

(BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:04 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150378 FW: Please OPPOSE Ordinance No.

Categories: 150378

From: Joanne Smith [<mailto:elphyjs@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: Please OPPOSE Ordinance No. 150919

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please accept this letter as a formal letter of opposition to ending the elephant ride at the Kern County Fair and add it as a matter of public record to be included in any hearing, study and/or report pertaining to this issue.

I have worked with elephants for 26 years both in the zoo field and in the private sector. The guide (bullhook/ankus) is a training tool. It is widely accepted by United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Elephant Managers Association (EMA), the International Elephant Foundation (IEF), American Zoological Association (AZA), and the Zoological Association of America (ZAA).

Animal extremist groups are attempting to vilify the guide because they do not agree with animals in human care.

There are many regulatory agencies that oversee elephants and ensure the humane treatment such as USDA-APHIS, United States Department of Fish and Game (USDFG), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). There are also regulatory agencies at the county and city level.

Please consider opposing Ordinance No. 15019 as it will do nothing to ensure care of elephants, rather it will hinder the excellent care that the elephants deserve.

Please visit <https://vimeo.com/81361105> for a very short video to learn more about how the guide is used. There are other videos available at: <https://vimeo.com/user23318881>.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joanne Smith
P. O. Box 719
Lake Elsinore, CA 92531
951-206-9456

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:32 AM
To: BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150378 FW: Please oppose performing animal ban Resolution 150378

Categories: 150378

From: WithAnHConley [<mailto:withanhconley@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:28 AM

To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)

Cc: Avalos, John (BOS); Breed, London (BOS); Campos, David (BOS); Christensen, Julie (BOS); Cohen, Malia (BOS); Farrell, Mark (BOS); Kim, Jane (BOS); Mar, Eric (BOS); Tang, Katy (BOS); Wiener, Scott; Yee, Norman (BOS)

Subject: Please oppose performing animal ban Resolution 150378

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today to urge you to oppose the proposed ban on performing animals in San Francisco, resolution 150378.

I am an animal lover and circus fan and speak from experience when I say that it is only a small faction of well-organized special interest groups that supports drastic action like banning performing animals from the city.

The animals are the highlight of events for many families. Performing animals are regulated from the federal level via the USDA all the way to the local level, making sure a positive and healthy environment is the only one the animals know. A ban by San Francisco would not only be superfluous but it would egregiously punish people who have done nothing wrong. Moreover, having an endangered species like the Asian elephant in the public eye where people of all ages can experience them and fall in love benefits not only circus patrons but the elephants themselves. The experience of seeing, touching, and riding an elephant is not easily forgotten, therefore when the opportunity comes up to give support for saving this endangered species people will be more willing to take action. Without a personal experience or memory it is all too easy to turn a blind eye or pretend you don't see the need. Experiencing elephants in all levels makes an impact that can have positive reverberations for elephants across the globe.

Before you allow animal rights extremists to form your opinion on animal care, let me tell you a little bit about animal rights extremist organizations like PETA and ADI:

- In 2003 the African country Swaziland allowed two American zoos to rescue elephants as an alternative to Swaziland shooting them to alleviate a strain on their resources. PETA sued the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and the San Diego Zoo in order to block the Swazi animals' importation. In a U.S. District Court hearing on August 6, 2003, PETA's attorney told a federal judge that her client thought seeing elephants "euthanized [killed] in Swaziland" would be "a better outcome than to have these elephants live the rest of their lives in captivity." PETA apparently believes bringing joy to children is a fate worse than death for an elephant.
- In 2001 PETA's President Ingrid Newkirk told ABC news: "I openly hope that it [hoof-and-mouth disease] comes here. It would be good for animals, good for human health and good for the environment."
- In 1988 Newkirk also told Newsday: "In the end, I think it would be lovely if we stopped this whole notion of pets altogether."

In this climate it is easy to give in to a few, militant complainers in order to try to try to give a quick fix and create peace, but let's be serious: animal rights extremists and their organizations like PETA will not stop at eliminating performing animals in the circus. From the pony rides to livestock to the service animals helping citizens every animal is a target for these extremists. Capitulating to their demands on this issue would only embolden their efforts to eliminate animals in human care altogether.

If you enjoy seeing animals at the zoo, own a pet, or eat bacon you are on the opposite side from groups like PETA, and it can only be detrimental to the human experience and animals anywhere to give in to their demands.

Sincerely,

Sarah Conley
Chair, Animal Welfare Committee
Circus Fans Association of America