

12-0186

FEB 03 2012
PERSONNEL
and Animal Welfare


MOTION

Animal welfare advocates have brought attention to the use of a certain tool, known as an ankus or "bull hook," in the handling of elephants. The bull hook has a sharp spike attached to it which has the potential to be abused while handling elephants. The Los Angeles Zoo does not use bull hooks in handling its elephants, and advocates have cited the availability of more humane means for controlling elephants.

Given the City's commitment to animal welfare, banning the use of bull hooks for the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions should be explored further by the Animal Services Department. A traveling circus or exhibition should mean any non-permanent, live exhibition open to the public including but not limited to any circus, public show, public photographic opportunity, carnival, fair, ride, parade, performance or similar undertaking but does not include any use closed to the general public.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Animal Services Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, be instructed to report with recommendations to ban the use of bull hooks in the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions held in the City of Los Angeles along with recommendations for suitable enforcement mechanism(s).

PRESENTED BY: 
Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

FEB 3 2012

