



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Exotic animal bill

1 message

Jessica Cervantes <1stclassanimals@gmail.com>
To: "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Mon, Apr 17, 2017 at 1:09 PM

Hello,

My name is Jessica Cervantes, I have a degree from America's Teaching Zoo in Exotic Animal Training and Management. I have been professionally working with a large variety of exotic and domestic animals for use in education and entertainment for over ten years.

Please reconsider a bill that would prevent people in our field to be able to use any kind of exotic animal in Los Angeles County for exhibition. I have restricted species permits from the department of Fish and Wildlife. They bring me a lot of animals that were confiscated from people keeping them without proper permits and injured wildlife that cannot be released. If I don't have a way to earn a living by using the animals for education and entertainment I will not be able to afford to care for the animals and will no longer be able to rescue any.

I use animals to teach at four different college campuses to veterinary technician students. Many of these student that are trying to get into the veterinary industry have n vet picked up a chicken, let alone restrained a parrot or iguana. I do events for the Cub Scouts and also the Child Care Recourse Centers of Los Angeles. I also am a Teamster Local 399 Wild Animal Trainer, Wild Animal Handler and make a living supporting my animals doing studio animal work. While some people might have a few negative ideas about studio animals the reality is we love our animals and so everything we can to ensure their safety and mental health. More people watch tv and movies then go to school, museums, library's, and zoos. If people are not exposed to animals they will not learn to appreciate them in their natural habitat. Why would people want to protect wildlife if they never learn to love them.

Please reconsider putting my community out of work in California, forcing us to turn down animals who need care and leave the state all together.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter.

Putting faith in you,
~Jessica Cervantes
[\(818\) 307-7196](tel:8183077196)