

Submitter: Jennifer Coleman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

Oregon House Bill 3214 (HB3214) is sponsored by Representatives Zach Hudson and David Gomberg. HB3214 prohibits using certain animals (list below and even includes tortoises and small monitors) in “traveling animal acts,” which will include the educational outreach programs provided by many animal keepers. It authorizes the forfeiture of animals used in violations. Punishment is a maximum of six months imprisonment, a \$2,500 fine, or both, plus legal seizure of your animals.

Regardless of what species are involved, this bill is unnecessary, redundant, and a waste of Oregon tax dollars. Animal welfare laws are already in place and measures like this bill only punish responsible citizens instead of actually penalizing criminals.

The unintended consequences are many. It is a ban on taking a Greek tortoise into a classroom for an educational program about turtles and tortoises. It is a ban on taking a dwarf monitor lizard into a library or to a Scout troop meeting for an educational show discussing reptiles.

“Traveling animal act” means a performance of an animal to which the animal is transported. This qualifies all outreach and educational programs that are not on-site where the animal is permanently housed. They would all be banned.

While the definition for “performance” may seem to disqualify general educational outreach programs, there still remains ambiguity and enforcement could certainly take place at the whim of any enforcement officer as terms are open for interpretation at will. For example “trick” is not defined so an animal standing on its back legs to get a treat, walking to a red laser dot, or jumping from one person’s shoulder to another are tricks and these are commonly seen in educational and outreach programs. Also, a performance includes any program in which an animal “entertains or amuses an audience.” Most are entertained and amused simply by having the incredible experience of seeing animals in person!

Please note that “education programs” are only exempt if you qualify with an entity included in the below exemption list. We have seen misinformation on this being posted on social media.

The only exemptions are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), or Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), along with a 12-hour of travel exemption for state-licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers, certain academic/medical/research facilities,

veterinarians, and falconers.

Species included in the bill (we highlighted the reptile species):

- (a) Any member of the family Canidae, except the species *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog);
- (b) Any member of the family Cetartiodactyla, except the species *Bos taurus* (domestic cow), *Lama glama* (domestic llama), *Lama pacos* (alpaca), *Ovis aries* (sheep), *Rangifer tarandus* (reindeer) and *Sus domesticus* (domestic pig), and the subspecies *Capra aegagrus hircus* (domestic goat);
- (c) A member of the order Crocodylia;
- (d) A member of the subclass Elasmobranchii;
- (e) A member of the family Elephantidae;
- (f) A member of the family Felidae, except the species *Felis catus* (domestic cat);
- (g) A member of the family Hyaenidae;
- (h) A member of the mammalian infraclass Marsupialia;
- (i) A member of the family Mephitidae;
- (j) A member of the family Mustelidae, except the subspecies *Mustela putorius furo* (domestic ferret);
- (k) A nonhuman primate;
- (L) A member of the order Perissodactyla, except the subspecies *Equus ferus caballus* (domestic horse), the subspecies *Equus africanus asinus* (donkey), a pony and a mule;
- (m) A member of the clade Pinnipedia;
- (n) A member of the family Procyonidae;
- (o) A member of the group ratite;
- (p) A member of the family Spheniscidae;
- (q) A member of the family Testudinidae;
- (r) A member of the family Ursidae;
- (s) A member of the family Varanidae;
- (t) A member of the family Viverridae; and
- (u) A member of the clade Xenarthra.