CITIZEN-PROPOSED ISSUE PAPER

Date: 09/16/13

ISSUE: Listing of Unregulated Wildlife – Add – Kinkajou

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Petition Request for Listing Unregulated Wildlife

Purpose: The purpose of this request is to add the Kinkajou to the Unregulated Wildlife Species list pursuant to subsection 24-4-107(7), C.R.S. in Colorado. This method is documented in the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Rules and Regulations; Chapter 11, Regulation #1114.

#1114A -1: Common Name
Kinkajou - Scientific Name: Potos Flavus; Other Names: Honey Bear, Nightwalker, Lion Monkey (Menino, 2003)
There are 14 subspecies of Kinkajou identified by the region they come from
Potos flavus arborensis - Costa Rica
Potos flavus aztecs - Veracruz, Mexico
Potos flavus boothi - N Chiapas, Mexico
Potos flavus campechensis - Yucatan, Mexico, Nicaragua
Potos flavus chapadensis - Mato Grosso, Brazil
Potus flavus chiriquensis - Panama, Belize, Costa Rica
Potos flavus dugesii - S Oaxaca, S Chiapas, Mexico
Potos flavus flavus - Guyana, Amazonas, Brazil, Venezuela
Potos flavus guerrerensis - SE Guerrero, SW Oaxaca
Potos flavus isthmicus - Canal Zone, Panama
Potus flavus megalotus - Ecuador, Colombia, Panama
Potos flavus meridensis - Venezuela
Potos flavus modestus - SW Ecuador, NW Peru
Potos flavus nocturna (Files)

#1114A-2: Habitat Required
The Kinkajou is native to the Central America rainforests. It is an arboreal mammal and lives primarily in the tops of the trees in the rainforest and is nocturnal. In captivity, the Kinkajou is most often kept in a tall cage or structure at least 4’x6’x8’. (Duncan, 2010). Their environment should consist of climbing ropes and shelves in addition to food and water requirements. Kinkajous in the wild typically sleep in holes located in the trunks of trees (Menino, 2003). This can be facilitated with a standard sleep box in their cage filled with bedding. They do not do well in outdoor cold climates and in a region such as Colorado they should be kept indoors during the colder times of the year. A Kinkajou would not survive a calendar year outdoors in Colorado without human intervention.

#1114A-3: Species Potential for Negative Impact or Destroy Native Vegetation
The Kinkajou is primarily “Frugiverous” meaning it eats primarily fruit. To supplement its diet and to gain protein,
the Kinkajou can also feed on insects, nectar, and eggs. (Zoo, 2013) The Kinkajou would have no direct negative impact on Native Vegetation in Colorado.

**#1114A-4: Associated Diseases, Zoonotic Diseases and Parasites**

“Baylisascaris procyonis (BP) is the common roundworm of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*)” (referred to as BP) can be found in Kinkajous. This roundworm lives in the intestines of its host and can be transmitted to humans or other pets through contact with feces. This same roundworm can be found in Dogs and can be prevented with routine de-worming of pets and Kinkajous (Control, 2011). This worm is already present in Colorado. Any pet Kinkajou would need to be inspected by a veterinarian and de-wormed in the exact same fashion as any domestic dog in Colorado.

There is a case of Blastomycosis from a Kinkajou bite in Indiana in 2009. However after the CDC conducted its study, they said "Because asymptomatic animal infections are not known to occur (15), we believe that the kinkajou likely acquired the infection while living with the patient." (J.R.Harris, 2011). This shows that Kinkajous can be transmitters of Zoonotic Diseases but was not an initial carrier.

