

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO.

DATE

To: All Pet stores, exotic pet shops, petting zoos, animal shelters, places where animals may be housed together

You are hereby served by this Health Officer's Order.

Legal Authority for Order

Under the laws of Washington State (Revised Code of Washington RCW 70.05.070, it is my responsibility to control and prevent the spread of infectious disease to residents of _____ and _____ Counties. Under Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-200-036) it is my duty to institute disease prevention and infection control, isolation, detention, and quarantine measures necessary to prevent the spread of communicable disease, invoking the power of the courts to enforce these measures when necessary.

Factual basis for the order

A human outbreak of monkey pox infection contracted from ill prairie dogs and other mammals has been identified in the Midwest. It involves human cases as well as cases in prairie dogs, a rabbit and an imported Gambian rat.

The original monkey pox was likely imported, however, prairie dogs became infected while at a pet distributor in Illinois. These animals were shown and sold at a variety of places since mid-April

- Lee Watson's Reptile Show at Schaumburg IL on 4/20, 5/3, and 5/18
- Midwest reptile show in Indianapolis, IN on 4/27 and 5/18
- All Ohio Reptile Show in Columbus, OH on 4/19.
- In addition, a dealer from Wisconsin sold three prairie dogs acquired from this IL dealer, including one to an unidentified man, at a swap meet in **Wausau, WI** in early to mid-May.

Ground for the Order

The Center for Disease Control has issued the following directive:

"...pursuant to 42 CFR 71.32(b), CDC is implementing an immediate embargo on the importation of all rodents from Africa (Order Rodentia). In addition, CDC and the Food and Drug Administration, pursuant to 42 CFR 70.2 and 21 CFR 1240.30, are prohibiting the transportation or offering for transportation in interstate commerce, or the sale, offering for sale, or offering for any other type of commercial or public distribution, including release into the environment of **prairie dogs** and the following rodents from Africa: **tree squirrels** (*Heliosciurus* sp.), **rope squirrels** (*Funisciurus* sp.),

dormice (Graphiurus sp.), **Gambian giant pouched rats** (Cricetomys sp.), **brush-tailed porcupines** (Atherurus sp.), and **striped mice** (Hybomys sp.).”

Provisions of the Order

You are hereby ordered to:

1. Immediately cease the sale and distribution of prairie dogs or any of the above named animals.
2. Keep the prairie dogs caged and in separate room from other animals, place under close observation for any signs or symptoms of illness. Symptoms of monkey pox may include of fever, conjunctivitis, respiratory signs, and nodular rash.
3. Do **not** abandon animals at shelters or release them back into the wild; the animals cannot survive and could cause monkeypox in wild animals.
4. If the animal dies, do **not** throw the animal’s body away in household trash or at a dump or landfill.
5. Do **not** bury the animal’s body on your property.
6. To protect yourself:
 - a) Wear a mask, eye protection, gown and gloves when handling sick animals.
 - b) Wash your hands frequently between handling any animal.
 - c) Disinfect any surfaces that have been in contact with ill animals. Any EPA-registered hospital detergent-disinfectant currently used by health-care facilities for environmental sanitation may be used. Manufacturer’s recommendations for dilution (i.e., concentration), contact time, and care in handling should be followed.
 - d) Treat all waste or bedding from potentially infected animals as biohazardous waste, do not dispose in household garbage.
7. Seek advice from your Veterinarian regarding any illness among other animals you currently have that have been in contact with the prairie dogs. Do **not** take the animal to a veterinarian without calling first and explaining that the animal has been exposed to monkeypox.
8. Report the presence of any ill prairie dogs to the Health Department at _____ ext. _____.
9. Seek immediate medical attention if you have been exposed to ill prairie dogs and start to have symptoms of fever, conjunctivitis, headache, pustules or pox lesions.

This order will remain in effect until you receive a notice from me to resume normal procedures. If you have any questions about this order, please call me at _____ ext. _____.

Sincerely,

_____, MD, MSPH

County Health Officer