Permits for Possessing Live Game

PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit as follows:

Under 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game, section (b), I would like to see the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec listed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the African Pygmy Hedgehog is on the clean list for exotic pets in Alaska. As a licensed hedgehog breeder, I am also interested in introducing the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec species into our community. The Tenrec is similar to the African Pygmy Hedgehog (APH) in care and needs, however, they are not related despite the name "hedgehog" in their title. Many hedgehog breeders in the "lower 48" offer this species to their clients as well as the APH. The availability and knowledge of the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec is not as common in the pet industry because they do not breed as quickly as a hedgehog.

As an exotic pet owner and breeder, this is a variety of animal that I would love to have the opportunity to bring into my home and learn more about their contributions as a more affectionate "pocket pet". The joy that I see that this species bring into other families as a family pet seems to be exuberant. I do not see it being anymore of a threat to the eco-environment in Alaska, and a great alternative to various rodents that others enjoy as family members. Like the APH, this species is also hypoallergenic making it a great alternative to those that cannot have a typical cat or dog in their lives.

PROPOSED BY: Billie Wilder (EG-F17-020)
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PROPOSAL 62 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Allow the release of sterilized, feral cats into the wild as follows:

This proposal is a request to change Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game, to remove the regulatory barrier to implement Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs to manage community cat populations. Specifically, I am requesting that 5 AAC 92.029 be changed to exempt "sterilized feral cats" (under Cats/Felis catus) from the list of species that are prohibited from being released into the wild.

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, or in AS 16, no person may possess, import, release, export, or assist in importing, releasing, or exporting, live game, unless the person holds a possession permit issued by the department.

(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	Canis familiaris
Cat **(except sterilized feral cats)**	Felis catus
Sheep	Ovis aries
Goat	Capra hircus
Cattle	Bos taurus
Oxen	Bos spp.
Horse	Equus caballus
Guinea pig	Cavia porcellus
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	Rangifer tarandus Var.
Llama	Lama peruana
Alpaca	Lama pacos
One-humped camel	Camelus dromedarius
Ass	Equus asinus Var.
Mule	Equus asinus x caballus
Swine	Sus scrofa Var.
European ferret	Mustela putorius furo
European rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus Var.
White rat	Rattus norvegicus Var. albinus
Mice: white, waltzing, singing,shaker, piebald	Mus musculus Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	Pachyuromys duprasi
Gerbil	Gerbillus spp.
Hamster (golden)	Mesocricetus auratus
Chinchilla	Chinchilla laniger
Cavy	Cavia aperea
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	Erinaceus albiventris
Chicken	Gallus gallus Var.
Pigeon	Columia livia Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily Meleagridinae
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or Coturnix species	Subfamily Phasianinae
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily Numidinae
Canary	Serinus canaria Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family Psittacidae not prohibited by federal or international law	Family Psittacidae
Toucan	Family Ramphastidae
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily Odontophorinae
Mynah	Acridotheres spp.
Any Peafowl species	Pavo spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	Alectoris chukar

Button "quail"	Family Turnicidae in the order Gruiformes
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard) Members of the bird families Fringillidae, Turdidae, Zosteripidae, Pycnonotidae, Timaliidae, and Ploceidae of non-Holarctic origin. Members of the bird families Columbidae and Trogonidae of non- Nearctic origin.	Class Reptilia
Elk (except feral and wild elk)	(cervus elaphus)
Bison (except feral and wild bison)	(Bison bison)
Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen)	

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Introduction

My name is Shannon Basner, and I am submitting the following proposal to the Alaska Board of Game as a constituent living in Anchorage. I am a special education teacher in the Anchorage School District working in a self-contained behavior classroom. I have taught in New York and Alaska for 22 years collectively. I am also the founder of Mojo's Hope, a nonprofit organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and re-homes animals with special needs (www.mojoshope.org), Alaska Kitty Advocacy Awareness Adoption Tails (KAAATs), a non-profit organization that promotes advocacy, awareness and adoptions of cats (www.pawprintshowlsandpurrs.org/alaska-s-kaaats), and Paw-Prints, Howls and Purrs, a pet photography business (www.pawprintshowlsandpurrs.org/). In addition, I am an ABC-DT Certified Trainer who specializes in working with dogs and cats with specific behavior needs, such as being fearful, shy or introverted, primarily in the shelter or foster environment, with the goal of shaping behaviors so animals are comfortable with themselves and potential adopters.

