### CASEY: City Council to take up ordinance about wolf-dogs in Roanoke

Roanoke Times, Aug 3, 2025

Following an uproar about wolf-dog hybrids on the loose in the southwest quadrant, the Roanoke City Council on Monday will discuss possibly banning and/or regulating the animals.

But the draft of a proposed ordinance might not satisfy all residents of the Deyerle neighborhood, where a pack of the beasts recently escaped their confinement, and stalked and killed a deer, to onlookers' horror.

Thursday night, more than 100 people turned out for a Greater Deyerle Neighborhood Association meeting on the subject. By unanimous acclaim, the crowd approved a formal resolution specifically urging the council "to remove the canine hybrids from 3580 Windsor Road."

Prepared by City Attorney Tim Spencer, the draft ordinance that council members will get Monday would outlaw the keeping and breeding of canine hybrids in Roanoke, but "grandfather" and regulate hybrids that already are kept at residences in the city.

That didn't sit too well with Councilwoman Evelyn Powers, who first broached the subject at a city council meeting last week. Besides her, Mayor Joe Cobb and Councilman Nick Hagen also attended the Deyerle neighborhood meeting Thursday.

"The next time these dogs get out, they could hurt a child, or anybody, really," Powers said.

The crowd at Thursday's meeting seemed surprised to learn from neighborhood association President Adam Mastrangelo that the wolf-dogs on Windsor Road are part of an exotic pet breeding business. That formed five years ago, on Sept. 16, 2020.

Registration papers with the State Corporation Commission identify the company as Everyday Exotic Pets LLC, and its principal address as 3580 Windsor Road in Roanoke. The SCC also lists a second active business, First Turn Last Round Games LLC, at the same address.

# **Business Overview**

Entity ID	11109468
Entity Name	Everyday Exotic Pets LLC
Principal Address	3580 Windsor Rd Sw
	Roanoke
	Virginia 24018
Office Effective Date	2020-09-16
Status Date	2020-09-16
Incorporate Date	2020-09-16
Duration	9999-12-31
Incorporate State	VA
Registered Agent	Michael J. Hertz
Registered Agent	
Agent Name	Michael J. Hertz
Agent Address	10 S Jefferson St Ste 1400
	Roanoke
	Virginia 24011-1327
Effective Date	2020-09-16

The neighborhood's upset because the wolf-dogs occasionally escape their confinement, and have previously attacked at least one pet dog in Deyerle, Mastrangelo told the packed house at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

On a video screen at the front of the room, he detailed a list of six wolf-dog escapes. Members of the audience the crowd spoke up about additional occasions. Mastrangelo said the first escape on record was October 2020, when two of the hybrids attacked a neighbor's Pomeranian. Emergency veterinary surgery saved the pet.

Also, 3580 Windsor is across the street from Windsor Hills United Methodist Church, which operates a children's literacy program called Kids Soar.

When I went there to take a photo of the house two weeks ago, those Kids Soar children were playing in the church's wide-open parking lot. It's less than 100 yards from the fenced backyard from which the wolf-dogs occasionally get loose.

Roanoke Police Lt. R.A Robinson addresses a packed meeting Thursday night of the Greater Deyerle Neighborhood Association. More than 100 people attended to learn about wolf-hybrids in their neighborhood.

The other escape-dates Mastrangelo listed were Oct. 22, 2021; Dec. 14, 2021; Dec. 31, 2021; an unspecified date in spring 2022 when the hybrids confronted a runner in the neighborhood; and June 26 this year.

That's when four wolf-dogs chased and killed a deer in Sandra Ryals' yard on Mudlick Road, sparking the panic that led to Thursday's meeting.

Ryals witnessed that attack. One of the hybrids almost got hold of her Cavalier King Charles spaniel, which weighs less than 25 pounds.

"Although we were not physically harmed, we were emotionally harmed forever," Ryals told the Deyerle meeting.