**Recommended Vaccinations**

- Canine distemper: vaccinate at 6-8 weeks and every 3-4 weeks until 14 weeks of age; booster annually. Recombinant canine pox-vectored CDV is recommended.
- Traditional MLV vaccines should not be used because they can cause post-vaccinal CDV encephalitis.
- Rabies: vaccinate at 16 weeks; booster annually.
- Feline parvoviruses (panleukopenia) and leptospirosis may be indicated depending on location, possible exposure or outbreak. - Feline parvoviruses: vaccinate at 6-8 weeks, then repeat every 3-4 weeks until 14 weeks of age; booster annually.- Leptospirosis: vaccinate at 10-12 weeks; repeat once in 3-4 weeks and then annually. (DVM)

**#1114A-5 Predatory Behavior, Including assessment of the anticipated effect predation by the species would have on native wildlife and domestic animals**

The Kinkajou grows 17-20 inches in length and weighs up to 7 lbs. It is relatively the same size as a small household cat. (Menino, 2003). The Kinkajou does not display any predatory behaviors as it is primarily a frugiverous animal. It does feed on insects and nectar in the wild but does not actively hunt other mammals. The Kinkajou does have 4 canine teeth and claws on its hands to assist in climbing. Kinkajous have been known to bite or scratch in the event they feel threatened, similar to any other common domestic dog or cat. The Kinkajou would have no predation effect on any native or domestic wildlife in Colorado.

**#1114A-6 Assessment of the ability of the species to damage or destroy agricultural crops or rangeland**

As referenced in #1114A-3 the Kinkajou would not have any negative impact on agricultural crops or rangeland. They would have a similar effect as any household dog or cat.

**#1114A-7 An assessment of the ability of the species to breed with native wildlife or domestic animals**

Kinkajous are not able to hybridize with any native wildlife or domestic animals in Colorado. They are only able to reproduce among their subspecies.

**#1114A-8 Fecundity and Reproductive Behavior**

Female Kinkajous estrus length is 17 days, where females are receptive for 2 days. They have no set breeding season (polyestrous) and usually produce 1 offspring (rarely 2). The gestation range is 98-120 days and they typically give birth to offspring weighing 175g. Kinkajous reach sexual maturity at 820 days (female) and 550 days (male). Their offspring is usually weaned at 8 weeks and independent by 4 months. (Rehder, 2007)

**#1114A-9 Assessment of the competition this species would have with native wildlife and domestic animals for food, water and space**

The Kinkajou would have the same competition level as any other domesticated animal such as a dog or cat with one distinct advantage. Since Kinkajous are arboreal animals they would have access to food, water, space and even safety in trees where other species could not go.
Regulatory status of the species in surrounding states

Kinkajous are a member of the Order “Carnivora” (which also consists of, dogs, cats, raccoons, etc) and Family “Procyonidae” (Zoo S. D., 2013)

Arizona – Legal - All species of the order Carnivora. Common name: carnivores. *Canis familiaris*, domestic dogs; *Felis catus*, domestic cats; and *Mustela putorius furo*, domestic ferrets, are not wildlife. ARIZ. COMP. ADMIN R. & REGS. R12-4-406; R12-4-409; R12-4-417; R12-4-425; R12-4-426. (USA, 2003)

Nevada – Legal - Does not have specifics on Kinkajous. Nevada possesses a list of prohibited animals and the Kinkajou is not listed. In contrast it also has a list of approved animals (including primates, all felines except Mountain Lions and Bobcats, Marsupials, Elephants, etc). Overall, Nevada is deemed as a state that does not need a permit or license to own an exotic animal. NEV. ADMIN. CODE ch. 503, §110; ch. 503, §140; ch. 504, §488. (USA, 2003).

Utah – Prohibited – Though Utah does not list the Kinkajou specifically, in review of their restrictive list and legislation; it would fall under the prohibited species. UTAH ADMIN. R. 657-3-17, R. 657-3-24, R. 657-3-25, and R. 657-3-27. (USA, 2003)

Wyoming – Prohibited – Though Wyoming does not specifically list the Kinkajou, Wyoming lists “Predatory Animal” as illegal which contains all of the closest relatives to the Kinkajou. WYO. STAT. §23-1-101 and §23-1-103; WYO. REG. Chapter 10, §5. (USA, 2003)

Nebraska – Prohibited – Per Mike Fitz of Nebraska Game and Parks, the Nebraska regulations do not permit private ownership of the Kinkajou. They have an approved list of exotic wildlife and the Kinkajou is not on it. Their current structure is similar to Colorado.

