

Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue

April 18, 2017

OPPOSITION to agenda item #16-1357

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to strongly urge you to reconsider your action towards the Exotic Animal Ban in the county of Los Angeles.

I am currently work in the marine mammal training field, in a position I would not have obtained had it not been for graduating the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College in May 2016. My career is in the field of inspiring the public through presentations with exotic animals and wildlife. I'm concerned that this bill will negatively affect and end programs that inspire, connect, and educate the public on native and exotic wildlife. These programs reach members of our community that include but are not limited to; children, underprivileged youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity the engage with educators and wildlife up close, veterans, hospital patients, assisted living facilities, and many more organizations. Through my schooling we have covered many classes that include animal care and handling, animal ethics, elementary veterinary care, wildlife education, conservation, health and safety, as well as many other classes that encompass all aspects of animal care. We have visited many animal facilities in the L.A. County area and have seen first hand all the incredible work that they do, and passing this bill will be a disservice to the L.A. community, but also the the wildlife these facilities rescue and care for on a daily basis.

I am writing in OPPOSITION of this bill and hope you take into consideration the very strong and commanding agenda outlined by animal rights activists. They are a group that looks to end all animal ownership, including your pets at home and they will resort to means of extreme violence to "make their point" if necessary. Please re-consider the ban and do as much research as possible before making a decision that will be this devastating to the education of our youth.

Sincerely,

Breanna McGuire