

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
A Resolution Regarding
The Importation of Exotic Animals and Possible Wildlife Disease Ramifications

WHEREAS, the recent outbreak of the exotic disease Monkey Pox in the Midwest and other locations in the U. S. was caused by the importation of infected exotic pets; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of Monkey Pox in the native range of these pets was known but importation was permitted; and

WHEREAS, current Federal and State statutes, rules or regulations did not prohibit the importation or quarantine of the exotic pets that transmitted the Monkey Pox virus or of animals that may transmit other exotic or emerging diseases; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of Monkey Pox and other foreign animal diseases into wildlife populations in the Midwestern states could be devastating to native wildlife populations and the ability of states to manage those populations; and

WHEREAS, exotic and emerging animal diseases not only pose a threat to wildlife but to domestic livestock and human health; and

WHEREAS, the Office of International Epizootics maintains records of animal disease occurrence worldwide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, working with other Federal agencies, state agencies, tribal authorities and the U. S. Animal Health Association, The Wildlife Society, the Wildlife Disease Association and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies develop and implement recommendations for effectively restricting or controlling the importation and exportation of exotic or native live or dead wildlife having a potential impact on public health, domestic animal health or wildlife health, including methodology to require the permanent identification of all exotic and native wildlife privately owned and the maintenance of appropriate records.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests that the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Interior cooperate with the Office of International Epizootics to maintain records of animal disease occurrence in other parts of the world and develop and implement strategies to prohibit the importation of any and all vectors of emerging and foreign animal diseases into the United States.

Adopted: July 15, 2003
Omaha, Nebraska

Rex Amack, President