

1 [Supporting Senate Bill 716 (Lara) - Prohibiting Abusive Behavior Towards the Elephant]

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3 **Resolution supporting California Senate Bill 716, authored by State Senator Lara,**
4 **which prohibits the discipline, management, or training of the elephant by specific**
5 **methods, including the use of a bullhook, ankus, guide, or pitchfork in California.**

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7 WHEREAS, The “bullhook”, or “ankus”, is a 2-3 foot long bludgeoning device with an
8 attached hook that is used to beat, hit, and poke animals, including elephants, in order to train
9 them; and

10 WHEREAS, Elephants are known to have sensitive skin on their bodies, especially in
11 places where they are most likely to be hit with a bullhook, including on their ears, trunks, and
12 on their heads; and

13 WHEREAS, Other methods used in the training of elephants include abusive behavior
14 such as the deprivation of food, use of electricity, physical punishment, insertion of
15 instruments into bodily orifices, the use of physical restraints such as chains; and lifting and
16 restraining elephants with block and tackle; and

17 WHEREAS, Elephants may nurse their young for up to five years in the wild, females
18 stay with their mothers for life, and males stay with their mothers until adolescence; and

19 WHEREAS, These methods of training often require the removal of young, nursing
20 elephants from their mothers before two years of age, which prevents elephants from
21 engaging in normal, social, and healthy behaviors; and

22 WHEREAS, Restraints, such as martingales and block and tackle also limit their ability
23 to move about freely or lie down comfortably; and

24 WHEREAS, Over time, these environments and training methods lead many elephants
25 to become dysfunctional, unhealthy, depressed, and aggressive; and

1 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 716, authored by State Senator Ricardo Lara, would, beginning
2 January 1, 2018, prohibit any owner or manager of an elephant to engage in abusive behavior
3 toward the elephant including the discipline of the elephant with the use of food, water or
4 sleep deprivation; use of electricity, physical punishment resulting in damage, scarring, or
5 breakage of skin; the insertion of any instrument into any bodily orifice; the use of martingales;
6 the use of block and tackle; and the use of a bullhook, ankus, guide, or pitchfork, including the
7 use of those devices without making contact; and

8 WHEREAS, SB 716 will amend California Penal Code, Section 596.5, which already
9 protects elephants from being deprived of food, water, or rest and from being physically
10 punished, by adding an explicit prohibition on certain training devices that were previously not
11 outlined in the code; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports Senate Bill
13 716 prohibiting the use of training methods and devices designed to physically harm or instill
14 fear in elephants; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its
16 support and protection for elephants and strongly condemns the use of inhumane training
17 practices that result in the emotional and physical harm of these incredible species.

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