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Letters To The Editor

**Tuesday, June 24, 2008**

<SNIP>

MESSAGE MIXED IN ANIMAL EXHIBIT

The Findlay Village Mall had a show with a great message for kids recently — about doing drugs, drinking and driving and such. I was really happy when I heard Findlay was going to have such an exhibit (of exotic animals) come to town.

There's another message it also portrayed rather hypocritically. "Don't buy exotics" on the banner and something about "Notice: The tigers will not perform, nor are they ever made to!" The tigers did in fact perform and were on stage in a sense, through the photo opportunity offered. This sends a mixed message.

I see animals as part of our lives. I hope every child in the future gets the opportunity to see them first hand, get a picture taken or even own them, having responsibly educated themselves as to the care and requirements of keeping any animal, including dogs and cats.

I know of one complaint called in that was worrying about the absence of the baby tigers' mothers. I can only say that many animals can and are bottle-raised quite successfully with all the animal's needs being met.

As a responsible private owner of exotics, not cats but primates, I sincerely hope the community enjoyed seeing members of the big cat family first hand. But I also hope it considers responsible ownership appropriate not only for a self-proclaimed "elite" few. It just takes willingness to learn, responsibility, time and commitment.

Amy Rausch

Findlay

