

November 15, 2006
Policy, Regulation, and Trade Committee Meeting
UNCG Eberhart Building Conference Room

Dave Davenport, Kendrick Weeks, Tanith Tyrr, Andrew Wyatt, Grover Barfield, Phil Bradley, David Cooper, Ann Somers, John Groves, Keith Farmer, David LaPlante

1:00pm

Dave updated everyone on the Study Bill meeting

Dave- Well, the study bill committee is stacked with animal rights people. But, I was heartened to see that Andrew and I were not the only ones there against a total ban. The first thing we did was define Inherently Dangerous Animals as far as what animals fit in that term. Most of the time was spent on mammals.

Phil- Where does it look like it is going to go?

Dave- Well, the bill has lost its sponsor due to the election.

Andrew- I think there is going to be a bill out of this. What it is going to be and whether it gets passed is a whole other thing.

Keith- Who was representing the pet shop industry?

Andrew- No one.

Dave- They did request that we bring at least a skeletal structure of what we are proposing to the next meeting.

John- Do you think WRC would support a ban?

Dave- No, I did not get the feeling that they supported a ban, but I got the feeling that they did not want to be at the study bill meeting at all.

Andrew- There is another angle to this. There may be a way that NCARK gets exempted and implements what we are talking about.

Dave- Well, there still has to be an agency in control of regulation if that is what is decided. And, neither WRC or NCDA wants it. I think if they go for a ban, the bill will die. If they do, we will ask for reptiles to be removed from the bill. And, then we will continue.

Andrew- This is what has happened in other states. And, then the regulation becomes so tedious it gets regulated out of existence.

Dave- Well, we have to wait and see. I want to make sure we accomplish a framework today. John came up with a list that breaks out all of the genera. We have a few points that we need to discuss to finalize or breakdown of species by license class. I think we are done with the class C license. So, let's discuss class A because that is going to flush out class B.

There was some discussion to clarify that protected species laws would trump these proposed regulations and institutional permits would supercede individual permits. Also, researcher institutions who want to research species in these proposed regulations will be exempted. Exempt institutions will be determined by the regulating agency.

The following discussion made the following changes to the license classes decided on last time:

1. Moved *Bungarus* (kraits), *Walternessia*, *Aspidelaps*, *Boulengeria*, and *Hemachatus* ("cobras") from Class B to Class A.
2. Moved Atractapsididae (*Atractaspis*) from Class B to Class A.

Both motions seconded and approved.

BREAK

Dave- Let's review what we have accomplished so far and see if there is anything missing: Letter of proof from institution that will provide source of anti-venom for all levels of the license.

Discussion about hospitals not wanting to provide letter of proof. So, no letter of proof needed for native species. It was decided that only species non-native to continental U.S. needs a letter of proof from the institution (e.g. NC consortium, Miami Dade Venom Bank, etc.) that will provide source of anti-venom.

Discussion about species breakdown by class. *Trimeresurus* may have mildly venomous species but current taxonomic research and the difficulty of identification makes breaking them apart difficult and unnecessary.

Dave- We also stated that a person moving into the state from another state can get a license at a level other than C so they can move their collection provided they submit two letters of reference.

Discussion about sources of letters and possible forgeries, etc.

Dave- Well, they will still be subject to initial inspection and it only takes a couple of questions to figure out if people know what they are doing.

Tanith- That's assuming the inspector knows what they are doing...

Dave- Well, there are currently only three people that could do these right now and they are mainly going to be checking for locked cages and whatever else we come up with. And, NCPARC is going to have to help out on inspections in order to assist with identification of species. Plus, John's booklet will really help the inspectors. And, they can take a picture of an unidentified snake and send it to NCPARC and NCARK and say, "What the heck is this?"

Discussion about bogus letters...

Andrew- Nothing is fool proof, but hopefully with enough checks and balances there won't be that many people abusing this requirement.

Tanith- What about people who move from a place with regulations, like Florida, that have a license from that state?

General agreement that the license from the issuing state could be used to preclude the letters of reference.

Dave- Ok, we also said that there is an 18 year old requirement. There is an initial inspection during application and subsequent inspections can be conducted at any time, but most likely during graduation to another license level.

Keith- Well, the same caging requirements are going to be used at level C and level A.

Dave- Yes, but reinspection allows for us to verify all the new species that they have. We need to discuss Florida's laws regarding safe housing and see if that is what we want. Then we will hash out reasons for denial or revocation of a license. I want to table the discussion on cost of the license for next time so that we can have Daron here. We want this to be self-funded. How much is it going to take?

