



Honorable Dan Kerschen, Chairman  
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Kansas Senate  
300 SW 10th Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee:

My name is Matt Fouts. I am the director of Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard, KS, on Wichita's west edge in Sedgwick County. We are accredited by the Zoological Association of America and the only zoo in Kansas to receive the Humane Certified certification from American Humane, the oldest and most prestigious humane organization in the United States.

This bill's original intent was to ensure the public was safe from dangerous animals: tigers, lions, etc. That is a cause we fully support and can agree that adding wolves is a good idea. We can also agree that adding US Fish and Wildlife Class I primates such as gorillas, chimpanzees, etc., would fall under this law's intent and be a good addition.

However, the amendments they proposed would only promote their extremist ideology under the guise of public safety. Their true intent is to regulate the pet trade, drive a wedge between people and the natural world by banning public contact, and control breeding at zoos and other legal, private institutions.

For instance, their decision to include all non-human primates is not backed by science, expert advice from local zoological institutions, or industry standards. They have no proof or logical explanation of why a lion-headed tamarin that weighs 9 oz or an Owl Monkey that weighs 1.3 lbs is just as dangerous as a gorilla or tiger. They have no evidence to support why it's OK to contact a lemur on their island but not outside their primary enclosure.

Furthermore, what proof does breeding at licensed, accredited institutions is a threat to public safety. If there is no proof, then why does it need to be written into this bill?

Finally, nearly all the testimony supplied in support of this bill involved incidents that would have occurred even with the proposed amendments. In almost all of those situations, the persons responsible did not meet the criteria regarding licensure or standards. The local authorities would have had to deal with those animals regardless.

In conclusion, these amendments do very little, if anything, to clean up the regulatory issues that currently exist in the bill or address the training and resource concerns by local authorities responsible for enforcement. It will also add unnecessary burdens for state authorities, accredited institutions, and the animals themselves.

Sincerely,

Matt Fouts  
Director  
Tanganyika Wildlife Park