma Responsible  
6 Exotic Cat Ownership Act, the permit holder, owner, or possessor of  
7 the exotic feline shall be responsible for the payment of all  
8 expenses relative to the exotic feline's capture, transport,  
9 boarding, veterinary care, and other costs associated with or  
10 incurred due to such seizure or custody. Failure to pay such  
11 expenses shall be grounds for revocation or denial of permits to  
12 such individuals to possess wildlife.

13           B. Exotic felines which are kept by permit holders that are  
14 seized or taken into custody by the Department of Wildlife  
15 Conservation shall be housed and maintained in a manner consistent  
16 with the conditions of the owner's permit.

17           C. A seizure of an exotic feline by the Department shall be  
18 initiated and supervised by at least two (2) officials from the  
19 Department.

20           SECTION 13.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.14 of Title 29, unless  
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1       The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall promulgate any rules  
2 necessary to implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Responsible  
3 Exotic Cat Ownership Act.

4       SECTION 14.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-107.15 of Title 29, unless  
6 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7       Persons and facilities licensed by the United State Department  
8 of Agriculture and educational facilities shall be exempt from the  
9 requirements of the Oklahoma Responsible Exotic Cat Ownership Act.

10       SECTION 15.   This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

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