Andrew- Should we require a list of species posted in the residence? For emergency personnel that have to come in due to a fire or in the case of an envonotation, they need to know what is in there and what exactly bit them.

Discussion about labeling cages. Tanith brought up a protocol in which laminated cards are affixed to each cage that is held on your person while working with that species. John brought up and passed around the book produced by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR): *Venomous Snakes: A Safety Guide for Reptile Keepers*. John suggested using this to guide inspections.

Other resources:

Beginner's Guide to Keeping Venomous Snakes by Lenny Flank, Jr. His web page is <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/2437/venom.html>

Tanith- I think we come up with something geared more towards the inspectors.

John- All I am saying is take out the parts not required by what we decide on.

Dave- Well, Ok but I think we can come up with the basic list. Right now I have list of species, copy of antivenin letter...

Tanith- I would like to see a form of the list is scientific name, common name, and antivenin appropriate for the species.

Some discussion about number of individuals in cage.

Dave- Ok, so I have List of All Species, A copy of the Antivenin Bank letter, and a copy of the license on the wall. And then labeled cages that has scientific name, common name, antivenin appropriate for that species, and the number of individuals in that cage. Anything else?

Discussion about individual housing. Decided not to require.

Dave- What about tools?

Discussion about hooks, tongs, safety boxes, tubes, forceps, etc. Wide hooks and narrow hooks were discussed.

Dave- OK. I have a minimum of two hooks, tongs, tubes, forceps, and safety bin or transfer cage adequate for species. If spitting cobras, face shields.

Discussion about cage shields vs. safety bins. Decided not to require.

Dave- Alright, what we have right now is a minimum of two hooks of adequate size, tongs, safety bin or transfer bin, tubes, forceps, and if you have spitting cobras a face shield.

John- Forceps encourages putting hands in cages.

Dave- Well, let's leave it out.

Andrew- What about transporting animals, should there be any rules?

David- There is already General Statutes regarding caging when transporting or exhibiting venomous animals.

Dave- Ok, this leads us to housing.

Discussion about locked cages and locked, sealed rooms referring to Florida regulations. Florida requires either locked cages or a locked and sealed room.

Andrew- I would just say that you should have locked cages and a locked room.

Discussion about pros and cons of requiring both or only one.

Keith- I move that we have lockable cages and leave it at that.

Andrew- I second

John- I would like to see both.

Dave- If we have both, are we talking an either/or like Florida or...

Discussion of pros and cons.

Dave- We can require locked cages, but suggest a locked and sealed room. Generally agreed upon. Technically, Florida talks about outdoor enclosures. Should we address that?

Discussion about outdoor exhibit areas. Decided to limit this to institutions.

Dave- Is there anything we need to add?

1) ≥ 18 years old, 2) Letter of Antivenin Proof for any non-native species to the U.S., 3) If you move into state with a collection you either have to have an existing license from another state or two Letters of Reference, 4) NCWRC has the right to inspect your facilities at any time, but would certainly be an initial inspection during application and probably during each graduation in license level, 5) A list of species, copy of Letter of Antivenin Proof, hospital preference, and copy of your license must be posted in the room...

Discussion about location of an outdoors notice of Venomous reptiles. Some concern of making keepers a target vs. notifying emergency personnel.

Dave- This could be mitigated in other ways...

Discussion of ways to resolve this.

Dave- Ok, it needs to be posted in or outside the room. 6) On the cage itself, a label that has scientific name, common name, antivenin appropriate for that species, and the number of individuals in that cage.

Discussion of "Venomous" being placed on cage label. Everyone agreed to add this to cage labels.

Dave- Ok. We also agreed on equipment 7) two hooks of adequate size, tongs, safety bin or transfer cage, clear tubes of appropriate size, and spitting cobra owners must have face shield. 8) All cages have to be locked and strong recommendation for a locked and

sealed room and 9) no outdoor enclosures for private keepers (only institutions). OK, let's talk about denial and revocation.

Discussion about wildlife and criminal violations. General agreement of serious wildlife violation in the past two years. And further discussion of felony convictions and crimes against nature. Tabled until further information is available from Daron.

Discussion about failing inspection. There was general agreement that failure of inspection will result in license denial and reinspection requires another application/inspection fee.

Dave- OK. We are out of time, so let's all continue to think about denial and revocation and next time we will hopefully have Daron here to help us hash out license fees. The next meeting is December 13, 2006 right here at 1pm. Thanks to Ann for securing this room for us!

Adjournment.