Kansas – Legal – Kansas specifically prohibits “Dangerous” animals which it has listed on their site. Neither the Kinkajou nor any of its closest species are included on this list. All other animals are allowed. KAN. STAT. ANN §32-1301-32-1312. (USA, 2003)

Oklahoma – Legal – Oklahoma does have permit requirements for certain species but no rules or regulations. OKLA. STAT. Tit. 29, §4-107. (USA, 2003)

New Mexico – Prohibited – They are a class IV animal per the Directors Species Importation List in 2010. (Mexico)

Idaho – Legal – Idaho only has a ban on big game animals. IDAHO CODE §36-701. (USA, 2003)


Assessment of the Weediness of the Animal

1. Characterization of the aggressiveness of the animal

   “Kinkajous are sometimes kept as pets. Although they are small and not very aggressive, their nocturnal nature, their specialized diet and their playfulness (which could be translated as destructiveness if their toys are your valuable household furnishings) make them more challenging than domestic animals.”  (Center, 2011)
“To show aggression, kinkajous hiss and scream.” (Zoo M., 2013)

Overall, every website and blog I find says that the Kinkajou is very docile and only becomes aggressive when startled or cornered. I would associate this to be similar to a domesticated cat.

2. The Ability to thrive in disturbed habitats

In the Kinkajou’s native environment, they would struggle to survive if their environment became disturbed through deforestation. Being arboreal, they rely on trees to survive. However in contrast they do very well in captivity.

Kinkajous can live up to 20-25 years in captivity. (Zoo M., 2013)

Like any other animal, if captive and not properly cared for they would suffer and would not thrive.

If released in the wild, they wouldn’t survive a cold winter in Colorado

3. Its ability to disburse widely or pioneer

Kinkajous are slower arboreal mammals. If one ever escaped into the wild it would most likely go up a close by tree. They become attached to their owners and family and rarely go away from them. (Duncan, 2010)

The Kinkajou would not disburse or pioneer in the wild. They are non-migratory mammals.

4. Reproductive Potential

None in Colorado unless paired with another Kinkajou.

5. Ability to Adapt to other food sources

Since the Kinkajou is frugivorous and occasionally will feed on bugs, they have a wide variety of food available to them. This is similar to any other scavenger that is currently located in Colorado.

#1114A-12 Bibliography

Bibliography


The Kinkajou is a very docile creature and non-aggressive towards humans. I can think of only a few minor dangers they pose to humans. First, if not de-wormed their feces could contain *Baylisascaris procyonis* and that is transferrable to humans if their feces are handled and the worm eggs are ingested. If the owner properly had their Kinkajou de-wormed and if the human who handled the feces properly washed their hands this could be avoided. Secondly, they do have canine teeth and claws for climbing. If startled or threatened they could bite or scratch. In the end, I would compare their danger to humans along the lines of a domesticated cat and less than a medium sized dog.

**WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE? HAVE YOU COMMUNICATED WITH ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES? WHAT INPUT HAVE YOU RECEIVED?**

Dr. Jeff Mullen – Seven Hills Veterinary Hospital (Exotic Veterinarian) – Dr. Mullen said that he expected if Kinkajous were legalized in Colorado it would have very little impact on him and his business since he currently only sees 3-4 families with Sugar Gliders (another exotic pet that is on the unregulated species list). He said he did not see any financial impact to him or his business. He further stated that being an exotic animal it comes with its own challenges. Removing a Kinkajou from the wild isn’t in the best interest of the animal or the family. However with a bottle fed baby (raised by breeders in captivity) it does have much more exposure to humans and human interactions but he was unaware of the impact of removing it from its mother (if the mother wasn’t present for weaning).

