

Communication from Public

Name: Wes Pollock

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 01:51 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Wes Pollock. Over the last 20 years I have been President and Vice President of the board of directors as well as President and Vice President of the general membership of the SWHS, the Southwestern Herpetologists Society, the oldest group for herpetological studies in the southern states. We regularly do presentations with reptiles and amphibians at schools, the Natural History Museum, the Arboretum and many individual city and county parks and recreation centers. We NEVER charge for these chances to expose people to native as well as exotic reptiles and amphibians. We are a 501-C3. We have members who work for the LA Zoo, La Brea Tar Pits, the Natural History Museum and other private and public institutions. We are proud of the service we provide and have provided for decades. If this new regulation passes, all of that will end. Not only is it terribly expensive, but the ten day window, even if we could afford the permits, is insufficient time to do the necessary paperwork with our insurance and participating members. We would be happy to offer our input, opinions and assistance to anyone interested. This will also negatively impact several of our members, as well as many others who are not, that do these presentations to make a living. Feel free to contact me, you have me email, or any other officer listed on our site, www.swhs.com. I'm sure any of us would be happy to come to you, should you so desire, or come to one of our meetings. We meet in Van Nuys at the East Valley Animal shelter on the first monday of every month at 7:30 pm and at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on the third thursday of every month, also at 7:30. Thank you, Wes Pollock Vice President Board of Directors SWHS.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Hahn

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 01:59 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: October 3, 2019 Dear Councilmember Koretz, chair, and Members of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee: I would like this entered into record. I am opposed to the exotic animal ordinance in its current language being considered. I see several areas of concern with the definitions. Dangerous animal is not clearly defined. Animal services should not be put in the position to discern that definition, as their expertise does not encompass making this distinction. We present a reasonable alternative for your consideration below. Animal act or performance is not clearly defined. We participate in school fall festivals, community events, and science nights by presenting assemblies. These are conservation educational presentations that could be deemed an animal performance, by someone that is not intimately familiar with the content and presentation. Animal Services expertise is not in making this distinction. Insurance is not specific. Most animal educators carry \$1 million per occurrence, which is an accepted and robust industry standard. The insurance required should be specific Ten day period for permits is too long. Many productions will not fall within this 10-day period and will have to go somewhere else. Five (5) days would be much more reasonable. Stakeholders Committee. I propose forming a committee of at least one representative from each of the following categories: Animal Services Stakeholders (wildlife educators, production company, film animal trainers) American Humane Association Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Zoological Association of America (ZAA) The purpose of this committee would be to assist Los Angeles Animal Services to determine the definitions proposed in this ordinance. California Department of Fish and Wildlife formed a stakeholders committee a few years ago to write Title 671.1 Permits for Restricted Species. The stakeholders were able to bring their varied experience together with DFW staff and proponents of new regulations to write the permitting requirements for restricted species in the state of California. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Paul Hahn President and Cofounder Wildlife Learning Center

Communication from Public

Name: David Riherd

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 02:34 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: October 3, 2019 Dear Councilmember Koretz, chair, and Members of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee: Please enter this letter into the public record. I am opposed to the exotic animal ordinance in its current language being considered. I see several areas of concern with the definitions. Dangerous animal is not clearly defined. Animal services should not be put in the position to discern that definition, as their expertise does not encompass making this distinction. We present a reasonable alternative for your consideration below. Animal act or performance is not clearly defined. We participate in school fall festivals, community events, and science nights by presenting assemblies. These are conservation education presentations that could be deemed an animal performance, by someone that is not intimately familiar with the content and presentation. Animal Services expertise is not in making this distinction. Insurance is not specific. Most animal educators carry \$1 million per occurrence, which is an accepted and robust industry standard. The insurance required should be specific Ten-day period for permits is too long. Many productions will not fall within this 10-day period and will have to go somewhere else. Five (5) days would be much more reasonable. Stakeholders Committee. I propose forming a committee of at least one representative from each of the following categories: Animal Services Stakeholders (wildlife educators, production company, film animal trainers) American Humane Association Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Zoological Association of America (ZAA) The purpose of this committee would be to assist Los Angeles Animal Services to determine the definitions proposed in this ordinance. California Department of Fish and Wildlife formed a stakeholders committee a few years ago to write Title 671.1 Permits for Restricted Species. The stakeholders were able to bring their varied experience together with the Department of Fish and Wildlife staff and proponents of new regulations to write the permitting requirements for restricted species in the state of California. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, David J. Riherd Executive Director Wildlife Learning Center

