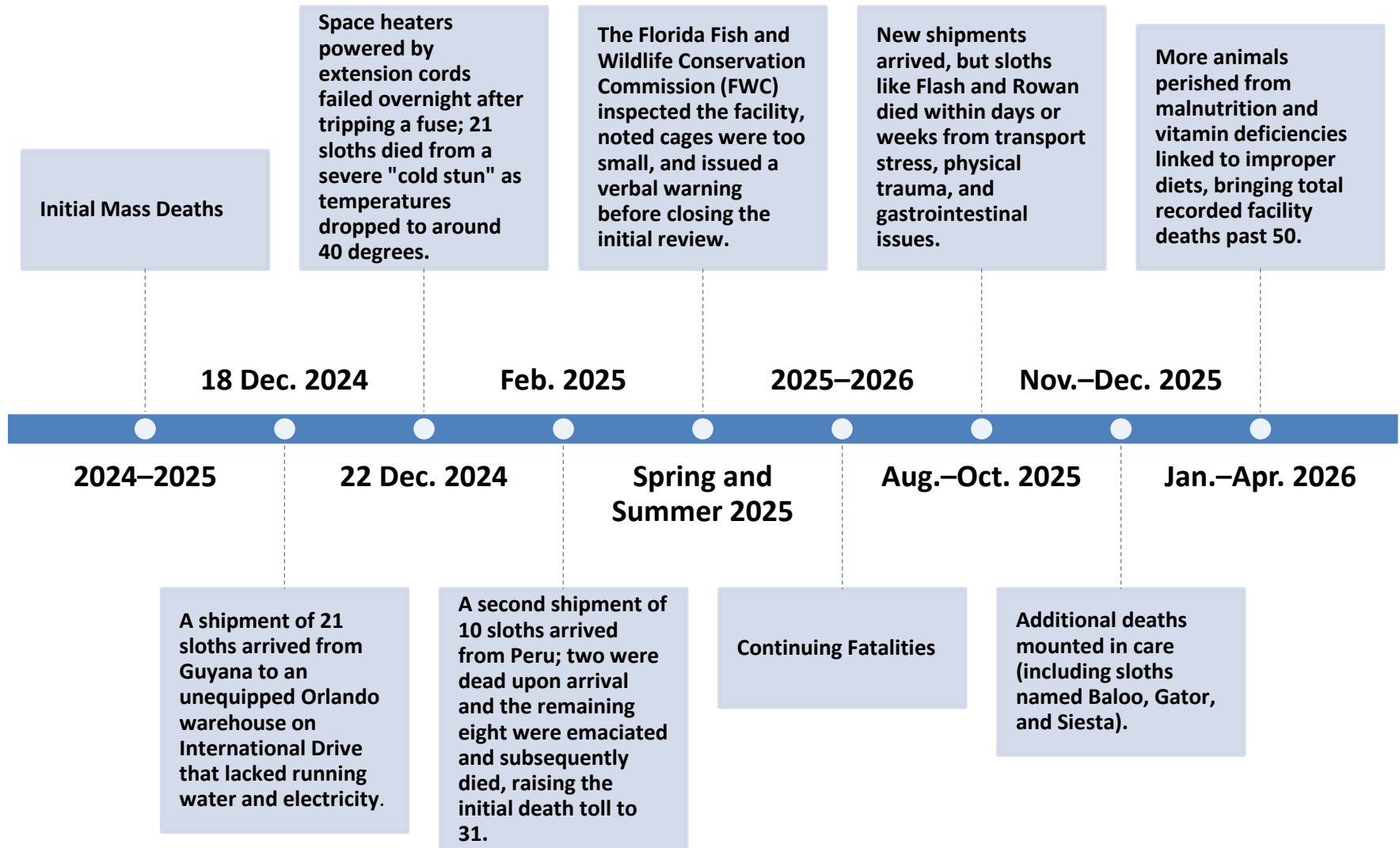


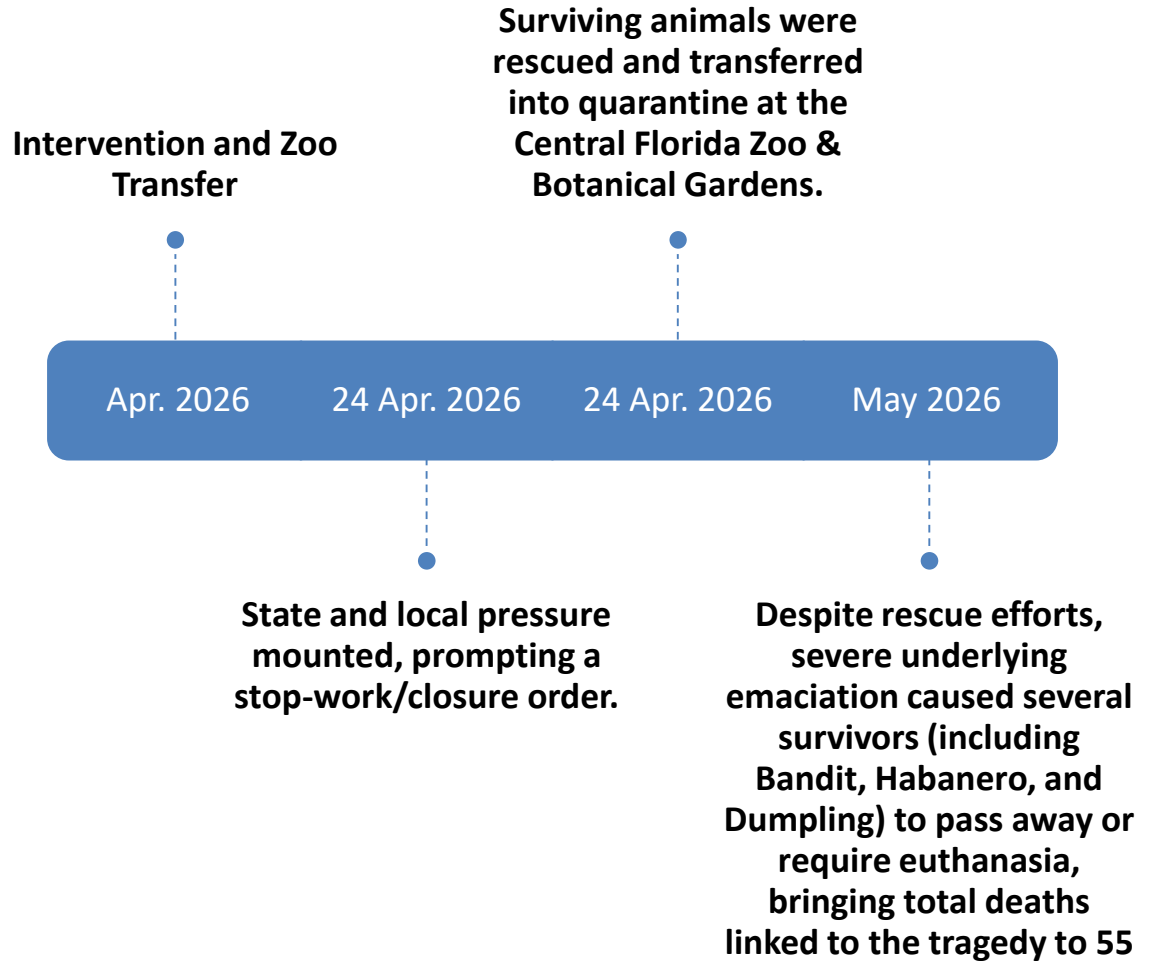
Preventing Another Sloth World Tragedy

Board of County Commissioners Work Session
Commissioner Nicole Wilson

Sloth World Timeline



Sloth World Timeline Cont.



What the Case Revealed

Fragmented oversight, reactive enforcement, limited local tools under existing code.