Proposal Issue: Management of Community Cats

Community cats are unowned, free-roaming cats who live outdoors. These cats may have been born in the wild, or they may be lost or abandoned pets. Most community cats are not socialized to people (i.e., feral cats), so they are unable to adjust to living indoors. If community cats are brought to an animal shelter, they experience intense suffering due to the stress of being confined and their fear of people. As a result, virtually all community cats are killed since they are not suitable for adoption. Therefore, the term "community cats" reflects the reality that for these cats, "home" is within the community rather than in an individual household.

Local governments may explore strategies to manage their municipality's community cat population for a variety of reasons, including reducing animal control and shelter costs, stabilizing the number of cats living outdoors, and reducing nuisance complaints. They have three options:

1. **Trap-And-Remove (i.e., Catch-and-Kill):** Cats are trapped, brought to a shelter, and, because most are not socialized to people and are unadoptable, killed. Any remaining cats in the area quickly breed to capacity, or new cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources. This is a well-documented phenomenon known as the "vacuum effect."

Year after year, more cats are trapped, more cats are killed, and more time and money is spent with zero evidence of success.

Please see the Appendix for more information about the "vacuum effect."

2. **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR):** Cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor home where they will continue to live while keeping newcomers at bay. Over time, TNR stabilizes or reduces community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle and preventing unwanted litters of kittens.

3. **Do Nothing:** Cats continue to live outdoors without being spayed or neutered, vaccinated, or provided veterinary care if injured or sick. As a result, community cat populations are not managed, public health and resident concerns are not addressed, and animal welfare implications are not considered.

Why the Regulation Is Being Proposed

Alaska has a large population of community cats, yet current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations allow *only one option* to manage them: Catch-and-Kill. Alaska's local governments, shelters, residents, and animals deserve *a second option*: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR is recognized worldwide as the most effective, sustainable, and humane approach to community cat management. Cities and shelters across America have stopped using the Catch-and-Kill approach because it is expensive, time-consuming, and ineffective. Today, over 650 municipalities have adopted a TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more welcome the TNR efforts of citizens. This regulation change is being proposed so communities in Alaska can legally implement a TNR program to manage their community cats.

Please see the Appendix for case studies on how TNR has transformed communities across the county and key scientific studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of TNR programs.

There are residents and animal rescue groups who want to practice TNR in Alaska for the health and wellbeing of community cats. For example, one rescue group receives requests to trap feral cats and kittens approximately two to three times a month (sometimes higher in the summer). Since TNR is illegal, they must limit their actions to kittens who are young enough to be socialized and cats who are most likely domesticated strays. When the group explains the limited options for most of these community cats, finders are typically unwilling to trap the cats/kittens and take them to animal control to be killed. The good news is this group regularly traps, sterilizes, and vaccinates cats and kittens who are good candidates for socialization and adoption, which does help reduce the number of breeding cats in the community. The bad news is that cats and kittens who are not capable of being socialized and adopted cannot be sterilized and vaccinated, because it is illegal to return them to their outdoor homes. This group looks forward to a time when they no longer must deny assistance to the many concerned residents who want to help *all* community cats.

