

April 19, 2017

Jamie Ward
Studio Animal Services
28230 San Martinez Grande Cyn Road
Castaic, CA 91384

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 Jamie Ward. I have worked at Studio Animal Services approximately 5 years as the office manager. I can attest to the care and commitment all of our animals receive from the company, trainers and support staff. Our facility and animals are inspected and permitted by USDA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish and Wildlife Service, Los Angeles County and City.

This proposed ban is overreaching. There are already measures and laws in place to safeguard against the misuse and abuse of wild and exotic animals. Rather than issuing an ordinance to prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals, I move that current measures and laws be properly enforced. Such an ordinance is the beginning of a slippery slope, where proponents of the ordinance wish to eventually ban the use of ALL animals for any type of program, presentation, zoo, research or legitimate filming purpose.

Most animal training facilities are small businesses, which employ office staff and animal care staff. We also contribute to the community financially in our pursuit of happy and healthy animals by means of veterinary services, food, animal toys and accouterments, animal litter, grounds keepers and a variety of other items purchased from local merchants. When a ban on wild and exotic animals expands to eventually include the film industry, and legitimate conservation-related programs, many will feel the ripple effect, both animals and humans alike.

I urge you to reconsider the wild and exotic animal ban.

In the case this ban ordinance passes, I urge you to consider properly wording said ordinance to discourage amendments being added at a later date which would allow negative impacts on legitimate industries thereby causing substantial damage to an untold number of citizens and animals in Los Angeles City, County and Southern California.

Thank you,

Jamie Ward / office manager, concerned citizen and animal lover