

July 21, 2021

Communication to Columbia City Council

From: Columbia/Boone County Board of Health  
Mahree Skala, Chair

At the Council's request, the Board of Health at its July 8 meeting reviewed information related to a proposed ordinance addressing pot-bellied pigs. We reviewed potential requirements drafted by the Department of Public Health and Human Services as well as ordinances from DeSoto, KS; Colorado Springs, CO; and Joliet, IL.

After considerable discussion, the Board unanimously approved a recommendation that the existing city ordinance should not be modified, and the variance process should continue as it currently exists.

The Board feels that it is not practical to develop a specific ordinance to address each species of exotic or unusual animal that individuals may desire to own. The variance process in the current ordinance allows DPHHS to protect the community's health and safety by working with individual pet owners to address the specific issues raised by their choice of pet.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this interesting topic.