My organization, Mojo's Hope, is interested in working alongside other local nonprofits to implement a TNR program in Anchorage. In March 2014, I began a dialogue with our local animal control about the effectiveness of TNR. I presented case studies, informational packets, and statistics of the impact of such programs in the lower 48. It was at this time that we discovered regulation **5 AAC 92.029** creates a barrier to TNR. Our TNR program would entail humanely trapping community cats and transporting them to a veterinary clinic where they will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped, which involves removing the tip of the cat's left ear to indicate that he or she has been sterilized and vaccinated. Based on an assessment by the veterinary team and a cat behaviorist, healthy feral cats will be returned to their outdoor home and healthy socialized cats will be brought to our local open admissions shelter or one of the local rescue groups that work with the municipal shelter. We will work to educate the community about TNR and respond to questions about the program and the cats. Our goal is to help Anchorage's community cats live happy and healthy lives, mitigate concerns in the community, and help our animal control officers and shelter personnel focus their resources on animals in need.

Why the Regulation Change Should Be Adopted

The proposed change **to Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game,** should be adopted to give local municipalities the opportunity to experience the many benefits of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR stabilizes or reduces community cat populations by:

- Increasing the number of cats who are spayed or neutered
- Decreasing the number of unwanted litters

TNR helps local governments and shelters save money by:

- Decreasing shelter intakes
    - Every animal impounded at a shelter requires expenses for housing, sanitation, comfort, medical care, and, especially for community cats, euthanasia. Once a shelter stops taking in feral cats, and their population is stabilized or reduced, fewer animals enter the shelter and fewer expenses are incurred.
- Decreasing shelter disease and euthanasia rates
    - Crowded conditions and stress increases incidences of shelter disease, especially upper respiratory infections (URI). For many shelter animals, health deterioration due to preventable illnesses results in euthanasia. When shelter intakes decrease due to TNR, more space and medical resources are available, fewer animals become sick, and fewer animals are euthanized.
- Increasing shelter save rates
    - As TNR reduces the strain on a shelter's financial and physical resources and personnel, more resources are available for adoptable and special needs pets. Rather than euthanize for space, behavior, or health issues, all animals are given the best opportunity to lead happy and healthy lives.
- Increasing shelter employee morale
    - There is a growing understanding of the negative impact animal euthanasia has on the mental health and morale of shelter employees. When they no longer bear the burden of euthanizing healthy community cats simply because they are

not socialized to people, shelters save money through reduced employee turnover rates, time away from work, and workers compensation claims.

TNR benefits local communities by:

- Increasing community support
  - When local governments and shelters support TNR, residents receive a clear message that the humane treatment of animals is a priority, and the community is transformed. Elected officials garner more support because they have addressed community concerns. Shelters grow their volunteer network because they have improved working conditions, services, and morale. Animal control officers improve their relationship with the public because they are saving more lives.
- Decreasing nuisance complaints
  - Most cat-related complaints to animal control are due to behaviors and stresses associated with mating and pregnancies, such as yowling, roaming, and fighting. When community cats are spayed or neutered, these behaviors and stress patterns stop, complaints are reduced, and animal control officers save time (and taxpayers' dollars) by responding to fewer calls.
- Increasing vaccination rates
  - Vaccinations are an integral component of TNR programs, which protect the health of individual cats and reduce the disease burden in the community.
  - TNR programs are often the number one provider of rabies vaccinations.

TNR improves individual cats' lives by:

- Increasing the number of community cats who are vaccinated
- Increasing the number of community cats who receive veterinary care if sick or injured
- Eliminating the behaviors and stresses associated with mating and pregnancy
- Providing an opportunity to live a happy and healthy life outdoors

Please see the Appendix for more information on how TNR benefits public health.

In conclusion, the proposed change to **Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game**, should be adopted because TNR is sound public policy.

What Would Happen if the Regulation Is Not Changed

If the proposed change to **Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game**, is not adopted, Alaska's local governments, shelters, and residents will continue to be limited to *only one option* to manage community cats: Catch-and-Kill. The purpose of this proposal is to remove the regulatory barrier to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) so Alaska's communities have *a second option* to manage community cat populations. The change will not impact the authority of municipalities to develop programs and policies that best fit their needs. In fact, this regulatory change will support the discretion of municipalities by allowing them to choose whether TNR is right for them.

