



## Wild Animals are NOT Pets

### Adopt a Pet, Not a Problem

#### Problem:

The practice of keeping wild and exotic animals as pets is reaching crisis levels for both people and animals. Exotic animals, such as lions, tigers, monkeys, bears, venomous snakes, wolves, prairie dogs, and lesser known animals, such as servals and binturongs are being privately possessed as pets across the country. These animals pose public safety and health risks to their owners and to the community at large. By their very nature, these animals are wild and inherently dangerous. Most wild animals are housed inhumanely and endure lives of deprivation and suffering.

#### Facts:

- Wild and exotic animals carry numerous highly contagious diseases that are transmissible to humans, including rabies, tuberculosis, hepatitis, salmonella, monkey pox, Ebola, Marburg, and herpes-b viruses. Many of the emerging diseases threatening humans are zoonotic diseases—diseases transmitted from animals to people.
- Every year exotic and wild animals that are kept as pets seriously injure or kill children and adults. We have documented hundreds of incidents of injury and death caused by wild animals kept as pets since 1990.
- The average pet owner lacks the expertise and facilities to provide adequate housing, secure containment, proper nutrition and appropriate veterinary care.
- The illegal global trade in exotic animals is estimated to be worth more than ten billion dollars a year. Many animals are taken from their natural environments to supply the pet trade.
- It is estimated that 90% of wild animals kept as pets are dead within the first two years of captivity.
- Wild animals kept as pets suffer from painful surgical procedures such as declawing, dental extractions, and other procedures that are performed for the sole purpose of making the animal less dangerous.

## General Fact Sheet



- Legitimate sanctuaries and accredited zoos simply do not have the space or resources to absorb the tens of thousands of exotic and wild animals living in poor conditions in the U.S.
- There are no federal regulations in the U.S. banning or controlling exotic animal ownership. Twelve states ban private possession of exotic animals, seven states have a partial ban, and fifteen require a license or permit.

#### Solution

- Never buy a wild animal for a pet.
- Do not patronize substandard unaccredited facilities that exhibit wild animals.
- Report suspected abuse of wild animals by private owners to local humane societies or animal control officers.
- Support appropriate legislation to regulate the ownership of wild animals as pets.

To learn more about CWAPC  
please contact: [info@cwapc.org](mailto:info@cwapc.org)