

# WILDLIFE WENDY'S TROPICAL BIRDS

*“Entertaining and Educating for any Occasion”*

April 14, 2017

To: L.A. City Council

Objection to Agenda #16-1357

Please include this letter into PUBLIC RECORD

Dear Council Members,

My name is Wendy Horton and I have been presenting my parrot show in Los Angeles since 1995. I object to the proposed ban of exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement in city of Los Angeles. If this proposal is passed, this will affect my livelihood (as well as others) significantly.

The proposal statement seems to stereotype animal trainers as cruel, heartless and greedy. In my opinion, this could not be any further from the truth. I studied exotic animal training and management with a focus on wildlife education at Moorpark College's highly acclaimed America's Teaching Zoo in Moorpark, CA. My primary goal is to offer the best care for my animals and share their beauty and talent with the public. One of the issues that I focus on in my presentation is that parrots are not the best pet for everyone and that serious research should be done before bringing any animal home for a pet.

In the proposal statement, animal trainers have been accused of “tossing a snake or bird on an unsuspecting person to force an encounter”, “animals suffer from loneliness, malnutrition and overwhelming stress during transport” and “handlers use inhumane training techniques”. I, along with my colleagues train our animals with positive reinforcement and operant conditioning. We take pride in providing the best care possible for our animals. The accusations above are concerning and unwarranted. I would like to know the source of these claims. It seems as though this is propelled by PETA propaganda.

I am concerned as to what will happen to my business if this proposal is passed. I hope that you will consider the fate of the animals and their caretakers when voting on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Wendy Horton, Owner  
Wildlife Wendy's Tropical Birds  
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