Other Solutions Considered and Rejected

Most community cats are not socialized to people, so they are unable to adjust to living indoors and cannot be adopted into traditional homes. Therefore, there are only two options to manage them: Trap-and-Remove (i.e., Catch-and-Kill) and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Those who do not understand the unique needs of community cats often suggest cat sanctuaries as a solution. However, the viability of cat sanctuaries as an option for community cats exists only in theory, not in reality.

Cat sanctuaries are not the answer for the millions of community cats who live outside, just as they are not the answer for socialized cats who have lived with people inside. Sanctuaries face many challenges, including significant financial obstacles. They are extremely expensive to build and maintain, and most of them just aren't sustainable. Cat sanctuaries often spend thousands of dollars for housing and care per cat! Once a facility has opened, they fill up fast because they can only provide long term care for a small group of cats. Even then, the confinement and the large number of cats in small rooms or areas causes the cats a lot of stress and can expose them to disease. Despite their good intentions, sanctuaries are forced to close their doors every year due to insufficient funds or an inability to properly care for the cats in the existing confined space.

Rather than spend money to house a few hundred cats in a confined space, it is more practical, cost-efficient, and effective to fund Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and low-cost spay and neuter programs that will benefit the entire cat population.

Appendix

The appendix and references submitted with the proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at 465-4046.

PROPOSED BY: Mojo's Hope/Alaska's KAAATs (HQ-F17-007)

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PROPOSAL 63 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Prohibit the release of feral or stray domesticated cats into the wild as follows:

Put simply, to specifically and by name outlaw "Trap, Neuter, Release" (TNR) and all other "no-kill" programs predicated on trapping and treating feral domesticated cats and then returning them to the wild, or feeding and maintaining colonies of such cats unconfined, anywhere in the state of Alaska. An example of my proposed textual additions are given below in ***bold, italicized, underlined*** font:

Example: **AAC 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game** (d): Under this section, and in accordance with the definition of "game" as in AS. 69.05.940 (which includes feral domestic animals), a game animal defined as deleterious exotic wildlife or nonindigenous gallinaceous bird is feral if the animal is not under direct control of the owner, including being confined in a cage or other physical structure, or being restrained on a leash***; feral animals shall not be maintained unconfined in Alaska under the aegis of "no-kill" management programs such as TNR, TVNR, RTF or any other such program not providing for secure and continuous confinement of such animals at all times. Owners of such animals shall apply for permits***

issued by the department for all animals in their care, and shall abide by all conditions required by said permits.

In support of the above I include text from **AAC 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game** (h): "Upon application" (for temporary release for hunting, field trials, etc.) the board will add a species to the list in (b) of this section if there is clear and convincing evidence that the species is (1) *not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska*; (2) is not capable of causing a genetic alteration of as species that is indigenous to Alaska; (3) *is not capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (4) *is not capable of transmitting a disease to a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (5) *does not otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (6) is not captured from the wild for use as a pet; (7) does not present a conservation concern to the species' native habitat outside of this state; (8) can reasonably be maintained in good health in private ownership; and (9) *does not present a likelihood that concerns about, or threats to human health and safety will lead to adverse consequences for captive animals*.

The *underlined, italicized* font in items (1), (3)-(5) and (9) clearly disqualifies feral cats from being considered as a species suitable for even temporary release into the wild.

The alternative solution I propose would be to reclassify feral cats as "vermin" and allow unlimited take, year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Respectful greetings to members of the Alaska Board of Game: My proposal is to add language to 5 AAC Ch. 92.029 specifically prohibiting release of feral or stray domesticated cats (Felis catus) into the outdoors, or maintaining them unconfined anywhere in the state of Alaska, as part of any so-called "no-kill" management scheme touted to be a "viable alternative" to euthanasia or other lethal means of animal control currently provided for by existing State regulation.