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Fawke

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 05:48 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Jane Fawke, I am a retired park ranger from the Conejo Open Space Conservation agency in Thousand Oaks, CA. I am horrified that the city of LA and LA county would propose such a crippling by law concerning the public exhibition of reptiles and amphibians and propose a \$400 fee for each exhibition. Between myself and other serious reptile owners in the area, we have provided educational outreach to hundreds of local children and adults, folks that normally would never get the chance to see these beautiful, although much maligned creatures. Our programs cover education, research, ecological impact of reptiles in the environment, species protection and safety. This bill is another money grab by the city, badly informed and ignorant of the amazing work that we do, free of charge, in order to share these creatures with others. It will be a very sad day for this area when folks who would not normally have the chance to meet these animals and their dedicated owners are stymied by your greed and ignorance.

Communication from Public

Name: Benay K

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 05:52 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: October 1, 2019 Dear Councilmember Koretz, chair, and Members of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee: I would like this entered into record. I am opposed to the exotic animal ordinance in its current language being considered. I see several areas of concern with the definitions. Animal act or performance is not clearly defined. "Dangerous animal" is not clearly defined. Animal services should not be put in the position to discern that definition. Insurance is not specific. Most animal educators carry \$1 million per occurrence, which is standard. The insurance required should be specific; otherwise this can hurt small wildlife educators. Ten day period for permits is too long. At least 75% of the production calls we get fall in under 5 days notice- and some even come in the day before a job. Stakeholders Committee. I propose forming a committee of at least one representative from each of the following categories: Animal Services Stakeholders (wildlife educators, production company, film animal trainers) American Humane Association Movie Animals Protected Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Zoological Association of America (ZAA) The purpose of this committee would be to assist Los Angeles Animal Services to determine the definitions proposed in this ordinance. California Department of Fish and Wildlife formed a stakeholders committee a few years ago to write Title 671.1 Permits for Restricted Species. The stakeholders were able to bring their varied experience together with DFW staff and proponents of new regulations to write the permitting requirements for restricted species in the state of California. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Benay Karp Teamsters 399 Owner, Lead Trainer Benay's Bird & Animal Source cc Councilmember John S. Lee Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.

Communication from Public

Name: Southwestern Herpetologists Society

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 08:42 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Southwestern Herpetologists Society P.O. Box 7469 Van Nuys, California 91409-7469 swhs.org webmaster@swhs.org Dear Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee and Los Angeles City Council Members, Our organization opposes the proposed Animal Exhibition Ordinance as written. Since 1954, the Southwestern Herpetologists Society has worked to educate the general public about the roles of reptiles and amphibians in the natural world and to promote conservation of reptiles and wildlife in general. We hold that the more people understand reptiles and wildlife, and their role in the ecosystem, the more humanity will work to honor and preserve these animals and the environment. The best way we have found to educate people and bring them to an immediate appreciation of these animals is to bring them to public events where they can be seen and even touched. I personally have seen countless individuals change their minds completely about the benefits of our reptile cohabitants of the planet through the magic of this real-life experience. However, the draft proposal (file number 16-1357) will make these important outreach events impossible for us. While we unequivocally support the proper treatment of animals - in fact, that is part of our mission - we find this ordinance as written to be overbroad and replete with powerfully negative unintended consequences. If the city government makes it too difficult or expensive for conservation and educational groups to display what you have defined as “wild and exotic” animals, then you will be depriving the public of valuable opportunities to learn proper treatment of animals and their important role in the ecosystem. We believe the net effect would be to the detriment of animals rather than to their benefit. We are a small nonprofit and could not possibly afford the proposed permit fees - particularly if they apply to every event we attend. We would need to cancel all of our Los Angeles city events. We are certain this same limitation would apply to other small nonprofit groups who work to educate the people of Los Angeles. However, the permit fee is only one of several issues our organization has with this proposed legislation. Please work with the affected stakeholders and qualified animal keepers to resolve the issues with this proposal, some of which would include the following: Wildlife educators Conservation groups Animal trainers Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Zoological

Association of America (ZAA) The expertise and knowledge of people who actually work with these animals and understand their needs should be heard and valued before this legislation proceeds any further. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Alyssa Ganezer
Legislative Chair Southwestern Herpetologists Society



Southwestern Herpetologists Society
P.O. Box 7469
Van Nuys, California 91409-7469
swhs.org
webmaster@swhs.org

Dear Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee and Los Angeles City Council Members,

Our organization opposes the proposed Animal Exhibition Ordinance as written.

