[Supporting Senate Bill 716 (Lara) - Prohibiting Abusive Behavior Towards the Elephant]

Resolution supporting California Senate Bill 716, authored by State Senator Lara, which prohibits the discipline, management, or training of the elephant by specific methods, including the use of a bullhook, ankus, guide, or pitchfork in California.

WHEREAS, The “bullhook”, or “ankus”, is a 2-3 foot long bludgeoning device with an attached hook that is used to beat, hit, and poke animals, including elephants, in order to train them; and

WHEREAS, Elephants are known to have sensitive skin on their bodies, especially in places where they are most likely to be hit with a bullhook, including on their ears, trunks, and on their heads; and

WHEREAS, Other methods used in the training of elephants include abusive behavior such as the deprivation of food, use of electricity, physical punishment, insertion of instruments into bodily orifices, the use of physical restraints such as chains; and lifting and restraining elephants with block and tackle; and

WHEREAS, Elephants may nurse their young for up to five years in the wild, females stay with their mothers for life, and males stay with their mothers until adolescence; and

WHEREAS, These methods of training often require the removal of young, nursing elephants from their mothers before two years of age, which prevents elephants from engaging in normal, social, and healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Restraints, such as martingales and block and tackle also limit their ability to move about freely or lie down comfortably; and

WHEREAS, Over time, these environments and training methods lead many elephants to become dysfunctional, unhealthy, depressed, and aggressive; and
WHEREAS, Senate Bill 716, authored by State Senator Ricardo Lara, would, beginning January 1, 2018, prohibit any owner or manager of an elephant to engage in abusive behavior toward the elephant including the discipline of the elephant with the use of food, water or sleep deprivation; use of electricity, physical punishment resulting in damage, scarring, or breakage of skin; the insertion of any instrument into any bodily orifice; the use of martingales; the use of block and tackle; and the use of a bullhook, ankus, guide, or pitchfork, including the use of those devices without making contact; and

WHEREAS, SB 716 will amend California Penal Code, Section 596.5, which already protects elephants from being deprived of food, water, or rest and from being physically punished, by adding an explicit prohibition on certain training devices that were previously not outlined in the code; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports Senate Bill 716 prohibiting the use of training methods and devices designed to physically harm or instill fear in elephants; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its support and protection for elephants and strongly condemns the use of inhumane training practices that result in the emotional and physical harm of these incredible species.
Resolution supporting California Senate Bill 716, authored by State Senator Lara, which prohibits the discipline, management, or training of the elephant by specific methods, including the use of a bullhook, ankus, guide, or pitchfork in California.

April 21, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/21/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor

Date Approved

5/1/15