Such schemes are identified under various acronyms such as: TNR--"Trap, Neuter, Release"; TVNR--"Trap, Vaccinate, Neuter, Release"; RTF--"Return-to-Field", etc. Proponents' claims to the contrary notwithstanding, these programs have proved utterly worthless for control or reduction of feral cat populations, and they pose a growing public health threat to our citizens, zoonotic disease threat to our valuable native wild mammals (terrestrial and marine, game and non-game), and an egregious threat by direct depredation to Alaska's smaller native mammal and bird populations.

I submit this proposal because misguided "animal welfare activists" in Alaska have proposed to this board that exemptions be made to the existing language of 5 AAC 92.029 prohibiting release of domesticated animals into the wild, and which prohibits maintaining feral domesticated animals as defined per AS.16.05.940 "...if the animal is not under direct control of an owner, including being confined in a cage or other physical structure, or being restrained on a leash."

Such "humane" activists desire exemptions to 5 AAC 92.029 so they can feed and maintain unconfined feral cat colonies in our environment. These groups already maintain such colonies in Anchorage and in the Mat-Su Valley illegally—they have admitted this on their websites and

I've obtained screenshots of said admissions, which I will print and provide upon request during the period for public input or as the board directs.

Last May, an Anchorage Animal Control Officer verbally acknowledged to me that at least two illegal feral cat colonies in Anchorage were "managed" or otherwise cared for by one of these groups. The group's president volunteers at the Anchorage animal shelter. One of her online statements suggest the illegal cat colonies may have been moved to locations which are being kept secret.

The irresponsible practice of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and then returning feral cats where they were trapped represents egregious threats to public health and wildlife conservation, and does nothing whatsoever to reduce feral cat presence in our environment—quite the opposite. The following examples constitute some of the reasons for my proposal and opposition to a proposal which was unsuccessfully, attempted to be submitted to the board last year. Please be advised that I can provide peer-reviewed scientific reports substantiating every example listed below, and again, will provide said documentation on board request:

(1) Since the advent of "no-kill" feral cat programs, cats have become the primary domesticated rabies vector in the US. Nearly one-third of human rabies exposures—about 13,000 annually—are cat-vectored. This has been the case for nearly three decades.

(2) One reason for this is that TNR colony "care-takers" only give the initial rabies shot when they trap a cat. The required annual rabies booster is never given, because once trapped the cats become wary and difficult to re-trap (so the caretakers simply don't bother).

(3) The worst incidence of human rabies exposure in US history was due to a TNR feral cat colony in one New Hampshire town in 1994. A rabid raccoon attracted to food left out for the cats transmitted the virus to four feral kittens. The colony "caretakers" subsequently gave (or sold) these kittens to a local pet store, which distributed them to the public. 665 individuals had to receive post-exposure prophylactic inoculations for rabies. It cost that municipality nearly $2 million to treat them. Rabies is nearly always fatal.

(4) Cats are also the definitive host of a highly dangerous pathogen—Toxoplasma gondii—which reproduces exclusively in feline digestive tracts. In the US between 40% and 70% of free-roaming cats are infected with it, usually throughout their lives. The pathogen's oocysts are its infectious agents, and infected cats shed hundreds of millions of them with their feces. The oocysts persist and remain infectious for up to 4.5 years, and—again thanks to "no-kill" programs like TNR and the resulting proliferation of feral cats—they now occur in our environment at densities of from three to 434 per square foot.

(5) Although it's almost certain T. gondii oocyst density in Alaska is less than in the lower '48—if for no other reason than because of our colder climate and smaller feral cat population—a pregnant woman in Anchorage consumed toxoplasmosis-infected flesh from a moose which her husband shot in October 2013, and passed the oocysts she ingested with her meal to her unborn child, who nearly died. The child recovered thanks to heroic measures, but may still lose his eyesight to ocular lesions caused by toxoplasmosis. He will in any event be infected for life.

(6) Per the CDC toxoplasmosis is the leading cause of pathogenic blindness—mostly but by no means exclusively in children—and the second-leading cause of fatal food-borne illness, surpassed only by Salmonella. 4,500 Americans are hospitalized with toxoplasmosis-related food-borne illness each year. Nearly 10% of them die.