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald – Alameda East Veterinary Hospital (Exotic Veterinarian) – I reached out to Dr. Fitzgerald but have not heard back from him.

**ALTERNATIVES: PLEASE INDICATE THE PROBABLE OUTCOME IF THIS PETITION IS ACCEPTED, AS**
WELL AS THE IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PETITION:

The probable outcome, if this petition is accepted, would be an increase in Colorado of Kinkajous as household pets. There are currently no studies as to how many Kinkajous are owned either legally or illegally in the United States. Being an exotic pet, there aren’t that many available and their prices are pretty significant. I would estimate the total population in Colorado to grow by single digits per year in the first 5-10 years.

Additionally there are regulations based on which city you live in regarding Kinkajous and in the most populous areas they would still be prohibited.

If the petition was accepted it would also allow for proper vet care, vaccinations and spay or neutering of the animals since Exotic Veterinarians would be willing to see these animals since they would be legal in Colorado. Currently, citizens could potentially own these animals illegally and not be able to get proper care from them from their Exotic Veterinarian out of fear of losing their animal.

In contrast, alternatives to this petition could allow for licensing of these animals as pets through an application process (different than what is present today). Colorado should explore an additional license which includes private citizens who wish to own prohibited exotic animals as pets (who are not affiliated with an animal park, research or rehabilitation), and create another category of “Licensable Exotic Pets” instead of Unregulated Wildlife. This way specific exotic species could be more closely regulated and controlled. By possessing such a license, legal exotic pet owners could still feel comfortable getting proper vet care and support if needed.

If denied, citizens could potentially obtain and own these animals illegally which would exclude them from proper veterinary care, vaccinations, de-worming, etc. It is currently unknown if there are any Kinkajous owned as pets in Colorado.

PETITION PROPOSED BY: Jared Dryer
PETITION WRITTEN BY: Jared Dryer
DATE SENT TO THE COMMISSION: 09/16/2013
TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission  
FROM: Brett Ackerman, Regulations Manager  
RE: Citizen Petition to Deregulate Kinkajou  
DATE: December 24, 2013

At the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission’s January 9, 2014 meeting in Denver, the Commission is scheduled to hear a citizen petition to add kinkajou to the list of unregulated wildlife. Commission Regulation #P11-1114 specifies the steps a citizen must take in order to place an additional species on the unregulated list. In addition, that regulation requires the Division to consult with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Staff has contacted both. Please find attached a letter from the State Veterinarian’s Office. If comments are received from CDPHE, they will be distributed to the Commission.

If there are questions about this petition or associated process, or if additional information is needed, please contact me. I can be reached during business hours at 303-291-7278.
December 13, 2013

To: Colorado Parks & Wildlife

From: Keith Roehr, DVM
       Colorado State Veterinarian

Re: Petition to place Kinkajou on the unregulated wildlife list.

The Pet Animal care facility act gives the commissioner of agriculture and the state veterinarian the authority to license and inspect facilities that care for, breed, adopt and sell pet animals in Colorado. Anytime a new species is added to the pet trade, accommodation must be made to adequately and appropriately regulate the care, breeding, and trade of that animal. This would require statutory and regulatory amendments.

The Kinkajou is a wildlife species with specialized dietary and environmental needs which most pet owners would be unwilling or unable to accommodate; leading to poor care and possibly animal suffering. The kinkajou has sharp teeth capable of inflicting serious wounds. It is a mammal and would be biologically capable of infection with and transmission of rabies. This species is also capable of spreading the roundworm, Baylisascaris, in its feces which has zoonotic potential and can be deadly to humans and other animals.

For these public safety and consumer protection reasons, the state veterinarian does not support the placement of the Kinkajou on the unregulated wildlife list.