



Feline Conservation Federation

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November 1, 2007

Dear Pahrump Planning Commissioners,

The Feline Conservation Federation supports amending the recent zoning proposal requiring 2 acres of land for the keeping of any species of wild feline or domestic/exotic hybrid felines to just the seven large feline species lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, cheetah, snow leopard and cougar. Our organization has hundreds of members throughout the country and over 5 decades of experience in captive conservation of the three dozen species of wild feline.

It is important for you to know that there are many species of feline that are smaller than the average dog, and a few that are smaller than the average housecat. These captive born felines are maintained indoors or in outdoor enclosures. This is for their security. These felines have a purchase price ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Owners are especially motivated to protect their investment and keep their felines confined and safe from theft or harm. They are not free roaming animals and should not be a public zoning issue.

Asian leopard cats, sand cats and geoffroy's cats are feline species kept by exotic feline enthusiasts that are about half the size of an American domestic shorthair cat.

Bobcats and Lynx are native American species about the size of a cocker spaniel.

Servals and caracals are medium-sized African cats weighing about 25 to 30 pounds. The ancient Egyptians originally kept these species. These two feline species are affectionate and intelligent relatives of the domestic cat. The serval especially is similar to the familiar cat, in that it fills the same eco-nitch in the wild, preying upon small rodents and birds and frogs. Servals are not known for hunting mammals.

Captive cats are necessary for conservation for the species. They are also important educational ambassadors, acting as links between the natural world and our man-made society.

I urge the zoning commission to remove the small cats as well as the hybrid species from this zoning limitation that requires two acres of land to possess a feline companion. Most likely these felines live indoors and should not be part of a zoning ordinance, and when an outdoor enclosure is built, it should pass caging standards that provide for the mental and physical health of the feline and maintain aesthetic beauty standards for the neighborhood.

The Feline Conservation Federation is available to answer any questions you may have about the nature of small felines and their needs in captivity.

Thank you for considering these recommendations to amend your recent zoning decision and allow the small and hybrid domestic/exotic feline species to be kept indoors or out following neighborhood building codes and safe caging standards.

Sincerely,

Lynn Culver
President, Feline Conservation Federation