(7) The incidence is far greater in areas where there are large populations of free-roaming cats: 50% of Ohio's white-tailed deer population is now infected with toxoplasmosis. It's now unsafe to eat venison from these animals unless it's cooked to a core temperature of at least 157 degrees F, or frozen to at least -21 degrees F for at least two weeks to destroy the infectious oocysts.

(8) In British Columbia some Inuit mothers have been afflicted with chronic miscarriages and birth defects after consuming toxoplasmosis-infected beluga meat. The prevalence of infection in belugas is such that Canadian health agencies now attempt to screen beluga for toxoplasmosis before allowing its consumption.

(9) Toxoplasmosis causes up to 5,000 stillbirths, blind, hydrocephalic, microcephalic, severely deformed and mentally debilitated infants in the US each year.

(10) T. gondii oocysts survive in seawater, which they enter with runoff into the nearshore marine environment, where they are taken up into the tissues of oysters, mussels, anchovies and sardines. Cetaceans, pinnipeds and otters from Arctic Canada to New Zealand and from the US Pacific Coast to the United Kingdom consume these contaminated organisms and die from it—by the thousands. Apparently all species of terrestrial mammals—and several bird species—are just as susceptible to toxoplasmosis as marine mammals.

(11) T. gondii oocysts contaminate above-ground rural and/or urban drinking water supplies if they're inadequately filtered--chlorination does not kill them. This has caused toxoplasmosis outbreaks in several regions.

(12) The oocysts can and do aerosolize. Inhalation or ingestion of one oocyst is sufficient to blind, permanently debilitate or kill a child, elderly or immuno-compromised person. Possibly one-fifth of the US population is infected with toxoplasmosis. A healthy immune system suppresses its symptoms. However, everyone's immune system will degrade with age, and the oocysts will still be present—toxoplasmosis infection is for life—there is no cure.

(13) I have mentioned only two of the more than three dozen deleterious and/or potentially fatal zoonotic diseases which cats carry—some others are bartonellosis, tularemia, leishmaniasis, MRSA, toxocariasis and plague. These diseases are more prevalent and infectious in regions with large stray and feral cat populations. My purpose in submitting this proposal in opposition to legalizing TNR or other worthless "no-kill" programs in my state is to prevent Alaska from becoming like those regions.

(14) Describing TNR as "worthless" is by no means an overly harsh assessment. Since the advent of this program in the US, two- and three-decades old feral colonies have become commonplace, for example in Washington DC and Disneyland (Anaheim). Even more telling, TNR was first

practiced in the UK. Despite a half-century of TNR, the British stray and feral cat population has more than doubled—from 4.1 million in 1965 to 9.1 million today.

PROPOSED BY: Frederick Minshall (EG-F17-067)
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Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 90.

PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Eliminate domestic sheep (Ovis aries) and goats (Capra hircus) from the "Clean List" and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat as follows:

(b) **Domestic sheep and goats will be removed from the "Clean List" regulation.**

Any person in possession of domestic sheep (*ovis*) or goats (*capra*) must obtain a permit from the department within one year of implementation of this section. Animals located within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat must be contained within a Department approved facility (double fence, etc.) and certified disease free when testing becomes available. Animals located more than 15 miles from Dall sheep habitat will be issued a permit without stipulation online.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Domestic sheep and goats have been proven to carry diseases that are devastating to wild sheep populations. This proposal will be a good start to prevent the spread of disease into wild sheep populations. Hobby farming is growing rapidly in Alaska including areas that would be considered Dall sheep habitat. Entire populations of bighorn sheep are presently being eradicated due to these unintentional disease transmissions.

Justification:
#1 We have a constitutional mandate to manage for sustained yield, this includes doing what we can to maintain healthy native wildlife populations.
#2 Online permitting has become mainstream and is simple.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (HQ-C15-128)
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