Federal Oversight

- **USDA Animal Welfare Act licensing**
- **USFWS import/CITES oversight**
- **Focus is not local land-use compatibility.**

State Oversight

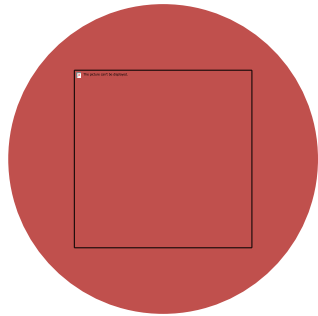
- **FWC captive wildlife permits**
- **State cruelty laws require high evidentiary threshold**
- **Permits do not guarantee appropriate commercial use.**

Why Orange County Should Act

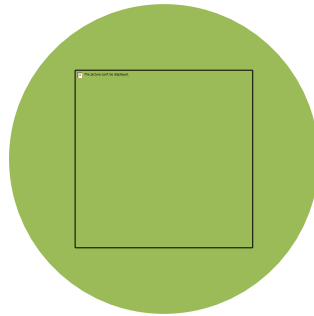
Local governments regulate land use, zoning compatibility, business location, commercial use, and community impacts.

Orange County, Florida, receives approximately **76.7 million visitors annually** based on the most recent tourism data (2025). This makes the Orlando/Orange County area the **most visited destination in the United States**.

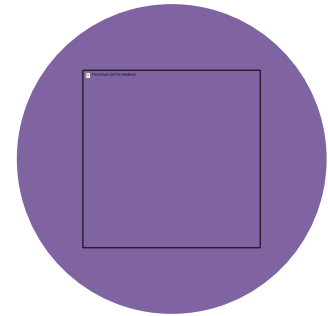
Regulatory Framework



**PROHIBIT NEW
COMMERCIAL EXOTIC
WILDLIFE EXHIBITION USES.**



**PROHIBIT PUBLIC-CONTACT
ENCOUNTERS WITH
WILD/EXOTIC ANIMALS.**



**MAINTAIN EXEMPTIONS
FOR ACCREDITED
INSTITUTIONS.**

Zoning Approach

Create prohibited use definition.

Amend permitted-use tables.

Nonconforming status for existing lawful operations if directed.

Business Licensing

Require zoning clearance before issuance.

Coordinate Code Compliance.

Administrative enforcement.

Other Jurisdictions

- **Many jurisdictions restrict public contact with big cats, primates, bears, and other exotic wildlife through zoning or local ordinances.**

Why Sloths Need Protection

- **Arboreal specialists, slow metabolism, low reproductive rates, susceptible to chronic stress and handling.**

Wild Capture Concerns

Removes breeding adults, fuels wildlife trafficking, mortality during transport, conservation impacts.

Potential Exemptions

AZA-accredited zoos

Licensed wildlife rehabilitation

Veterinary care

Educational institutions

Qualified conservation
organizations

Entertainment vs Conservation

Educational conservation differs from commercial entertainment focused on paid public interaction.

Legal Considerations

**County Attorney review of state
preemption, constitutional
issues, grandfathering,
enforcement authority.**

Public Benefits



Animal welfare



Public safety



Responsible tourism



County reputation



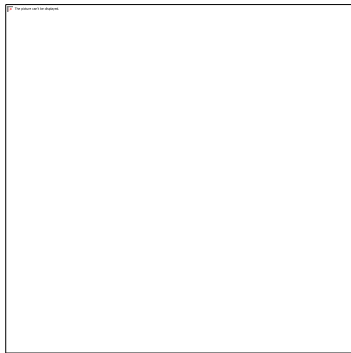
Regulatory clarity

Implementation Timeline

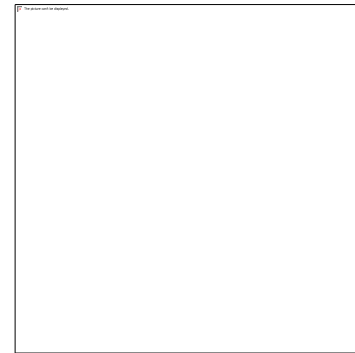
- **Board direction → Ordinance drafting → Stakeholder outreach → LPA review (if needed) → Public hearings → Adoption**

Board Consensus Requested:

Countywide ordinance prohibiting the commercial use of exotic wildlife for entertainment purposes.



Evaluate zoning and licensing amendments.



Return with draft legislation and implementation plan.