



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Los Angeles Exotic Animal Ban

1 message

KW <kimberlywright31@gmail.com>
To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Mon, Apr 17, 2017 at 9:23 AM

Dear Sir:

I am writing to request you seriously reconsider introducing an exotic animal ban into the city of Los Angeles that's redundant, overreaching, and harms the important educational opportunity that inspires children and adults to become positively engaged with conservation and our environment.

Please submit my letter as public comment in record.

My name is Kimberly Wright.

I'm a degreed wildlife biologist and Managing Director for 13 years, of a wildlife education and conservation organization that conducts education programs at schools and events much like hundreds of others who serve Los Angeles. Wild Wonders has been in existence since 1991, travelling with our animal ambassadors to provide quality wildlife education programming.

Many of our animals have come to us as illegal confiscated pets or abandonments and as an alternative to euthanasia have become effective teaching animal ambassadors. These ambassadors truly inspire children of all ages and adults alike to be better stewards for the environment and become active participants in their communities. Live educational animal presentations are much more effective than a slide or video presentation, book, or television show (there are numerous studies out there showing a vast difference in memory retention and empathy with live animals as teachers). We bring our animals to schools and libraries, as well as special events such as birthdays and corporate trainings, as we do not pass up an opportunity to engage in education at any event.

All of our animals are trained and treated humanely with positive reinforcement. Our animals are extremely well adjusted and very comfortable in their ambassador role. I am asking you to please listen to the professionals who love and care for these animals every single day and are

dedicated to the mission of educating the public and opening their eyes to nature and community engagement of the environment.

In addition, the state of California is the most restrictive and regulated in the country.

We are inspected by USDA, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and local animal services for regulatory oversight.

Furthermore the declaration of risk to the public is not based in hard facts or reality.

One can see for oneself the lack of incidents and the stellar safety record of these organizations. Please do not take away valuable learning opportunities for the children of Los Angeles. I appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments from an animal experts point of view. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wright

Managing Director, Wild Wonders

www.wildwonders.org





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