

Submitter: Kristen Larson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

As a veterinary student at Oregon State University and previous member of the Arizona Herpetological Association and volunteer with Phoenix Herpetological Society, I am against this ban on "traveling animal acts." Part of my job as a future exotics veterinarian is to educate the public about many of the exotic animals out there. I have participated in numerous public outreach events, and I have found that giving people the opportunity to interact with these animals directly (seeing them in real life) makes the connection that no informational poster or image can. Many organizations that perform outreach for the public (especially in regards to rattlesnake safety for hikers/dogs, or educational events for kids at schools), do so in order to inform the public about the needs of these animals. It is important that we protect the right of businesses and individuals to transport their animals to events where education and public awareness is being raised. We should keep these activities legal so as not to punish those who are legally keeping and displaying these animals. There are already protective measures in place to prevent poaching, animal abuse/neglect, and bans are in place for animals that pose a threat for invasion of natural Oregon habitat. We do not need a law restricting our ability to share our love of these animals.