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Dear Exotic Animal Neighbor,

March 9, 2009

According to our research, you live next door to someone who has a Class I or II license to own dangerous wild animals. It could be anything from a cougar to a tiger. While they may be caged now, what happens in a hurricane? The cobras and black mambas are the kind of Class I creatures that are even more prone to escape.

Keeping wild animals in private collections is cruel to the animals and dangerous for you.

At a 2007 meeting of the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) they voted down a recommendation that neighbors be notified BEFORE someone moves in next to them with dangerous wild animals because they didn't hear from people like you.

In 2007 your lawmakers imposed a 10,000. bond requirement of anyone exhibiting Class I animals. The bond was required to protect you in the event of injury. The FWC is not enforcing the bond requirement and is trying to draft new rules that would give exotic animal owners a loophole to escape posting the bond.

This is your last chance to be heard before the proposed rules become final. To address the most important issues we have included a checklist. We are asking that you check the lines before the sentences that you agree with and mail it to us. If you agree with all of the statements, please check all of the lines.

Then fill in your contact information and mail the checklist back to us in the enclosed envelope. We will make copies and be sure it gets to the staff in charge of the rule changes, the FWC commissioners and the governor who appoints the commissioners. Feel free to include your own letters too, as you may have a lot more to say about this.

Our goal is not to displace any animal. The FWC always grandfathers in existing animals when they make new rules. The goal is to end the perpetuation of exotic animal abuse by holding their owners accountable. For more information on these issues, the dates of the June hearing and contact information for the FWC visit: <http://www.BigCatRescue.org/laws/fwc.htm> Thank you for your time and for caring.

For the cats,

Carole Baskin, Founder

