



April 12, 2017

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

I am writing in strong 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.

I have been training animals in the film industry since 2008.

Seeing animals in person and up close, learning about their behavior is something really special. I hear all the time that people had no idea how soft kangaroos are, how wire like elephants hair is or they've never heard what sound a capuchin monkey makes. We get to see every time we have an animal at an event how much joy it brings to people. It sparks interest to learn more about these animals. 65 percent of people are visual learners, so seeing these animals in person helps make a lasting impression. We also educate people as to why exotic animals do not make good pets. So many people think they would like to own a wolf hybrid, and we are able to share our knowledge about them and why they should not be owned as pets.

Every trainer I know is for making the animals as happy and as safe as possible and would never do anything that would hurt them or cause them stress. We've devoted our lives to these animals, making ourselves available to be on call 24/7, giving up our social lives and missing out on family functions to care for the animals.

As a concerned animal lover, I really hope you will reconsider the ban.

Sincerely,

Jaimie Councilor
Gentle Jungle, INC.
Animal Trainer
Local 399 Member