



COMMISSION ON ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 4, 2012

Mr. Joseph F. Ferguson
Inspector General
City of Chicago
740 N Sedgwick St.
Chicago, IL 60654

Re: Animal Exhibition License and Permit Procedures

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The Commission on Animal Care and Control ("CACC") received your letter and report dated September 17, 2012.

CACC acknowledges the report and recommendations and is currently reviewing best practices in order to develop the most appropriate permitting, inspection and enforcement process for animal exhibitions in Chicago. As the IG correctly pointed out in its report, recent amendments have already been made to the licensing provisions of the Municipal Code (effective January 1, 2013) that create a new temporary animal exhibition permit to be administered by CACC that will address a number of the IG's concerns and further provide new opportunities for CACC to more closely monitor the animal exhibitors that routinely perform in Chicago, and more effectively enforce the City's animal welfare laws.

CACC is currently reviewing the IG's animal exhibit audit recommendations with other jurisdictions here in Chicago, including, but not limited to the Chicago Park District ("Park District") and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events ("DCASE") The Park District and DCASE have a permit process in place for short term events that the CACC will seek to replicate in part for animal exhibitors. CACC is also researching other major metropolitan areas like New York, Boston and Los Angeles in order to determine best practices in other cities.

In addition to this research, CACC will be working with the Law Department ("DOL") to draft rules and regulations surrounding animal exhibitions. Rules and Regulations are necessary to cover items that are not covered by ordinance or by in the conditions of the permit. Also, CACC and the Department of Business and Licensing ("DBAL") will be holding a series of meetings to streamline the permitting and licensing process. This process will include stringent deadlines in advance of the event to submit

applications, as well as additional compliance requirements, such as requests for information, reasonable fees, etc. which will be required of the prospective animal exhibitors when applying for a permit.

CACC will also seek additional training for our inspectors and veterinarians to identify issues specific to the exotic animals included in the exhibits that most often come to Chicago. CACC will continue to update your office on our progress in this area.

Thank you for your review and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sandra Alfred". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being more prominent than the last name "Alfred".

Sandra Alfred
Executive Director
CACC