Since 1954, the Southwestern Herpetologists Society has worked to educate the general public about the roles of reptiles and amphibians in the natural world and to promote conservation of reptiles and wildlife in general. We hold that the more people understand reptiles and wildlife, and their role in the ecosystem, the more humanity will work to honor and preserve these animals and the environment.

The best way we have found to educate people and bring them to an immediate appreciation of these animals is to bring them to public events where they can be seen and even touched. I personally have seen countless individuals change their minds completely about the benefits of our reptile cohabitants of the planet through the magic of this real-life experience.

However, the draft proposal (file number 16-1357) will make these important outreach events impossible for us. While we unequivocally support the proper treatment of animals - in fact, that is part of our mission - we find this ordinance as written to be overbroad and replete with powerfully negative unintended consequences. If the city government makes it too difficult or expensive for

conservation and educational groups to display what you have defined as “wild and exotic” animals, then you will be depriving the public of valuable opportunities to learn proper treatment of animals and their important role in the ecosystem. We believe the net effect would be to the detriment of animals rather than to their benefit.

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However, the permit fee is only one of several issues our organization has with this proposed legislation.

Please work with the affected stakeholders and qualified animal keepers to resolve the issues with this proposal, some of which would include the following:

Wildlife educators
Conservation groups
Animal trainers
Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
Zoological Association of America (ZAA)

The expertise and knowledge of people who actually work with these animals and understand their needs should be heard and valued before this legislation proceeds any further.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Ganezer
Legislative Chair
Southwestern Herpetologists Society

Communication from Public

Name: Anastasia Bobcheva

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 12:46 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: The suffering of the animals won' t stop and you have the power to ban these cruel acts. Act now and help us to save our home. There is no planet B, so do not let them destroy these beautiful creatures.

Communication from Public

Name: Abigail DeSesa

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 12:57 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Subject: Opposition to File Number 16-1357 Regulation of Animal Exhibitions Dear Personnel, Animal Welfare Committee and Los Angeles City Council Members, I am against the draft proposal, file number 16-1357, for the over-regulation of animal exhibitions as a responsible animal educator. The idea that eventually a society or club cannot share education for many animals that are commonly kept as pets in private homes, is ridiculous. The societies and clubs are the people that help educate the public, so they will not end up in rescues and shelters. These are also the same people who are part of making sure conservation efforts are successful with endangered species. Please work with the affected stakeholders and qualified animal keepers to resolve the issues with this proposal. Currently, the language is laden with unintended consequences and lacking foresight. The next thing you know, bringing a tortoise to a scout meeting as part of earning a badge, will be outlawed. Please allow the people who work with these animals to assist with any potential ordinance regarding these animals. Their expertise and knowledge should not be dismissed as they are the people who actually understand these animals and their needs. NOT PETA! Don't make these volunteer nonprofit groups fail their missions due to over-exaggerated issues. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Respectfully,
Abigail DeSesa Los Angeles County Resident and Volunteer

Communication from Public

Name: Cindi Cavallini

Date Submitted: 10/03/2019 01:00 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: October 3, 2019?? Cindi?Cavallini? ? Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,? ? Opposition to agenda item #16-1357 :?Please include this letter into?public?record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue.? ?? ??????? My name is Cindi?Cavallini?and I have worked with exotic animals for more than 30 years. I currently?own an organization?that specializes in educational outreach, specializing in Offsite School, library, fair and birthday party visits.?I can tell you with absolute certainty that the impact?I?have on conservation by providing the programs that?I?do is incomparable to anything these children would experience anywhere else.?Regardless of the venue, be it at a school, library or backyard birthday party our conservation message is always the same.?I?provide a safe, up close and hands on opportunity for children to experience and learn about exotic animals that they would not experience from visiting a zoo. In fact, most children in the Los Angeles area cannot afford a visit to your fine zoo, being that admission is \$22 for adults and \$17 for children that is a lot of money for just a family of four!?My?programs are in fact often sponsored by?low income cities and Title 1 schools, like many in the?city of Los Angeles,?and provide a free experience for all?families, regardless of their income. These programs also?encourage children to go to the library and make it a safe and enjoyable place to be.? ??????? Unfortunately, the proposed ordinance, takes the opposite stance, advocating that the only acceptable means of providing this experience is from an AZA accredited zoo. Simply because a facility cannot afford to become accredited or is too small to apply, does not make it any less professional or important. By outlawing our ability to visit the locations we visit and lumping us together with any fly by night animal owner is unfair. This ordinance would put up roadblocks in our ability to teach and promote our conservation message that we provide to?thousands of students and?library?patrons?every year!?? ??????? As a professional charged with ensuring the well-being of the animals in my care, I can tell you that the travel and experiences of our animals is a positive one. As professionals we are trained and experienced in recognizing any signs of stress, and if an animal in our care were to experience stress it would be removed immediately from exhibit.??All of?my?animals are

