



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Agenda Item #16-1357

1 message

Steve Berens <berensanimals@gmail.com>
To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Tue, Apr 18, 2017 at 5:26 PM

Steve Berens

Steve Berens' Animals of Distinction, Inc.

PO Box 773

Acton, CA 93510

April 18, 2017

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 Steve Berens. I am the President and Head Animal Trainer at my company Steve Berens' Animals of Distinction, Inc. I have been an Animal Trainer in the television and motion picture industry for over 35 years. I have been a member of the Teamsters Local 399 for over 30 years.

While my company primarily trains domestic animals such as dogs and cats, I have coordinated projects that required me to sublease exotic animals from many other companies that do train exotic animals. I find that these companies love and care for their animals as much as I do my own. These animals are our life blood. The very notion that animal trainers as a whole mistreat their animals is completely counter intuitive.

An exotic animal ban not only hurts our industry but also the public at large. How many people will have the opportunity to travel to the wilderness in foreign lands to see the wildlife? It is so sad to think that one day people may never know the touch, the feel or scent of any live creatures. If this exotic animal ban is allowed to pass surely a ban on domestic animals will follow.

I am opposed to this ban and urge you to vote it down.

Sincerely,

Steve Berens

President

Steve Berens' Animals of Distinction, Inc.

berensanimals@gmail.com