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1 message

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To: "David.ryu@lacity.org" <David.ryu@lacity.org>, "Paul.koretz@lacity.org" <Paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dir Sirs,

I am writing this letter to strongly urge you to reconsider your action towards the Exotic Animal Ban in the county of Los Angeles, or at least make the ban a little more clear

I have been working with animals under human care for the last 15 years. All these have been "legitimate" facilities although not all have been accredited by AZA. Places like wildlife rehabilitation centers and smaller education facilities cannot be AZA accredited because they don't meet the requirements for guest services or maybe do not have the funds to participate in conservation programs due to the high cost of caring of animals in need. This does not mean they are not a legitimate institution. These facilities take animals of all kinds that have no where else to go. They are injured or orphaned in the wild, confiscated from illegal trade, relinquished animals that were purchased as "pets", etc. These animals serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, teaching and inspiring conservation and preservation.

In your ban it does not clarify what is a legitimate animal facility. It is a very broad statement that can cover many facilities that do amazing work with wildlife. Work that makes the connection between people and animals, not by exploiting them, but by teaching with them.

I urge you to be careful on the information from the animal rights groups. They would rather these animals who needed a new home be euthanized than under human care. They believe having pets like dogs and cats is a form a "animal slavery" and should be abolished.

Wildlife care professionals such as myself take pride in sharing to the public to promote wildlife conservation. We wouldn't work everyday including holidays, weekends, long hours, in all kinds of weather making minimum wage if we didn't love our work and they animals we work with. It saddens me to have our profession attacked by these individuals who think we exploit the very thing that means the most to us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alisa Behar