



Assembly Member Shin Geh Ryeun  
Chairman of the National Assembly's Environment and Labor Committee  
1 Uisadang-daero Yeongdeungpo-gu  
Seoul  
150-701  
Republic of Korea

12 February 2014

Dear Assembly Member Shin Geh Ryeun

We are writing on behalf of the Asia for Animals coalition, representing international organisations with extensive knowledge of animal welfare issues. We write in support of the proposed zoo legislation bill designed to improve the welfare of captive animals in Korea, proposed on September 27, 2013 by Assembly Member Chang Hanna.

We recommend the development of national zoo legislation incorporating minimum welfare standards and requiring the inspection and licensing of zoos, aquariums, circuses, and private collections keeping wild animals in captivity.

We recommend that legislation include welfare standards that ensure captive animals are provided with the opportunity to display normal behaviours (where appropriate). Animals should be able to live in appropriate social and family groups, and have areas to which they may retreat from the public eye. Facilities should be available to allow separation of animals where necessary. At all times animals should be protected from conditions detrimental to their well-being and appropriate husbandry standards adhered to.

Establishments should be required to develop protocols to ensure the condition, health and behaviour of all animals is assessed daily by the person in direct charge of their care, and a daily record indicating changes to the prescribed diet, health checks carried out, any unusual behaviour or activity or other problems, and remedial actions taken.

Establishments should be required to adopt a comprehensive integrated programme which incorporates veterinary and behavioural management under the supervision of veterinary and behavioural management experts familiar with current practice in the care of zoo animals.

Legislation should ban the following practices which may cause animal suffering:

- the practice of feeding live prey to large predators for entertainment;
- the use of wild animals for photo-taking with members of the public;
- the use of wild animals in circus-style performances where animals are forced to exhibit behaviour contrary to their natural behaviour in the wild;
- the exhibition of wild-caught individuals (*except for individuals that have been confiscated as part of an illegal trade and cannot be returned to wild*)

Legislation should require captive wild animal facilities to implement capacity building staff training in animal management to ensure the provision of conditions and facilities above any minimum animal welfare standards set by a licensing system.

We support the development of a management committee to implement the national zoo legislation, and to develop an inspection and auditing process. This will allow management problems to be identified at an early stage before they have a serious negative impact on the health and welfare of animals, and will facilitate the implementation of new management regulations to address such issues.

The licensing and subsequent registration of all captive wild animal facilities will also aid dissemination of information and subsequently aid the management of establishments for the benefit of animal welfare, conservation, education and research. Establishments operating illegally or persistently not meeting the minimum standards can be closed to the public and procedures developed for the subsequent care of the animals.

On behalf of our members globally, please consider the adoption of the proposed zoo legislation bill and the incorporation of the above recommendations within such a bill.

**Sent on behalf of the following organisations:**

- Animal Guardians
- Animal People
- Animals Asia Foundation
- ACRES
- Blue Cross of India
- Change for Animals Foundation
- Earth Island Institute
- Humane Society International
- International Animal Rescue
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Philippine Animal Welfare Society
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK)
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Hong Kong
- World Society for the Protection of Animals

Please respond to David Neale, Animal Welfare Director, Animals Asia Foundation, 10/F, Kai Tak Commercial Building 317-319 Des Voeux Road, Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong  
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Supported by:

1. ACRES Lao PDR
2. Anima Macau
3. Animal Rescue Beijing, China
4. Animal Defenders International
5. Animal Friends Niigata, Japan
6. Animal Protection Network, Sweden
7. Animal Rights Action Network, Ireland
8. Animal Rights Center Japan
9. Behavioural & Environmental Solutions, USA
10. Best Friends Animal Society, USA
11. Blue Tail Association
12. Born Free, USA
13. Born Free Foundation, UK
14. Born Free Foundation, Sri Lanka
15. British Hen Welfare Trust
16. CARE, Coexistence of Animal Rights on Earth (동물사랑실천협회)
17. Cat Welfare Society, Singapore
18. Cee4Life, Australia
19. Compassion in World Farming
20. Djurens Rätt (Animal Rights Sweden)
21. Dobro surtse, Bulgaria
22. DOGSTOP, Hong Kong
23. Earth Watch Trust, India
24. EAST, Taiwan
25. Eco WALK the Talk.com
26. Elephant Advocacy, USA
27. Elephant Asia Rescue and Survival Foundation (EARS)
28. Elephant Voices
29. Embark Sri Lanka
30. Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali, Italy
31. Environment Films, UK
32. Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations
33. Four Paws International
34. For Elephants International (Elephant Ectivism)
35. Free the Bears, Cambodia
36. Friends of the Asian Elephant, Thailand
37. Haikou Wildlife Conservation Society & Animal Emergency Net, China
38. In Defense of Animals, India
39. In Defense of Animals, USA
40. Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre, Nepal
41. Korea Animal Rights Advocates
42. Korean Animal Welfare Association
43. Lanta Animal Welfare, Hong Kong
44. Life Conservationist Association, Taiwan
45. Lifelong Animal Protection, Hong Kong
46. Love Animal House, Thailand
47. Love Wildlife Foundation, Thailand

48. Maitri Foundation – Bodhgaya, India
49. MelbournDolphin
50. Moonbears.org
51. Onekind, UK
52. Orangutan Aid, Hong Kong
53. Palawan Animal Welfare Association, Philippines
54. People for Animals, Chennai
55. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
56. PhaNgan Animal Care, Thailand
57. Plant & Animals Welfare Society (PAWS), India
58. Rescue Animals Sri Lanka
59. Royal Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, Bhutan
60. Royal Veterinary College, Hong Kong Ltd
61. Sarawak SPCA, Malaysia
62. SHARAN, India
63. Sumolya Kanchanapangka DVM Ph.D, Thailand
64. Swiss Animal Protection
65. Taiwan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
66. Team for Nature and Wildlife, Nepal
67. The Corbett Foundation, India
68. The Home of Love, China
69. The National Council's of SPCA's, South Africa
70. The Nature-a Heritage for the Future Association, Bucharest Romania
71. Voice for Zoo Animals, Japan
72. Wolf Watch UK
73. World Protection for Dogs and Cats in the Meat Trade
74. Zoocheck Canada