



**Roll Call Number**

**Agenda Item Number**

54

Date October 4, 2021

An Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by adding Chapter 18, Article VII, Sections 18-215, 18-216, 18-217, and 18-218, relating to feeding wild animals",

**(Council Communication No. 21-425)**

presented.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage.

FORM APPROVED:

(First of three required readings)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas P. Philip  
Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
VOSS				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by adding Chapter 18, Article VII, Sections 18-215, 18-216, 18-217, and 18-218, relating to feeding wild animals.

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

Section 1. That the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by adding Chapter 18, Article VII, Sections 18-215, 18-216, 18-217, and 18-218, relating to feeding wild animals, as follows:

**ARTICLE VII. FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS IS PROHIBITED**

**18-215. Purpose.**

The intent of this article is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community and its wildlife by prohibiting the feeding of wild animals and waterfowl on public and private property in the city. The feeding of waterfowl and other wild animals increases the potential for damage to public parks and private property. It also elevates the potential for the spread of disease in people and companion animals. In addition, it is the intent of this article to protect the welfare of the waterfowl and wild animals themselves. Wildlife studies have shown that feeding waterfowl and other wild animals can interrupt their normal migration patterns, can make them more aggressive in demanding food, cause nutritional problems, expose them to danger by eliminating their natural fear of predators, and promote the spread of diseases and disease-carrying parasites.

**18-216. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Bird Feeder.* A container, receptacle or apparatus designed for the feeding of songbirds or other backyard birds.

*Feed.* To give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material which can be utilized for consumption by wild animals. Feeding does not include baiting for the legal taking of fish and/or game.

*Person.* Any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this state subject to municipal jurisdiction.

*Waterfowl.* Wildfowl of the order Anseriformes, especially members of the family Anatidae which includes any bird that swims, frequents the water, or lives about rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water, including but not limited to ducks, geese, swan and gulls.



Wild Animal. Any animal, which is not normally domesticated in this state, including but not limited to coyotes, deer, feral cats, foxes, groundhogs, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, rats, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, skunks, and waterfowl.

**18-217. Prohibitions.**

(A) No person shall purposely or knowingly, feed or in any manner provide access to food to any wild animal or waterfowl within the corporate limits of the city, on lands either publicly or privately owned. Feeding does not include baiting in the legal taking of fish and/or game.

(B) Feeding of songbirds and other backyard birds, not including waterfowl, shall be permitted outdoors at such times and in such a manner that:

(1) The feeding does not create an unreasonable disturbance with wildlife.

(2) Any feed must be placed within a bird feeder with a maximum volume of not more than one cubic foot, placed at least four feet above ground.

(3) Bird feeders are placed where wildlife other than songbirds and backyard birds are unable to eat from them and do not become an attractant for wild animals.

**18-218. Penalties.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other section of this article, any property owner or occupant of a property found in violation of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine as provided by section 1-15 of this Code or shall be guilty of a municipal infraction punishable by a civil penalty as provided by section 1-15 of this Code. Each ongoing day of the violation(s) shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to the financial penalties so provided, the violator shall be subject to an injunctive order to cease the violation and conduct any required clean-up.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

FORM APPROVED:



---

Douglas P. Philip  
Assistant City Attorney