ORDINANCE NO. 2581

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Kent, Washington, relating to animal control; amending KCC 9.16.76 to prohibit sale and possession of poisonous snakes or reptiles; adding a new Section 9.16.77 KCC to prohibit possession of nonpoisonous snakes or reptiles unless properly licensed and establishing procedures for the issuance of such licenses.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. KCC 9.16.76 is amended as follows:

9.16.76. POISONOUS SNAKES OR REPTILES - PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, including pet shops licensed by the City of Kent, to sell, possess, or maintain any poisonous snake and/or poisonous reptile within the City of Kent. This section shall not apply to zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, or circuses (or pet shops licensed by the City of Kent).

Section 2. A new Section 9.16.77 is added to the Kent City Code as follows:

9.16.77. NONPOISONOUS SNAKES OR REPTILES - LICENSE REQUIRED.

A. It is unlawful for any person to possess or maintain a nonpoisonous snake or reptile within the City of Kent without a valid license to do so issued by the Animal Control Authority. The term "nonpoisonous snake or reptile" means any nonpoisonous snake or reptile which, when in its wild state, is capable of inflicting serious physical harm upon human beings, and shall include constrictor snakes. Only a person who complies with the requirements of these sections and such rules and regulations of
the Animal Control Authority as may be adopted pursuant hereto shall be entitled to receive and retain such a license.

B. License Requirements. Any person desiring to possess or maintain a nonpoisonous snake or reptile shall make written application for a license on a form to be provided by the Animal Control Authority. Such application shall be filed with the Animal Control Authority and shall include the following: A legal or otherwise adequately precise description of the premises which applicant desires to use under the required license; whether the applicant owns or rents the premises to be used; if the applicant rents the premises, a written acknowledgment by the property owner that the applicant has the owner's permission to carry on the activity as described in the license application for the duration of the license; a statement indicating the species of snake or reptile which the applicant desires to possess or maintain; and such further information as may be required by rules and regulations of the Animal Control Authority. Upon acceptance of the license by the Animal Control Authority, the licensee shall receive a decal to display on the premises as a warning to the public that a nonpoisonous snake or reptile is kept on the premises. This decal must be prominently displayed at the front entrance to the premises at all times.

C. Fees. The fee for such license shall be twenty-five (25) dollars per year. Licenses shall not be transferable and shall be valid only for the person and place for which issued. Said licenses shall be valid for one year from the date of issue.

D. License Revocation - Notice - Hearing. The Animal Control Authority may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any snake or reptile owner's license upon good cause for failure to comply with any provision of this section provided, that the violator shall be first notified of the specific violation or violations, and if the violation can be remedied, the violator shall have fifteen days after receiving the notice of violation to correct the violation; provided further, that enforcement of such revocation, suspension or refusal shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal filed in the manner provided by KCC 9.16.100.

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E. Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, circuses or pet shops licensed by the City of Kent.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

ISABEL HOGAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIE JENSEN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

P. STEPHEN DIJULIO, CITY ATTORNEY

ORD. 2681 proposed Sept 16, 1985
to pass by 4-3 vote

PASSED the _______ day of ____________, 1985.
APPROVED the _______ day of ____________, 1985.
PUBLISHED the _______ day of ____________, 1985.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. ____________, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

(SEAL)
MARIE JENSEN, CITY CLERK

2620-110

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