

April 17, 2017

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 Adriana Garcia and I currently work as a studio animal trainer for Hollywood Animals. I am writing to you in opposition to agenda item #16-1357. Such a ban would be detrimental to the Los Angeles community, specifically to our youth. I received my B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Upon graduation, I worked at an Aerospace Company where I stayed for three years until finally being accepted into the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program in Moorpark, CA. The EATM program is very unique; students dedicate the next 2 years of their lives to learning how to properly train and care for exotic animals. As students, we would arrive early to the zoo to clean and feed the animals, we would attend classes throughout the day and then return to feed and close the zoo. We would also have many schools that would come on field trips throughout the week. Despite our very busy schedules, we would do educational shows for the students and take them on a private tour. On weekends, we would open the zoo to the public and hold educational shows with the animals throughout the day. As a student, I saw first-hand what a difference it makes for people to visually see the animals. Telling them about how unique and incredible each species is does not compare to them being able to see it with their own eyes – they connect with the species and feel even more compelled to take action and fight for the conservation and preservation of not only exotic species, but native species as well. It was how I became passionate about the field, by visiting zoos and seeing how amazing and beautiful these creatures are with my own eyes.

Now, as I continue my career in the animal field, I pride myself in working for a reputable company such as Hollywood Animals. The animals receive some of the best care, they are on a proper diet, their living areas are cleaned daily and they receive a lot of mental stimulation. They are truly loved and very lucky to be under the care of very knowledgeable and dedicated trainers.

This ban would make it impossible for credible companies to take their animals to schools and facilities and educate the public. Not only would endangered species be at higher risk of extinction; but also the future of all species would be put in jeopardy. As someone who has dedicated their life to the care and preservation of animals, I ask that you oppose agenda item #16-1357.

Thank you,
Adriana Garcia
Animal Trainer
Hollywood Animals

