

Mary Lou Kelly Consulting

ANIMAL ISSUES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JULY 28, 2017



IN THE NEWS

Stricter wild animal permit requirements impact North Texas Fair and Rodeo

The Denton (TX) Police Department's Animal Services Division created a written policy in February that outlines more stringent requirements for issuing wild animal permits. The requirements prohibit "dangerous wild animals" (including tigers, lions, bears and cougars) and lines up more closely with Texas state law. The new requirements came after a "handful" of people expressed concern when eight Bengal tigers made an appearance at last year's fair. Police officials said there were no issues reported during last year's tiger exhibit. [Denton Record-Chronicle](#) (7/11)

Minnesota petting zoo under investigation after child's death

The Minnesota Department of Health is investigating how two children came down with a toxin-producing form of E-coli after one little girl died and her brother lost function of both kidneys and is now on dialysis. The investigation is ongoing and includes the Amaze'n Farmyard (Eden Valley, MN) because the children visited their petting zoo. In the interest of caution, officials asked the company to pull their farm animals from display. The state public health veterinarian said the petting zoo has been "very cooperative, very helpful, but again the investigation is ongoing and we're investigating multiple sources, not just the petting zoo." Officials are reminding people to take precautions when visiting petting zoos or other places where you can come into close contact with animals (washing hands and avoiding hand to mouth contact). [Fox 9 News](#) (7/20)

Expedia takes a stand against “animal cruelty”

The travel booking engine Expedia has announced that it will no longer sell “activities involving certain wildlife animal interactions” (most notably, elephant rides overseas). Expedia is reviewing the travel activities offered on its site, with the guidance of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, Born Free Foundation, The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International. [Travel Pulse](#) (7/23)

Activists disrupt elephant act during Circus World performance

Activists with [Direct Action Everywhere](#) disrupted a Circus World performance on July 9, holding signs and shouting in protest when the elephant act started. The two women were escorted off the property by circus workers, and left the premises before Baraboo (WI) police arrived. One of the activists told reporters that “the truth is that circuses for animals are a place of violence, and we are working to expose that and achieve total animal liberation.” [Baraboo News Republic](#) (7/10)

“Nude zebras” from PeTA protest UniverSoul Circus in Norfolk

Two female PeTA members, painted with body paint to resemble zebras, stood at a busy downtown Norfolk intersection this week with signs protesting the arrival of UniverSoul circus. PeTA’s headquarters are located in Norfolk, not far from the protest site. [Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/26)

Animal rights groups trying to defund National Institutes of Health

In a letter to the editor to *The Hill* this week, Matthew R. Bailey, president of the [National Association for Biomedical Research Activists](#), responded to calls from animal rights groups to cut funding for NIH and outlined why the continued use of animal research is necessary. Bailey said “despite claims by animal rights groups, animal research remains a crucial part of the process to improve the global healthcare landscape by clearing a pathway to prevent and better treat costly, deadly diseases.” [The Hill](#) (7/24)

PENDING LEGISLATION

Note: Ben Johnson at UniverSoul Circus provided updated information on the NYC performing animal ordinance (see next page). I have also added additional state bills for your reference regarding pet ownership and pet sales. Any new legislative activity or new information since last week is highlighted in yellow.

Local Ordinances:

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action
AZ – Kingman City	City Council is considering a ban on using circus animals, using West Hollywood, CA as a template.	7/21/17: an ordinance might be presented to City Council on August 15. Kingman City is located in Mohave County (see below). Contact information for City Council Members.
AZ – Mohave County	Proposed ordinance banning animals in traveling circuses.	4/19/17: Mohave County Supervisors voted to send the draft ordinance to the County Attorney’s Office for review.
CA – Los Angeles	Would prohibit exhibition of wild and exotic animals for entertainment or amusement, including circuses and other wild or exotic animal shows (exceptions for AZA accredited zoos, films, research facilities and legitimate conservation-related programs).	4/25/17: City Council voted to have the City Attorney prepare an Ordinance to present to Council.
MD – Montgomery County	Would ban the use of animals in circuses or other businesses that “exhibit or financially benefit” from the exhibition of those animals. Includes the use of camels, bears, primates, wildcats, crocodiles, and snakes.	7/18/17: first public hearing held.
NM – Santa Fe	Would ban animals in circuses and other traveling acts.	6/28/17: draft ordinance introduced.

