

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heather Long

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 12:12 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please accept this letter of opposition as a matter of public record for the city council hearing this ordinance draft. Please consider working with the affected stakeholders; qualified animal keepers and Teamsters Local 399 Studio Animal Trainers to resolve the issues with this ordinance. Currently, the language as-is will harm small animal business educators and union studio animal trainers for film and television. Please allow the people who work with these animals to assist with any ordinance. Their expertise and knowledge should not be dismissed as they are the people who actually understand these animals and their needs.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Benay Karp

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 12:26 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written: There is No Exemption for Filming-which is detrimental to the California film industry. Our state is already seeing a rapid loss of productions (thousands of jobs), and this would obviously add to that flight. This will only effect legitimate animal supply and training companies follow animal welfare laws regarding care/keeping and safety. Those legitimate companies abide by laws and regulations and are heavily regulated with inspections (most are surprise) to ensure that animals are well cared for. People who illegally keep animals will continue to do so, putting an unfair burden on law abiding keepers/trainers/suppliers who follow the rules and regulations. Performing Animal Show definition needs to be changed and clarified. In addition-conservation and Education are vital to our existence with beautiful animals in our world. It is in our world's nest interest to help children-and adults-learn from animal ambassadors that are part of legitimate/legal outreach - well socialized, trained animals that are brought to schools and events for the public to see, smell and hear helps them realize just how wonderful and important they are. Benay Karp

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Benay Karp

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Christopher Pollard

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 01:15 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the ordinance as currently written as of February 04 2020 For the reasons that follow. 1-The definition of a performing animal show: any animal that participates as accompaniment for the benefit of a live audience This definition needs to change. 2-Conservation or education presentation-cannot include amplified music or alcohol Every festival, fair, scout event, some library programs and school assemblies contain amplified music-this is hugely restricting and doesn't show an understanding of the scope of education programs-this now includes all animals not just dangerous animals. 3. Filming is not exempted in this ordinance 4. Wild/Exotic Animals are all grouped at the same level as Dangerous Animals

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tasha Zamsky

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 01:26 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written: as of February 04,2020 For the following reasons No Exemption for Filming Performing Animal Show definition must be changed. Conservation and Education are vital to our existence with beautiful animals in our world.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karin McElhatton

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 03:28 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** “ I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written: No Exemption for Filming Performing Animal Show definition must be changed. Conservation and Education are vital to our existence with beautiful animals in our world. California has been the center of filming and entertainment. When you make these unnecessary restrictions, you decrease the work and jobs of trainers in Southern California which are humanely using animals for filming and entertainment. Animals will always be used, but this law and similar restrictive laws will push this work into Mexico, Canada, and other overseas locations. This is already happening. Sincerely, Karin McElhatton

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**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 03:28 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

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## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 08:17 AM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** Council Members, please see my attached letter with regard to the Wild and Exotic Animal Ordinance. Your attention to it is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Eric Weld





# Hollywood Animals

*Exotic and Domestic Animals*

*Film • Television • Stage • Events*

*February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

Re: Opposition to Agenda Item #16-1357 as the ordinance is written, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Please include this letter into record.

Dear Councilmembers:

My name is Eric Weld and my wife, Bettina Weld, and I own Hollywood Animals. We provide animals for the film industry (please consider that an all-inclusive term for film, television, commercials, still shoots, etc.), as well as various selective events. We are professional animal trainers and members of the Teamsters Local 399 Union. I also sit on the Animal Handler, Trainer, and Wrangler subcommittee for the Local 399 Union.

At the local level, we are permitted and monitored by the Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS). We have a very good working relationship with LAAS and its employees. They have a large file on our company, including current copies of our USDA, CA Fish and Wildlife permits, proof of our General Commercial Liability Policy, our Emergency Action Plan and Protocols, and contact details of our veterinarians for emergency purposes. Furthermore, LAAS vets each film permit request or event for public and animal safety. LAAS' tasking of the animal company and the event source to provide critical information on each event has gotten stricter and better – this is good! These rules, regulations, and vetting processes are fair, and are easy for any professional animal company to be compliant with and abide. We have two annual animal permits: Wild Animal and Animal Acts and Exhibitions.

An ordinance "... to regulate the exhibition of a wild, exotic or dangerous animal in the City..." is a fine idea. Most professional animal trainers have no problem with checks and balances with regard to working with animals, of any caliber, in film, conservation, or at events.

However, the ordinance submitted February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 has a number of concerning issues:

1. A performing animal show is neither clearly nor well-defined for reported purposes of this ordinance. Many conservation or education outreach programs could be considered a performing animal show as they show each animal and provide facts about each animal. The animals in the show will sometimes perform behaviors so as to enhance the experience for the viewers. Yet this is not at all in keeping with what a circus is and therefore they should be separated as definitions.

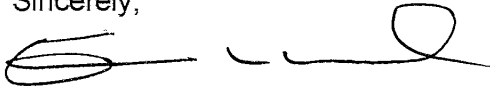
2. The permitting process states at least 10 calendar days in advance of exhibition. Many film productions don't know where they are filming until 1-2 days ahead of time. If they are required to have permit applications to LAAS 10 days in advance, they will seek to film elsewhere, leaving the City losing productions. As it stands now, film productions can get a film permit from LAAS by going into any of the shelters with the application and fee at least 1 day prior to the shoot. This should remain the same so we can continue to re-cultivate the film process in Los Angeles.

3. Many conservation or fundraising events have both an animal from the lists above as well as wine, beer, or liquor served. Anyone paying \$500 to be at a fundraiser will automatically assume minimum beer and wine will be served. There can easily be a clear definer between alcohol served at a conservation or fundraiser event and a Loud or Unruly gathering. That needs to be separated and defined.

I would like to offer an idea that was used by the California Fish and Wildlife when creating their new rules for their permit process and inspections. They formed a committee that included their CAFW folks and other stakeholders in the process and outcome. I propose that the LA City Council charge the City Attorney with creating a committee that is headed by LAAS or the Attorney's office. Members of this committee could be: LAAS personnel; a member of the Attorney's Office; animal trainers from film, education, outreach, conservation; AZA member; ZAA member; American Humane Association (monitor animal welfare on film sets). This is not an exhaustive list for committee members, but it is a start. This would allow the City Attorney's office the ability to hear all sides of this topic and generate an ordinance based upon the key reasons for this ordinance in the first place.

I believe the ordinance language submitted February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 has its merits but also has issues that need to be addressed and fine-tuned. If not, we risk removing film making from the City of Los Angeles when what we really wanted to do is stop big cats, elephants, and giraffes from being at house parties where Uber and Lyft gum up the roads.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Weld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Eric M. Weld  
Hollywood Animals, Inc.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kimberly Wright

**Date Submitted:** 02/12/2020 10:55 PM

**Council File No:** 16-1357

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written for the following reasons: There is No Exemption for Filming. Performing Animal Show definition must be changed, as the current language applies to All live animal presentations, including important conservation & education programs. Conservation and Education are vital to our existence as human beings & connect us to the beauty & intrinsic value of animals & nature.