

April 18, 2017

Deborah Dellosso
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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 Deborah Dellosso. I have worked in the animal industry for 23 years. I am an animal trainer and I work for an accredited company, Studio Animal Services, which has supplied animals for the motion picture industry for over 40 years. We have also done educational outreach programs at schools and children's programs with our animals.

Our animals are well cared for and well loved. We have a staff of cleaners dedicated to their daily feeding and cleaning. The dogs get turned out into group play yards where they interact with the other dogs during the day. The trainers oversee all of the diets for the animals, making sure they eat a high-quality, nutritious diet, and that they are always at a healthy weight. They get long walks in our canyon daily, as well. Studio Animal Services spares no expense when it comes to the food and vet bills to keep the animals healthy and cared for. The majority of our animals are rescued from shelters, or homes that are unable to keep them or care for them properly. Our facility is properly permitted by USDA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as city permits.

My job often infringes on time off that people with 'normal' jobs have. I work long after many are sleeping, and on the weekends and holidays, caring for and training the animals. Often, I do this work for free, out of love for the animals. This is a choice that I made, and continue to make on a daily basis, due to my love for the animals and my job.

I am writing, not only to protect my job, as a professional animal trainer, but also as a person who loves animals. My love for animals, which started at a young age, compelled me to seek out my career. Being an animal trainer is not always easy, as mentioned with my lack of time off. Seeing animals in commercials, on TV, in movies, or in educational shows can have a tremendous positive impact on our youth. Often, the connection that a child feels for a live animal can compel them to make positive changes to this world, giving that child a greater appreciation for our environment and nature.

I urge you to reconsider the exotic animal ban. I truly believe it will have a negative impact, on the animals-which are so well cared for, the trainers, who will be out of work, and future generations, who will lose the opportunity to connect as deeply to animals as I have.

Thank you,
Deborah Dellosso/Animal Trainer