

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Wild or Exotic Animals for Public Entertainment or Amusement]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to prohibit the performance of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement.

Existing Law

City law does not regulate the performance of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement. Various other provisions of existing law regulate the possession and sale of certain wild and potentially dangerous animals.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would amend the Health Code to prohibit any individual or entity from causing a performance in which a wild or exotic animal is required to perform tricks, fight, or participate as an accompaniment for the entertainment, amusement or benefit of an audience. The prohibition does not apply to domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, and horses. There are also exceptions for educational activities and activities endorsed or accredited by certain zoological and museum organizations.

The Animal Care and Control Department with the support of the Police Department is authorized to enforce the ordinance. Violating the ordinance is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, up to a year in the County Jail, or both. The City Attorney is authorized to bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of the ordinance and may seek civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

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