

Sept 28, 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.** ~~The understaffed, overburdened Animal Services should not be put in the position to make this definition.~~ **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; ~~otherwise this can hurt small wildlife educators.~~

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,

Jackie Navarro
Executive director
Wild Wonders

cc Councilmember John S. Lee
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.