



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2011-24K

**Instructing State Agencies to Work with Local Officials to Enforce Existing Animal Welfare,
Public Health and Other Laws**

WHEREAS, although Ohio law provides clear authority for the State of Ohio to regulate the possession, sale and transfer of native species, Ohio law is unclear about the authority that the State has to regulate dangerous non-native wild animals, including, but not limited to, non-native reptiles, lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, cheetah, mountain lions, and hybrids thereof.

WHEREAS, the private ownership and captivity of dangerous wild animals in the State of Ohio creates a substantial, potential threat to the general welfare and safety of the citizens of the State of Ohio and the welfare of these animals.

WHEREAS, in some cases, the private owners of dangerous wild animals keep them in deplorable and inhumane conditions because few private citizens have the training or experience or the resources to keep these animals safely and securely in captivity.

WHEREAS, my Administration seeks to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, humane societies and local boards of health to ensure that animals neither are subject to abuse or neglect, nor create a nuisance or pose a threat to the public.

WHEREAS, my Administration is committed to practicing responsible stewardship of Ohio's natural resources, in addition to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Ohio and the welfare of animals by evaluating the standards and conditions in which dangerous wild animals are being held in captivity across the State of Ohio.

WHEREAS, within the confines of the Ohio Revised Code as it is currently written, I have instructed my staff to think of innovative ways to address the existing threats to animal welfare and public health and safety that are posed by the private ownership and captivity of dangerous wild animals in the State of Ohio, until permanent solutions are developed under Ohio law.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture shall, in accordance with their respective

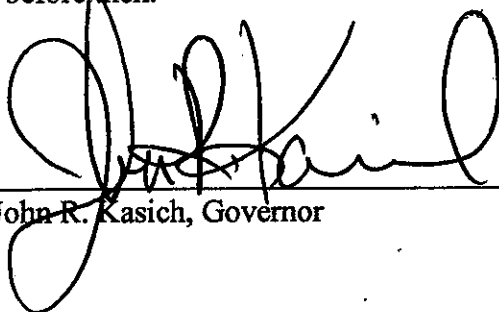
statutory authority, cooperate in the investigation and inquiry into private places where dangerous wild animals are housed, maintained, or owned. Such inquiry shall include, but not be limited to, any investigation or inspection necessary to do any of the following:

- a. Protect Ohio citizens against diseases of animals;
 - b. Collect and preserve information concerning the number and type of dangerous non-native wild animals in the State of Ohio;
 - c. Assess whether nuisance conditions exist at certain places where dangerous wild animals are housed or owned; or
 - d. Assess whether there is evidence of animal abuse or neglect.
2. The Directors of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Health ("Directors"), or their respective designees, shall work with local boards of health and humane societies throughout Ohio to collectively work throughout the State of Ohio to enforce state laws related to animal health, captivity and cruelty, as well as threats to public health and safety.
 3. Each Department shall work to provide humane societies across the State with persons that humane societies in the State of Ohio may designate as their agents, and assist humane societies and local health authorities in enforcing state laws against persons violating any law for the protection of persons or animals, or the prevention of cruelty to animals.
 4. The Directors, or their respective designees, shall meet with local boards of health, local law enforcement officials, humane societies, veterinarians and sportsmen and conservation groups to determine which properties in the State contain dangerous wild animals that create a danger to the general health and welfare of the citizens and animals of that locality and of the State of Ohio.
 5. The Directors, or their assigned designees, shall collaborate with zoos and other qualified persons or organizations throughout the State of Ohio in order to identify facilities that will safely house dangerous wild animals captured, confiscated or impounded by local or state law enforcement officials or humane societies in accordance with their respective authority under Ohio law.
 6. The Department of Natural Resources shall establish and publicize a toll free hotline and website for complaints and inquiries concerning dangerous wild animals located in the State. In addition, public complaints and inquiries may be made to local boards of health.

7. The Chief of the Division of Wildlife shall require the Division's staff to perform inspections of the premises of holders of a propagating license who possess potentially dangerous wild species native to Ohio. Division of Wildlife employees shall document the physical conditions in which these or any other animals are habitating on those premises and submit their reports to the Chief of the Division of Wildlife within five (5) days of completion of each inspection.
8. The Department of Agriculture shall work with local law enforcement and other persons and organizations, including the United States Department of Agriculture, as appropriate, to identify any persons or groups acting as an auctioneer or conducting an auction in Ohio, but not properly licensed with the Department of Agriculture, and take any necessary enforcement actions that are within the scope of the Department's authority under state law. In addition, the Department of Agriculture shall work to enter into agreements with livestock dealers, auctioneers and auction firms to impose a temporary moratorium on the sale of any dangerous wild animals in the State of Ohio.
9. The Regulating Dangerous, Wild Animals Workgroup shall complete its study and provide recommendations that set forth proposed legislation pertaining to the importation, regulation and licensure of dangerous wild animals no later than November 30, 2011.

I signed this Executive Order on October 21, 2011 in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire on my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.




John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State