

## Press Release

---

### **Exotic Animal Owners Organization Response to Attempts to Curb Private Ownership of Exotic Animals**

*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.*

Date Released: 08/04/2007

LAS VEGAS, NV, August 4, 2007-- In response to a number of 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.

"In the USA, only one person dies per year as a result of attacks by captive big cats, 1.5 by captive reptiles, 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 lightening, 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.

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, who have 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.

According to Nancy Nighswander, Non Human Primate Element Rep. of U.A.P.P.E.A.L (Uniting Proactive Primate and Exotic Animal League, [www.uappeal.org](http://www.uappeal.org)) the veterinary officer from the CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine National Center for Preparedness, Control and Detection of Infectious Diseases was asked about disease transmission between nonhuman primates and humans in the USA, the answer was that " none of these have actually caused disease. "

"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 (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."

"Animals are personal property. We oppose legislation that restricts the private ownership or use of animals, or that inhibits free trade of any animal provided it meets Ohio Department of Agriculture testing and import requirements," says Polly Britton, Secretary of the Ohio Association of Animal Owners, <http://www.oaao.us>.

"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.