Introduction: This SOP establishes the procedure for management of non-domestic animal species presenting to the VHC for veterinary care.

1. Definition of a Non-domestic Animal
Any animal that is not a domestic dog, cat, horse, or food animal is considered a non-domestic animal for the purposes of this SOP. Animals that are hybridized with wild species (e.g. wolf hybrids, Savannah cats, etc.) are considered non-domestic animals.

2. Role of the Exotic Animal Medicine Service
Any non-domestic animal presenting to the VHC will be managed primarily by the Exotic Animal Medicine Service (EAMS). Privately-owned animals, education animals, and zoo/museum collection animals being referred for consultation with a specialist will be required to make an appointment with the EAMS, who will facilitate consultation with the appropriate specialists. This allows the hospital to assure that our staff are safe and that the animal receives species-appropriate restraint and treatment. Species that require special permission (even if legally owned) include all animals over 40 lbs, venomous reptiles, and non-human primates. The EAMS does not see native wildlife, except by special arrangement with partner institutions (see Wildlife SOP).

3. Verifying Legal Ownership
In order for a non-domestic animal to be seen at the VHC, the EAMS requires that the patient be legally owned in the county where it resides. If a permit is required for ownership, the owner will be required to present the permit before or at the time of their appointment.

4. Exception for Emergencies
The EAMS may see non-domestic animals without a permit if the animal is experiencing a life-threatening emergency (e.g. hemorrhage, respiratory distress, shock) or requires euthanasia. This is at the discretion of the EAMS clinician, and care may be refused if the clinician feels that treating the animal would jeopardize the safety of VHC staff. Students will not be involved in the treatment of illegally-kept animals.