

PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit as follows:

Under 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game, section (b), I would like to see the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec listed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the African Pygmy Hedgehog is on the clean list for exotic pets in Alaska. As a licensed hedgehog breeder, I am also interested in introducing the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec species into our community. The Tenrec is similar to the African Pygmy Hedgehog (APH) in care and needs, however, they are not related despite the name "hedgehog" in their title. Many hedgehog breeders in the “lower 48” offer this species to their clients as well as the APH. The availability and knowledge of the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec is not as common in the pet industry because they do not breed as quickly as a hedgehog.

As an exotic pet owner and breeder, this is a variety of animal that I would love to have the opportunity to bring into my home and learn more about their contributions as a more affectionate “pocket pet”. The joy that I see that this species bring into other families as a family pet seems to be exuberant. I do not see it being anymore of a threat to the eco-environment in Alaska, and a great alternative to various rodents that others enjoy as family members. Like the APH, this species is also hypoallergenic making it a great alternative to those that cannot have a typical cat or dog in their lives.

PROPOSED BY: Billie Wilder

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