Venture lacks business license

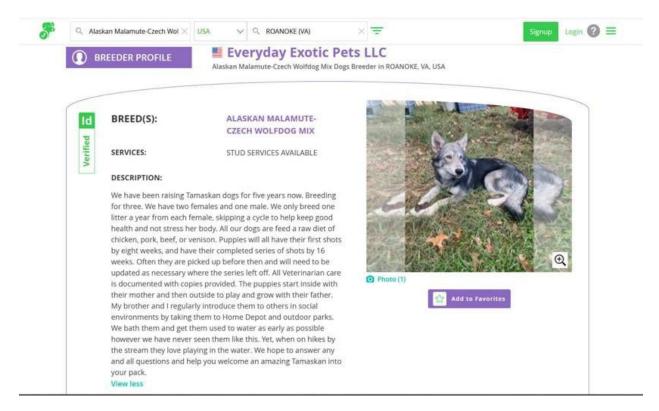
A <u>subpage</u> of the website <u>PuppyFinders.com</u> contains a "breeder's profile" that goes into some detail about the canine hybrid breeding operation of Everyday Exotic Pets LLC.

The profile says the company has been raising Alaskan Malamute-Czech wolfdog mixes for five years and breeding them for three. It also notes: "stud services available."

"We have two females and one male," the profile states.

"We only breed one litter a year from each female, skipping a cycle to help keep good health and not stress her body. All our dogs are feed (sic) a raw diet of chicken, pork, beef, or venison. Puppies will all have their first shots by eight weeks, and have their completed series of shots by 16 weeks."

A "breeder profile" for Everyday Exotic Pets LLC, a wolf-dog breeding business based at 3580 Windsor Road, in the Deyerle neighborhood. This is a screen capture from **PuppyFinder.com**.



Real estate records list Thomas Blanding as the home's owner. Tuesday afternoon, he's facing trial on four misdemeanors in Roanoke General District Court, stemming from the beasts' June 26 escape.

The profile notes, "The puppies start inside with their mother and then outside to play and grow with their father. My brother and I regularly introduce them to others in social environments by taking them to Home Depot and outdoor parks."

Roanoke Commissioner of the Revenue Ryan LaFountain said Everyday Exotic Pets LLC has not obtained a business license, which is required.

LaFountain said he would immediately begin correspondence with Everyday Exotic Pets to bring the company in compliance.

"They would need a business license regardless of whether or not they make a profit," LaFountain said. "They're advertising themselves online."

### Repeated zoning complaints

According to city land records, the wolf-dog house in Deyerle is zoned R-12, a residential designation that doesn't permit commercial kennel operations. The city code defines kennel as an operation that raises, breeds, trains, rents, sells or boards dogs or cats.

However, the same code section says an entity is NOT a kennel if it has four or fewer adult dogs. And puppies under age six months do not count toward the four-dog limit.

Residents of the Greater Deyerle neighbood say a pack of wolf-hybrid dogs being raised at 3580 Windsor Road (above) poses a danger to people and pets in their community. The house is across the street from Windsor Hills United Methodist Church.

"When we look at the description of the business, it says they have two females and one male — three dogs," said Carol Corbin, a city hall spokeswoman. "They wouldn't meet the definition of a 'kennel' unless they have more than four."

City zoning records list six complaints against the address dating to 2004. Four of those are regarding outdoor storage.

There are tools, appliances, plants and landscaping material stored throughout the front yard. That's unusual in Deyerle, where the lawns are broad. Most yards there are orderly and well-kept.

Another complaint, Oct. 26, 2023, involved "home occupation." And one in 2019 related to the fence behind the house. In one case a complaint was listed as "unfounded." In four of the cases the residents "complied," the file notes. The sixth complaint was listed "closed."

Proposal to ban/regulate hybrids

Virginia law already allows localities to ban canine hybrids, and Loudoun County, the city of Richmond and James City County have established ordinances regarding them, City Attorney Tim Spencer wrote in a memo to council.

The <u>draft ordinance prepared by the his office</u> begins by banning the keeping or breeding of canine hybrids in Roanoke, with certain exceptions for zoos and animal welfare organizations, etc.

