Drunks No

Longer

By Yvette McCullough Staff Writer

Criminals

Public drunkenness will no longer be considered a crime in North Carolina, according to a law that went into effect October 1. The General Assembly passed a new statute that provides law enforcement officers alone or to take to a treatment facility persons

who are intoxicated.

This change in the law is the result of a study by the Attorney General's Committee on Public Drunkenness. The committee, which was comprised of criminal justice personnel, doctors and mental health personnel from all over the state, recommended the discriminalization of public drunkenness.

"The committee recommended that we take the illness of alcoholism and treat it as such." Attorney General Rufus L. Edminsten told the Chronicle.

"For years we've been putting alcoholics in jail for having the disease of alcoholism," he added.

The old law created large caseloads and hampered law enforcement's handling of public drunks, said the attorney general.

"Most judges threw the drunk charges out because they felt that drinking was a sickness," a police officer said of the old law. "If you arrest a drunk, he'll stay in jail for a few hours, then he's right back in the street again."

With the new statute, a person who is a public drunk will be transported to his home or the home of friends. Another alternative will be to transport the person to shelters or a hospital if medication attention is needed.

"Look, why do we put people in jail for having an illness," Edminsten remarked. "Why use law enforcement's very scarce time to convict people of being sick?"

"Now what we do is this: if you're an alcoholic and you're not bothering anybody, we either leave you alone or make you get treatment." Edminsten continued.

According to Clair McNaught, city public safety attorney, the new law will not have much effect in Winston-Salem.

"As a rule the police department has not been hauling people in who are drunk," McNaught said. "If they did, they wouldn't have time to do anything

McNaught said that taking inebriates to jail will be a'last resort. When they are taken to jail, they won't be arrested but given a chance to sleep it off, she said. Once they are sober they will be free to leave.

Hearing

RALEIGH .- They're lovable, cute and amusing.

sance, and in some cases, downright dangerous. problem all wildlife agen-

People's desire to hold wild animals as pets is a cies have to cope with, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is

no exception. On October 23 at 9:00 a.m. the Commission will hold a public hearing on some proposed changes in the regulations governing the holding of wild animals in captivity.

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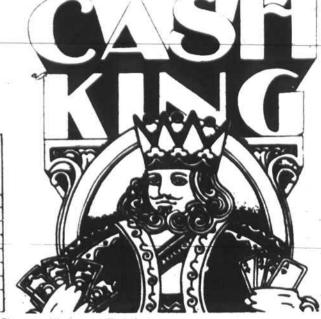


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W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE TIP ROAST

W-D BRAND FRANKS

W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE : 5 LBS. ROUND TIP

W-D BRAND ALL VARIETIES SMOKED

SAUSAGE....

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

MOUTHWASH

CAPSULES (SAVE 40')

CONTAC

TABLETS (SAVE 35')

BUFFERIN

4 WAY (SAVE 31'

SCOPE

W-D BRAND COOKED HAM OR

ROAST, 5 LBS. ROUND TIP STEAK, 5 LBS. GROUND

ROUND TIP 15 LBS. OF BONELESS BEEF FREEZER

BONELESS "BRAND" CHOICE 10' PER LB. CHARGE FOR CUBING WE FEATURE TOP QUALITY

CUT FREE INTO ROAST. STEAKS, TRIMMING LAMB & VEAL W-D BRAND WHOLE SMOKED 4/8 LB. AVG.

PICNICS. . . . LB. 7
W-D BRAND WHOLE SMOKED 4/8 LB. AVG. SLICED PICNICS LB. W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS CHUCK ROAST. 18. W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS SHOULDER

W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS CHUCK STEAK . W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS SHOULDER CUBE STEAK. W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS ROUND TIP STEAK

9-11 LB. AVG.

WHOLE BONELESS

UNTRIMMED

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16 OZ. \$ 7 09

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