

April 18th 2017

Jessica Malley

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

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.

My name is Jessica Malley I have worked with exotic animals for approximately 4 years. I went to Pennsylvania State University and have a Bachelor of Science in Biology. During my time in college I interned at many different AZA, and non AZA accredited zoos in Pennsylvania and a non AZA outreach organization at which I am currently employed full time as a wildlife educator. Every non-AZA facility I have been a part of provides exceptional care to their animals.

Outreach programs at libraries, schools, birthday parties, fairs and more provides the public with information that they wouldn't learn otherwise. It is very easy to believe that all families can afford to take their family to their local AZA accredited zoo but unfortunately that is not the case. When we bring our animals to fairs and festivals we often hear that they're extremely pleased to see us there because they can't afford to take their families to the zoo. It is important for all children to learn about animals and see them up close at an early age because it inspires a love for animals in a way that watching them on television or reading about them cannot. This ultimately leads to conserving our natural world.

Many non- AZA facilities are non-AZA due to financial restraints or because they're too small to even apply for AZA membership. These facilities, such as my own, still care for their animals on an outstanding level. Each keeper has experience and knowledge that allows us to give our animals the best care possible. We also take part in continuing education courses make sure our care is the most current and precise.

If we do not allow non-AZA facilities to operate in Los Angeles, we are lowering the amount of children that have the ability to be exposed to live animals. By doing this, we lower the number of people that could be involved in conservation and work toward preserving our natural world.

I encourage you to oppose agenda item #16-1357 so that children and adults alike can continue to enjoy outreach programs and smaller facilities where they can meet live animals and begin a lifetime of respect for wildlife.

Jessica Malley

Wildlife Educator

B.S. Biology

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