

March 27, 2017

Council Member David Ryu
c/o Nicholas Greif, Director of Policy and Legislation
Los Angeles City Council

Via e-mail: nicholas.greif@lacity.org

Dear Council Member Ryu,

I am writing on behalf of PETA and its more than 11,000 members and supporters in Los Angeles in support of a ban on the use of wild and exotic animals for entertainment.

Wild animals aren't party props, they don't belong at late-night ragers, and they're not willing participants in circuses. The animals used for these events have been conditioned to fear and obey their trainers through the use of whips, [bullhooks](#) (which, as you know, L.A. has banned), and deprivation. But no amount of training can overcome the natural instincts of a wild animal.

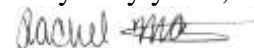
This became clear last year when a young tiger named Gandhi latched onto a trainer's leg and dragged her along the ground at a performance. The woman—a former Ringling Bros. circus trainer—and her husband were filmed viciously [whipping the tiger](#) across his face and body dozens of times before he finally let go.

Gandhi's story is not unique. Since 1990, [dangerous interactions](#) with captive wild animals have resulted in dozens of human deaths and hundreds of catastrophic injuries—including amputations, broken bones, crushed pelvises, collapsed and punctured lungs, degloving injuries, head wounds, and brain injuries. A cougar named Georgia, for example, was killed after she mauled a 4-year-old girl at a children's birthday party. And an elephant named [Tyke](#) famously killed a trainer at a public performance and injured 13 others before she ran through city streets and was shot nearly 100 times until she died.

It should never be a surprise when a powerful wild animal behaves like one. But animals who respond instinctively to fear or abuse will always pay the price for it—just as Gandhi, Georgia, and Tyke did. The *only* way to protect public safety and prevent cruelty is to prohibit wild-animal performances altogether.

The bullhook ban that passed in 2014 shows that L.A. cares about the humane treatment of animals—and once again, it's poised to take the lead on advancing animal rights. Please do not hesitate to contact me if PETA can help move the ordinance forward and draw attention to this crucial issue. I can be reached at RMathews@petaf.org or 202-680-8276.

Very truly yours,



Rachel Mathews, Esq.
Associate Director | Captive Animal Law Enforcement

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Oakland
554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

PETA FOUNDATION IS AN
OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)