NY - New York City (Intro 1233-A)	Bill to ban performances by elephants, lions and other exotic animals in the city.	7/20/17: City Council approved an extension of the enactment date to Oct. 1, 2018 (the original ordinance called for enactment 180 days after approval). UniverSoul Circus is working to get the enactment extended for a longer period.
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State Bills:

State Legislatures Still in Session for 2017: CA, MA, MI, NJ, NY, OH, PA, WI

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action	Adjournment Date
CA AB 485	Requires pet store operators to only sell dogs, cats, and rabbits obtained from a shelter or rescue group. Would be effective Jan. 1, 2019.	7/19/17: amended and ordered to third reading.	9/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
CA ACR 106	This concurrent resolution would “recognize the humane treatment of companion animals through the eradication of neglect and cruelty and the fostering of kindness and empathy toward companion animals as core principles of the State of California.”	7/10/17: referred to the Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media.	9/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
IL SB 1342	Prohibits the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. Exempts exhibition of elephants at a non-mobile, permanent institution.	6/13/17: bill passed the full Senate and was sent to the Governor for Signature. Contact info: governor@state.il.us Fax: (217)782-3560 Tel: (217)782-0244 Facebook - GovRauner	5/31/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
ME LD 396	An Act to prohibit the use of elephants in traveling animal acts.	5/11/17: bill tabled in the Agriculture Committee. The legislature adjourned on 7/4/17, but bills carry over to 2018.	7/4/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA HB 418	Prohibits the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. Companion bill to MA SB 1898.	5/2/17: Hearing held before Joint Committee; no vote taken.	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action	Adjournment Date
MA HB 2290	An Act changing the legal status of pets from personal property to companion animals.	6/30/17: hearing was held before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA HB 3561	An Act relative to the importation of animals for rescue, shelter, foster, adoption, or remote sale. Requires organizations to apply for import registrations through the Department of Agricultural Resources.	4/12/17: referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA SB 460	An Act to prevent animal suffering by irresponsible breeding practices.	5/8/17: referred to Joint Committee on the Judiciary	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA SB 470	An Act banning the sale of dogs and cats in commercial pet shops	1/23/17: Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA SB 490	To protect wild and exotic animals from cruel and inhumane treatment, and to protect the public from dangers inherent to traveling exhibitions and acts featuring wild and exotic animals.	5/2/17: Hearing held before Joint Committee; no vote taken.	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
MA S 1898	Prohibits the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. Also MA HB 418.	5/2/17: Hearing held before Joint Committee; no vote taken.	11/15/17, bills carry over to 2018 session
NJ A 430	Requires registration and reporting to prevent illegal trade of tigers.	1/27/16: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. (Carried over from 2016.)	1/9/18
NJ A 437	Revises criteria for determining a vicious/potentially dangerous dog.	1/27/16: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. (Carried over from 2016.)	1/9/18
NJ A 1876	Responsible Dog Ownership Act; leashing and fencing requirements.	1/27/16: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. (Carried over from 2016.)	1/9/18

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action	Adjournment Date
NJ A 2594	Prohibits the use of exotic, non-domestic, or wild animals in traveling performances and exhibitions.	2/8/16: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (carried over from 2016).	1/9/18
NJ A 4386	“Nosey’s Law” – prohibits the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. See also NJ S 2508.	12/12/16: Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.	1/9/18
NJ A 4722	Establishes certain requirements concerning animal rescue organizations, breeders, importation of dogs and cats, and sale or adoption of dogs and cats.	3/20/17: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	1/9/18
NJ S 323	Requires liability insurance for permit to possess certain dangerous animals.	5/15/17: reported from Senate Commerce Committee with amendments	1/9/18
NJ S 2508	“Nosey’s Law” – prohibits the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. See also NJ A 4396.	10/20/16: Passed Senate by vote of 32-5 and referred to Assembly Agriculture Committee.	1/9/18
NY A 464	“Elephant Protection Act” – prohibits the use of elephants in entertainment.	6/5/17: substituted for SB 2098. Passed Assembly and returned to Senate.	12/31/17
NY A 3517	Prohibits circuses from conducting shows or other performances in the state for two years where a circus has been found to be in violation or in non-compliance with the AWA.	1/27/17: Referred to Economic Development Committee	12/31/17
NY SB 5426	Would prohibit circuses from conducting shows or other performances in the state for two years where a circus has been found to be in violation or in non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act of 1966.	6/5/17: passed third reading and sent to Rules Committee. Committed to Rules on 6/21.	12/31/17

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action	Adjournment Date
NY S 1283	Prohibits tethering, restraining, caging or penning of dogs or animals between 7:00PM-6:00AM; pen or cage must be four times the height and length of dog/animal.	1/9/17: Referred to Agriculture Committee	12/31/17
NY S 2098	“Elephant Protection Act” – prohibits the use of elephants in entertainment.	6/6/17: Passed full Assembly and returned to Senate.	12/31/17
PA SB 248	Bans the for-profit display, of any animal that traveled in a mobile housing facility in the 15 days preceding the display. Exempts zoos and educational and research activities.	1/27/17: Referred to Judiciary Committee.	12/31/17
PA SB 816	Amends the 1982 Dog Law regarding dangerous dogs; further providing for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition, and providing for muzzled dogs.	7/6/17: Referred to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee	12/31/17

Federal Bills:

Bill No.	Summary	Latest Action
HR 1759	Traveling Exotic Animal And Public Safety Protection Act ; to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances.	4/11/17: Referred to the House Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture
HR 1818	Big Cat Public Safety Act ; makes it unlawful (with certain exceptions) to import, export, transport, sell, breed, or possess lions, tigers, and other exotic cats.	4/11/17: Referred to the House Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Federal Lands

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