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Exotic Animal Ban Opposition Letter to Council members

1 message

Liz Bateman <LBateman11@hotmail.com>

Sat, Apr 15, 2017 at 1:08 PM

To: "David.ryu@lacity.org" <David.ryu@lacity.org>, "Paul.koretz@lacity.org" <Paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

April 15, 2017

Elizabeth Bateman

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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 Elizabeth Bateman. I have worked with animals professionally for the last two years, both in the entertainment industry as a Studio Animal Trainer, as well as educational shows, events, and meet and greets. Prior to this I worked in veterinary clinics as a technician and in animal rehabilitation facilities and at a nationally-recognized zoo. We (my coworkers and I) truly love the animals we work with and have dedicated our whole lives to their care and well-being. All of the professional animal companies and trainers in this industry are properly permitted by USDA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish and Wildlife, as well as local city permits (i.e. Animal Control), and the facility I work at is regularly inspected and held to high standards for the safety and health of the animals in our care. We strive to provide our animals with diets which are individually-crafted to their species and dietary needs, and work to provide a diet that resembles exactly what they would eat in their natural habitat. The positive, reward-based training we do with our animals maintains their mental health by providing stimulation and enrichment, and additionally shows the public what amazing things animals are capable of doing and learning. It truly shows people how incredibly sentient animals are.

The service we provide to the public will obviously be jeopardized by this proposed ban. Conservation starts with people who have empathy and regard for all life, which in large part comes from their personal experience and education. A hands-on personal experience with animals where you can actually see and ask questions about a species is far more impactful than reading about them in a book. All of the trainers I work with have the greatest desire to educate people about the animal species we have under our care, and work to encourage the public to become more involved in protecting and preserving animal species of all kinds.

I oppose this ordinance as written and urge you to reconsider its effects. And please feel free to contact me for further inquiries on my position on this matter.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bateman



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