Ordinance Number _____
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF _____
PROHIBITING THE FEEDING OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF _____:

1. Definitions

A. "Attractant" means any substance which could reasonably be expected to attract a wild animal or does attract a wild animal, including but not limited to, garbage, food products, pet food, feed, grain, or salt.

B. "Wild animal" means any animal which is not normally domesticated in this state, including but not limited to, coyotes, foxes, deer, opossums, raccoons, skunks, and fisher cats.

C. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, organization, trade or professional association, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, association, trust, estate or any other legal entity, and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent or representative thereof.

D. "Feeding" means the intentional or unintentional providing of an "Attractant" that is accessible to a "Wild animal".

2. Prohibitions

A. No person shall feed or in any manner provide an attractant to any wild animal.

B. No person shall leave, store, or maintain any attractant in a manner, area, or location accessible to any wild animal.

3. Exceptions

A. The prohibitions of this act shall not apply to:

(1) Any person who is the legal owner of a wild animal and the wild animal is kept in compliance with all applicable state and local laws.

(2) Any person who feeds or provides food to a trapped, injured or unweaned wild animal between the time that the agency in charge of animal control or its designated agent is notified of the wild animal and the wild animal is picked up by the agency or designated agent.

(3) A wildlife rehabilitator license pursuant to Rule 9 of the RI DEM Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(4) Any person with a bird feeder provided the feeder is suspended on a cable or other device to make it inaccessible to wild animals, and the area below the feeder is kept free from the accumulation of seed debris.

(5) Any owner, guardian, or organization that is providing care for feral cats (as defined in Rhode Island Title 4 Animals and Animal Husbandry) and is making a reasonable effort to trap and sterilize the animals, if they are feeding the cats during daylight hours on platforms elevated by 6 feet with no supports that are climbable by coyotes (need vertical) and providing that food is consumed by the cats within 20 minutes.

(6) Any person feeding animals in the normal course of raising farm animals for food production or in the care of livestock animals, provided all reasonable efforts are made to reduce attractants to wild animal in the course of feeding livestock/farm animals and in the storage of animal feed.

4. Penalty

Any person violating this act shall be guilty of a civil penalty of not less than two hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars for each violation pursuant to RI General Law 45-6-2. Each day that a violation continues or occurs will be considered a new violation for the purpose of assessing fines under this act.