



April 13, 2017

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 Carrie L. Park. I have worked professionally with Exotic animals as a trainer, caretaker and coordinator for the past 20 years. I can honestly say that I can attribute my love for animals to the movies and TV shows that featured animals that I watched as a kid. They led me to pursue jobs in the animal industry including working at Veterinary Hospitals, rescues, training facilities and to the entertainment industry working with domestic and exotic movie animals.

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to reconsider the exotic animal ban for the future generations that will be impacted by your choice. I can't imagine what my life would have been like if I hadn't had my interest and compassion stoked for animals that stemmed from my earlier childhood experiences with animals and their close working relationships with people.

Caring for animals and enjoying them in their entirety and wanting to share all those impossibly wonderful moments and interactions with the world should not be limited to you tube videos, books, and emotionless CGI renditions of animals in films. They are poor substitutions for the real thing.

Respectfully,

Carrie L. Park
Animal Coordinator/Trainer
Gentle Jungle, Inc.
Union local #399 member