

Oct. 11, 2006

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exotic animals

Re: Big cat owner says proposal overdone, Friday 29 September 2006.

I'd like to thank reporter Mark Waite for doing a fair and thorough article on exotic animal owners and the proposed wild/exotic animal ordinance. It is not often that you see reporting that covers the facts and isn't full hype and sensationalism.

I would also like to add some additional information concerning Mr. Hedengran. Since his incident with the escaped tiger in California, a condition of his pre-trial release is that he is not to possess any animals. He was initially allowed to visit them and help care for them.

When he moved to Pahrump, he re-acquired his animals. The federal authorities became aware of this and the judge ordered him to get rid of them and he was to have no contact with them. He has still hasn't complied, but his next appearance in court is Oct. 10.

This illustrates the fact that severely costly and time consuming ordinance requirements are being placed on owners that have been good citizens in Nye County for many years, because of one individual that was never supposed to have any animals.

Additionally Debbie Pemberton's remarks about nobody registering their exotic animals in accordance with the current ordinance requirements are only half truths. People have tried, including Ms. Kukol, but it seems that the required form for accomplishing this doesn't exist. Maybe Ms. Pemberton shouldn't accuse people of not registering, when she won't provide a form for them to register with.

Scott Shoemaker