Section B notes: "In the event that an owned/possessed hybrid canine is found to be running at large, it will be confiscated." The ordinance would also permit the city to recoup actual costs of capturing and housing escaped canine hybrids, from the creatures' owners.

Virginia code explicitly says localities may regulate or ban the keeping of wolf-hybrid canines.

Section C says: Any Roanoke city resident who possesses a hybrid canine in the city as of the date of the adoption of this section may lawfully retain such animal until such time as it dies of natural causes, is euthanized or is legally relocated."

# Code of Virginia

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# § 3.2-6582. Hybrid canine ordinance; penalty.

A. Any locality may, by ordinance, establish a permit system to ensure the adequate confinement and responsible ownership of hybrid canines. Such ordinance may include requirements pertaining to (i) the term and expiration date of the permit; (ii) the number of hybrid canines that may be owned by a permittee; (iii) identification tags or tattooing of the animal; (iv) where the animal may be kept; (v) handling of the animal while not on the property of the owner; and (vi) information required to be provided when applying for a permit, such as the sex, color, height, vaccination records, length, or identifying marks of the hybrid canine. The ordinance shall not require that hybrid canines be disposed of by the owner unless the owner fails to obtain or renew any required permit or violates a provision of the ordinance or any other law pertaining to the responsible ownership of the hybrid canine. The locality may impose a permit fee to cover the cost of the permitting system.

B. Violation of an ordinance enacted pursuant to subsection A is a Class 3 misdemeanor for the first violation and a Class 1 misdemeanor for any subsequent violation. The ordinance may require a violator to surrender the hybrid canine for euthanasia in accordance with § 3.2-6562.

C. The provisions of subsections A and B shall not affect any ordinance adopted prior to July 1, 1997.

D. Any locality may, by ordinance, prohibit the keeping of hybrid canines.

1997, c. 918, § 3.1-796.126:9; 2008, c. 860; 2014, c. 461.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

The same section also establishes special registration and confinement requirements for grandfathered canine hybrids in Roanoke. Violations of the proposed ordinance, if enacted, would be a Class 4 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

That's the maximum penalty Thomas Blanding is already facing for the loose dog violations he was charged with after the June 26 deer-downing drama in Sandra Ryals' yard.

#### Reaction from residents

I counted 110 people at Thursday's meeting about the wolf-dogs. Mastrangelo said that was a larger-than-normal turnout. About 60 residents showed up to the last regular meeting.

He added he was pleased three city council members showed up to listen to residents' concerns.

Among the concerned parents were Judah Collins and Jenny Owen, a married couple with two children and two dogs who live on Chesterton Street, just a couple of blocks from the 3580 Windsor Road. One of their kids is a 5-year-old girl.

"I think it's a great start, that somebody's looking at this issue," Owen, who's a lawyer, told me Friday. "Something does need to be done. I think people are scared."

But she added: "I would like additional information ... Would (the proposal) prohibit them from continuing to breed?"

I replied: "That's a good question" and that I wasn't sure of the answer.

"This is great news," agreed Lollie Shipp, who lives on Windsor about six doors down from 3580. "But, as a neighbor, how long will (the wolf-dogs) live? How long will we have to worry that they'll escape again?"

That's a good question, too. You can bet there will be more raised Monday morning in council chambers.

#### **Dan Casey**

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Roanoke City Council briefing on wolf-dogs

• What: The city attorney will present a proposed ordinance regulating wolf dogs in Roanoke that also bamns any more from being kept in the city.

• When: Monday 9 a.m. enduring council's regular meeting.

• Where: Council chambers, 215 Church Ave.

• Who: Open to public.

Draft ordinance to ban wolf-dogs

- Would ban any more canine hybrids from being kept Roanoke.
- Would allow existing canine hybrids to stay, subject to regulation.
- Requires authorities to confiscate escaped canine hybrids.
- Allows city to recover actual costs, form the owner, of capturing and housing escaped hybrids.
- Provides for a fine of up to \$250 for violators.