

BENTON ANIMAL SERVICES AND ADOPTION CENTER
606 W. Willow * Benton, AR 72015
Office 501-776-5972

Animal Services Committee Meeting Agenda
April 14, 2026

Immediately Following Commissions Committee Meeting that starts at 5pm

Committee Members:

Chair – Trevor Villines

Vice Chair – Jeff Hamm

Staff Liaison – Terry Parsons, Director of Animal Services
Mallori Howard, Animal Services Manager

1. Establish a Quorum/Call to Order
2. Statement of FOIA
Compliance & Roll Call
I affirm that I have not engaged in any prohibited discussion, deliberation, or Polling regarding any item on this meeting's agenda outside of a properly Noticed and open meeting, in compliance with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as amended by Act 505 of 2025.
3. Recognition of Attendees
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Update on New Shelter
6. Exotic Animal Ordinance
7. Other
8. Adjournment

Benton Animal Services Committee Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2025
Council Chambers

Those in attendance were:

Trevor Villines, Chair	Evelyn Reed
Jeff Hamm, Vice Chair	Frank Baptist
Bill Donner	Ann Spencer-Cole
Steve Brown	Jeff Morrow
Terry Parsons, Director	Mandy Spicer, CFO
Tom Farmer, Mayor	

The Animal Services Committee met on Tuesday, December 8, 2025, in the Council Chambers immediately following the Commissions Committee Meeting at 5:00 pm.

Chairman Villines called the meeting to order, and a quorum was recognized.

Attendees were recognized.

Statement of FOIA Compliance & Roll Call conducted

Approval of November 10, 2026, minutes were approved.

Director Parsons presented an Ordinance proposal to establish animal shelter service rates. Ordinance was reviewed and approved by the committee.

Director Parsons presented an ordinance proposal to amend the chicken ordinance in the city. Ordinance was reviewed and approved by the committee.

Director Parsons gave a new update on the construction of the new animal shelter. It was reported that Moser Construction is to turn over the new shelter to the city by the end of January 2026.

Director Parsons conveyed to the committee that the kennels for the new shelter would start being installed in early February.

No other business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned.

ORDINANCE NO. ___ OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, MAINTNEANCE OR CONFINEMENT OF INNATELY WILD, NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS; NON-HUMAN PRIMATES; AND VENOMOUS REPTILES, WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF BENTON, ARKANSAS; PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS FROM SUCH PROHIBITION; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION HEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the possession, maintenance or confinement of innately wild, non-domestic animals, non-human primates, and venomous reptiles present an imminent threat to the public peace, health, safety and welfare to the citizens of Benton, Arkansas.

WHEREAS, the possession, maintenance or confinement of innately wild, non-domestic animals, non-human primates, and venomous reptiles in the city limits of Benton, Arkansas is inconsistent with the public welfare of its citizens because of the dramatic growth in population in Benton, Arkansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. Definitions:

A: Except as provided herein, the term “innately wild, non-domestic animals” shall include, but not limited to the following families of the order of CARNIVORA:

- (1) Ursidae: bears;
- (2) Canidae: wolves, hybrids
- (3) Hyaenda: hyenas, and
- (4) Felidae: lions, tigers, leopards, American lions (commonly known as pumas, cougars, and panthers), cheetahs, bobcats, ocelots, jaguars, African panthers, lynx, and margays.

The term “innately wild, non- domestic animals” shall not include domestic breeds of dogs, cats, ferrets, raccoons, and skunks.

B. The term “non-human primates” shall include but not limited to the following families.

- (1) Monkeys” spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys, marmosets, baboons and relatives; and
- (2) Great Apes: gorillas, orangutans, gibbons, siamangs, chimpanzees, and relatives.

C. The term “venomous reptiles” shall include but not limited to the following families:

- (1) Colubridae (two genera only), Dispholidus (boom slang) and Thelotornis (twig snake).
- (2) Elapidae: cobras, kraits, coral snakes, and relatives.
- (3) Hydrophidae: sea snakes.
- (4) Viperidae: vipers and adders.
- (5) Crotalidae: pit vipers (commonly known as rattlesnakes, water moccasins, and copperheads; and
- (6) Helodermatidae: Gila Monsters.

Section 2. POSSESSION, MAINTENANCE OR CONFINEMENT OF INNATELY WILD, NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS, NON-HUMAN PRIMATES, AND VENOMOUS REPTILES PROHIBITED.

Except as provided herein, the possession, maintenance or confinement of innately wild, non-domestic animals, non-human primates and venomous reptiles within the city limits of Benton, Arkansas is hereby prohibited.

Section 3: EXCEPTIONS:

- A. The prohibition stated in Section 2 hereof shall not apply to any bona fide circus, nor shall it apply to any federal research facility, or research facility as these terms are defined in 9 C.F.R.sec.1.1 (1999).

Section 4: PENALTIES:

- A. Any person, firm, or corporation possessing, maintaining or confining innately wild, non-domestic animals, non-human primates or venomous reptiles in the city limits of Benton, Arkansas in violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00. It is hereby provided that each additional day of possessing, maintaining, or confining said animal shall constitute an additional and separate violation of this Ordinance, punishable by the aforementioned penalty.
- B. There shall be a 30-day grace period for removal of the innately wild, non-domestic animal, non-human primate or venomous reptile in the city limits of Benton, Arkansas before said penalty shall be imposed.
- C. The enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be the responsibility of the Benton Animal Services Department.

Section 5: The City Council does hereby adopt to the City of Benton Animal Control Code.

Section 6: The City Clerk of the city of Benton shall maintain three copies of the ordinance for the public to view and inspect.

Section 7: All other ordinances which are in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict but not otherwise.

Section 7: If any part of this ordinance shall be held void, such parts shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ___ day of April 2026.

Tom Farmer, Mayor

Attest:

Cindy Stracener, City Clerk