under a veterinarian's care and has the protection of that veterinarian himself, because they must uphold their oath and report any problems with our animals they may suspect. When I care for the different species I am charged with, I must rely on the safe and appropriate handling and training I have learned, from my college degree and ongoing learning, and my 30 years of experience. An animal that is tractable and well trained has less stress when having a medical procedure, interacting with the public, during training sessions and in activities overall. Having a calm, willing participant animal is a happy animal when it comes to outreach. I urge you not to accept at face value the mischaracterizations of this proposed ordinance that will limit our ability to instill the lifetime of respect and caring we provide to children and adults alike, who meet my animals every day. Sincerely, Cindi Cavallini Professional member of Zoological Association of America Professional member of American Association of Zoo Keepers Co-chair of Animal Welfare Committee for Circus Fans of American American Association of Zoo Keepers International Outreach Committee member Graduate of Moorpark College Institute for Wild and Exotic Animal Studies

October 3, 2019

Cindi Cavallini

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

Opposition to agenda item #16-1357 : Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue.

My name is Cindi Cavallini and I have worked with exotic animals for more than 30 years. I currently own an organization that specializes in educational outreach, specializing in Offsite School, library, fair and birthday party visits. I can tell you with absolute certainty that the impact I have on conservation by providing the programs that I do is incomparable to anything these children would experience anywhere else. Regardless of the venue, be it at a school, library or backyard birthday party our conservation message is always the same. I provide a safe, up close and hands on opportunity for children to experience and learn about exotic animals that they would not experience from visiting a zoo. In fact, most children in the Los Angeles area cannot afford a visit to your fine zoo, being that admission is \$22 for adults and \$17 for children that is a lot of money for just a family of four! My programs are in fact often sponsored by low income cities and Title 1 schools, like many in the city of Los Angeles, and provide a free experience for all families, regardless of their income. These programs also encourage children to go to the library and make it a safe and enjoyable place to be.

Unfortunately, the proposed ordinance, takes the opposite stance, advocating that the only acceptable means of providing this experience is from an AZA accredited zoo. Simply because a facility cannot afford to become accredited or is too small to apply, does not make it any less professional or important. By outlawing our ability to visit the locations we visit and lumping us together with any fly by night animal owner is unfair. This ordinance would put up roadblocks in our ability to teach and promote our conservation message that we provide to thousands of students and library patrons every year!

As a professional charged with ensuring the well-being of the animals in my care, I can tell you that the travel and experiences of our animals is a positive one. As professionals we are trained and experienced in recognizing any signs of stress, and if an animal in our care were to experience stress it would be removed immediately from exhibit. All of my animals are under a veterinarian's care and has the protection of that veterinarian himself, because they must uphold their oath and report any problems with our animals they may suspect.

When I care for the different species I am charged with, I must rely on the safe and appropriate handling and training I have learned, from my college degree and ongoing learning, and my 30 years of experience. An animal that is tractable and well trained has less stress when having a medical procedure, interacting with the public, during training sessions and in activities overall. Having a calm, willing participant animal is a happy animal when it comes to outreach.

I urge you not to accept at face value the mischaracterizations of this proposed ordinance that will limit our ability to instill the lifetime of respect and caring we provide to children and adults alike, who meet our animals every day.

Sincerely,
Cindi Cavallini

Professional member of Zoological Association of America
Professional member of American Association of Zoo Keepers
Co-chair of Animal Welfare Committee for Circus Fans of American
American Association of Zoo Keepers International Outreach Committee member
Graduate of Moorpark College Institute for Wild and Exotic Animal Studies