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## Press Release

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### **REXANO's 'Just SAY NO! to Exotic Animal Bans' Campaign goes wild on YouTube.**

*Many animal rights (AR) activists sensationalize exotic animal attacks and are presenting exotic animal ownership as a public safety issue to scare the public, but there are no facts to back it up. This fraud and fear mongering has to stop.*

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Las Vegas, NV, August 31, 2007 -- In response to a number of local, state and federal legislators introducing bills to ban or curb private ownership of exotic animals in the name of public safety, REXANO (Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership) has been organized to refute claims that these animals are dangerous to the general public by offering a free web resource designed to give tools and statistics based research material to private owners of exotics to fight unfair legislation.

"In the USA, only one person dies per year as a result of an attack by captive big cat, 1.5 by captive reptile, 0.81 by captive elephant, 0.125 by captive bear and 0 by captive non-human primate. In comparison, 45,000 people die each year in traffic accidents, 47 by lightning, and 1,600 by falling from stairs. We have detailed information on our website <http://www.rexano.org> about our ongoing fight against uninformed legislators and animal rights (AR) activists," says Zuzana Kukol, a Las Vegas tiger trainer and co-founder of REXANO.

To jump start the process of fighting for owners' rights, REXANO created a YouTube presentation on "Keeping Wild and Exotic Animals in Captivity" to educate the public and legislators about the urgent need to preserve the right to the private ownership of these animals:

<http://www.youtube.com/REXANOEXOTICS>

The presentation can be downloaded directly from Rexano website:

[http://www.rexano.org/Videos/Video\\_Gallery.htm](http://www.rexano.org/Videos/Video_Gallery.htm)

This is in addition to previously released free "Just SAY NO! to Exotic Animal Bans" downloadable flyers in 3 sizes, from small to poster size:

[http://www.rexano.org/Posters\\_JustSayNO/JSN\\_Gallery.htm](http://www.rexano.org/Posters_JustSayNO/JSN_Gallery.htm)

The posters feature different exotic species: birds, non-human primates, reptiles and big cats and range from educational to satire/parodies of many well known advertising campaigns of the past. They can be used non commercially in the pet store, veterinarian office, school outreach, traveling educational and entertaining exhibit, or any business to educate the public about the AR threat to our way of life.

These powerful and well funded extreme AR groups, instead of truly helping captive animals and wild conservation directly, work hard on eventually eliminate all animal uses, including removing pets from our homes, meat from our tables, leather goods from our closets, animals from zoos, rodeos, circuses and medical research, as well as hunters from our forests.

REXANO is committed to protecting the rights of animal owners and supports responsible private ownership of exotic animals in any form, be it non-commercial pet or sanctuary, as well as commercial breeder or exhibitor.

"Most of the wild habitat is disappearing. The only chance to save many animals such as tigers from extinction is captive breeding in the private sector, which has the majority of available habitat," says Scott Shoemaker, co-founder of REXANO. "Since at least 1990, there has not been one death as a result of a captive big cat or reptile roaming at large."

While federal bills curbing private ownership of non-human primates and prohibiting public contact with baby exotic cats (Haley's act) failed to pass in previous years, they have been reintroduced again this year.

State bills curbing exotic animal ownership failed to pass in Indiana, West Virginia, Oregon, Missouri and North Carolina this year; Ohio and Wisconsin currently have active bills. Florida, Iowa and Washington State's bills have already passed

and were signed by their Governors into a law. Many states plan to bring the legislation back next year.

Even people who don't own animals should realize that every time a new law is passed, the government powers and bureaucracy grow and our personal freedoms shrink," warns Kukol. "Many animal rights activists sensationalize exotic animal attacks and are presenting exotic animal ownership as a public safety issue to scare the public, but there are no facts to back it up. This fraud and fear mongering has to stop."

"As long as animal welfare and public safety laws are followed, the private ownership of all animals should be protected in the USA," says Shoemaker.

**About REXANO**

Free web resource with statistics to fight anti exotic animal legislation.