



New York State Humane Association

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Memorandum In Support – A4378 (Glick)/S4452 (LaValle) *Prohibits the sport killing of zoo, carnival, or circus animals*

The New York State Humane Association (NYSHA), an umbrella organization that represents animal advocacy groups and individuals statewide, strongly supports **A4378/S4452** and seeks your support for this critically needed legislation. **A4378/S4452** would make it unlawful for anyone to kill for sport any animal that such person knows or has reason to know is presently or was formerly a part of a zoo, carnival, or circus. Further, that no person involved in the aforementioned areas of entertainment shall make available for sport killing any animal that has been involved in those entertainment areas.

Unfortunately, wild animals brought to this country, as well as those born here in captivity have been placed in unnatural and sometimes cruel circumstances for the entertainment of the public, with little, if any, regard as to the emotional well being of these animals. These beautiful creatures are shoved, poked, and prodded to make them perform in animal acts that bear no resemblance to their natural behaviors. Often they are beaten, so the trainers can achieve their entertainment objectives. Outside the circus ring their lives are not much better. They travel across the country in train cars, enduring the constant movement of the cars and racket of the rails which is mentally unsettling. In short, they live lives of constant stress and fear and know no peace. The living conditions of those in zoos vary with the professionalism of the zoo, and certainly those in roadside zoos suffer terribly in cramped spaces and sometimes cruel behaviors of the public.

The ultimate betrayal of these animals, after they have served their purpose to the entertainment venues, is to send them to a canned hunt or any location where they can be hunted or killed for a final entertainment of the public. This is not only despicable, it is immoral. Though trained against their will, many of these animals have lost their fear of man that they would naturally retained in their own habitat, and thus would not retreat and run as quickly, and even if their natural will to live did prevail, where would they run to in a canned hunt environment where they have no chance of escape. None of these unfortunate animals who have served to entertain the public all their lives deserve this ignominious end.

The zoos, carnivals, and circuses that have profited from exploiting these beautiful creatures for their entire lives have the responsibility of finding appropriate placement for them in proper sanctuaries or well respected zoos when these animals are no longer wanted. It is the only moral option to pursue for these animals who have been the source of public entertainment and the concomitant flow of income for these entertainment entities. Nothing else is remotely acceptable.

NYSHA strongly urges passage of **A4378/S4452** to protect these wild and majestic animals from a cruel and inhumane end.