Sec. 6-64. - Sale and display of animals.

(a) A person shall only sell, offer for sale, barter, give away or otherwise dispose of an animal at the physical address listed on the appropriate permit issued by the county manager. Shelters shall be allowed off-site adoption events, with permission of site owner and while preserving appropriate care and maintenance of animals.

(b) No person shall offer for sale, sell, barter or give away turtles except in conformance with the appropriate federal regulations.

(c) No person shall offer an animal as a prize, giveaway or award for a contest, game, sport or as an incentive to purchase merchandise.

(d) Animal exhibits.

(1) No person shall operate, conduct, or maintain a permanent or temporary commercial animal show, circus, animal exhibition, animal ride, petting zoo or carnival without first having obtained a permit from the animal care services department. Conditions for permit approval include provisions for the humane care and treatment of the animals and the protection of public safety. Permits shall not be issued upon verification that the applicant has been convicted of charges of animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect, or has violated the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

(2) No person shall operate, conduct or maintain any animal exhibit under conditions that pose a danger to the public or the animals. Specific requirements shall be available upon request to the animal care services department.

(3) The following are exempt from the requirements of this section:

   a. Individuals or groups holding a State of New Mexico regulated permit or a federally regulated permit.

   b. Events sponsored by a municipal zoo or aquarium facility.

   c. Competitive sporting events.

(4) Persons involved in these exempt activities shall comply with all other applicable sections of this chapter.

(e) Sale of live companion animals at pet shops is prohibited unless the pet shop has an approved professional animal site permit. Sale of rabbits, cats or dogs in pet shops is prohibited.