

450-pound hog leaving town

# Judge says Julia must go

By Karen Middleton  
News Courier Reporter

The final episode of the "Bruce and Julia Show" is being played out this week as the 450-pound barnyard belle has been ordered by Circuit Court Judge Henry Blizzard to vacate the premises within 10 days.

This little piggy's owner, Dr. Bruce Young, lost his bid to have a late summer citation overturned for keeping a hog within the Athens City limits. Even after the Friday ruling by Blizzard, Young still insists that he's only keeping a pet and "not raising hogs" at his stately N. Jefferson Street rental home where Julia is penned.

"As pigs go, she's been an awfully good pig," said Young, as he affectionately thumped the pig on one of her basic pink, whole-ham portions. "I guess the moral of this whole thing would have to be 'if you run up on an unusual pet, you had better check with the local dog catcher to see if you can keep it.'"

Young, a local veterinarian, "ran up on" Julia when she was a frightened, injured stray piglet. He healed her wounds and made a pet of her until someone complained. So now she has to go.

Julia, however, will make her final public appearance this Thursday in the Athens Christmas Parade. Young said he now has someone trying to devise a "float" on which the hefty hog can ride. He also mentioned something about her being decked out in Christmas costume for the occasion.

Monday Young said he was expecting a crew from CNN to film a segment on Julia and him.

Even though Julia has been ordered out of town, things are not looking all that bleak for the exiled pet.

"In an amazing twist of fate, I have received a call from a boar named 'Romeo' and he has asked for her hoof in marriage and in view of all the publicity, she wants to move out into the county and raise a

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Dr. Bruce Young and Julia

## City eyeing ordinance restricting animals

By Michelle Shermer  
News Courier Reporter

If the city council passes a new ordinance restricting all farm animals from residential areas in Athens, Julia the pig won't be the only hog banished from town, according to Athens Animal Control Director Ron Ultz.

Although Ultz was not able to specify when a new law would be proposed, he said several council members had "brought it to his attention" that the city needed a new, all-encompassing ordinance.

The current law only restricts hogs from residential areas within city limits. Ultz said the new ordinance would address all farm animals - from hogs to llama if the situation arose.

He said plans to revise the ordinance can not be specifically attributed to the nationally publicized case of Julia the pig, but it did raise the councilmen's concerns about the image of the city.

Bruce Young, the owner of a 450-pound hog named Julia, nearly took the city to court recently in a dispute over the pig's residence in his backyard less than a mile from the courthouse. Although the case was settled out of court yesterday, Young contended the current city ordinance did not restrict pet pigs - it only applied to hogs raised as farm animals.

Ultz said all farm animals would be restricted, whether or not they are kept as pets.

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been the chief target of hearings by the panel. A main question members have emphasized has been why federal regulators allowed Lincoln to remain open until last April even though examiners had recommended in May 1987 that it be closed. The bailout of the institution is expected to cost taxpayers up to \$2.5 billion.

would be used by the 21st Century Human Rights Movement, formed after a grand jury indicted the legislators, to help pay for their defense.

## Animals

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"Athens is growing," Ultz explained, "we're not as rural as we used to be."

He said the city does not intend to discipline people who keep farm animals on land zoned for agricultural use.

Ultz did not know how many people would be affected by a new ordinance. He said his department receives complaints "sporadically" about farm animals within residential areas.

mental in obtaining thousands of dollars in political contributions to them.

## Judge

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family," said Young. "She has fallen in love."

He said Julia and Romeo's brood should make their appearance sometime in April.

The revised law would most likely be proposed as a part of an effort to update the Athens city code, he said. Along with several other city departments, animal control is going through a "fact-gathering" process to streamline and modernize the city's ordinances.

Farm animals have been accepted in the city for more than a century, he said, "but those days are gone now."

"We're not a farm town anymore," he said, "We are a city."

Ultz commented you wouldn't expect to see a cow or hog in someone's backyard in Huntsville, and Athens should be the same.