

Aaron: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome and thank you for joining this afternoons' teleconference: Handling of Dangerous Animals Listening Sessions.

With that, I'll turn the call over to Kay Carter-Korker, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Animal Care. Kay, take it away.

Kay C.K.: Thank you, Aaron. Good morning or good afternoon, depending upon your location. I am Kay Carter-Korker, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Animal Care. Thank you for your interest and participation in this stay colder engagement listening session.

USDA's animal and plant health inspection service is considering whether to revise the animal welfare act regulations governing the handling of and public contact with dangerous animals. In 2012, a coalition of animal advocacy organizations petitioned APHIS to ban all public contact with dangerous animals exhibited under the animal welfare act.

The agency published the petition and received more than 15,000 comments. APHIS is now reopening the comment period until August 31, 2016. As it seeks the public's input on additional questions that will help the agency better determine it's course of action. The questions are listed in the federal registry notice and on our handling of dangerous animals webpage.

We realize that three minutes is not sufficient time to respond to all eight questions. If you wish to also comment during this listening session, you may want to consider focusing on one or two questions. With that said, we are interested in gathering all of the information you wish to present and encourage everyone to submit written comments on regulations.gov. Once again, the link to the official docket on regulations.gov can be found on animal care's website.

Today, we look forward to receiving your input on one or more of these eight questions addressing the handling of dangerous animals. Thank you in advance for your information and interest in this topic and this process. We're here to listen, so I'll turn control over back to the operator.

Aaron: Ladies and gentlemen, as we move through the presentation phase, feel free to place yourself into the presentation queue by pressing #2 on your telephone keypad. You'll then hear a notification when your line is unmuted. Please then identify yourself and your agency. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to present your oral comments and I'll let you know when you have 30 seconds left to speak. All comments will be recorded and a transcript of the session will be available on animal care's handling dangerous animals website.

We are now ready to start the speakers. Once again, #2 to indicate that you wish to make comments.

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All right and we do have our first caller. Caller, please go ahead, you have three minutes.

Pam Sundin: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Pam Sundin and I am with Second Nature Wildlife Rehabilitation in southern Illinois. I would like to address number two in your questions. I have some concerns at the tail end of that question where it says, "Common animals known to carry rabies." As wildlife rehabilitators, we often have educational animals that we use at libraries, schools, boys scouts, girls scouts, churches, and this could very well affect our animals such as raccoons, foxes, groundhogs, skunks, things like that that we use for educational purposes.

I would like to have that clarified that this would not affect wildlife rehabilitation animals who have been in care since babies and we have no threat of rabies with them. Thank you very much.

Aaron: All right, Pam. Thank you very much. As a reminder, folks, #2 on your telephone keypad will indicate that you wish to make your comments.

All right. We'll give a couple minutes for folks to raise their hands. Once again, #2 on your telephone keypad will place you into our presentation queue.

All right and we do have some hands up. First caller, you have three minutes.

Kristy Fells: Hi, my name is Kristy [Fells 00:04:49] and I live in Lake [Phoenix 00:04:50], Florida. I was just wondering why there's even question of allowing constantly abuse these tigers and wildcats when it doesn't make any sense to me. Why is there even a question, I guess, is my question to you.

Aaron: All right, Kristy. Thank you for your feedback. And we're going to move to our next caller. Caller your line is open.

Jim Robbinette: Hello. I am asking if this ban would apply to accredited zoos and aquariums.

Kay C.K.: This is Kay Carter-Korker, could you identify your name and organization?

Jim Robbinette: My name is Jim Robbinette and I'm with the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

Aaron: Jim, thank you for your question. Folks, #2 on your telephone keypad if you wish to make comments. Caller, your line is open.

Carol Baskins: Hello, this is Carol Baskin from Big Cat Rescue. I'd like to address question number two: What animals should APHIS consider including under the definition of "dangerous animals". I believe it's easier to exclude animals from the definition of "Dangerous animals" when it comes to felines. Because there is no known vaccine against rabies in exotic cats, all cat species other than *Felis catus* or *Felis silvestris catus*, should be classified as dangerous animals.

Failure to classify them as dangerous implies that they are not dangerous. The very meaning of the word dangerous means, "being able or likely to do harm." Virtually every state requires that exotic cats of all species other than domestic cats be kept caged. That's because their dangerous to humans. They may bite, scratch or kill. And to the environment. Many states require that domestic cats be vaccinated against rabies and even more require that domestic cats coming into their state be vaccinated first.

There's no known effective vaccine against rabies in a non-domestic cat. Rabies is a viral disease that causes acute inflammation of the brain and symptoms include violent movements, uncontrolled excitement, fear of water and inability to move parts of the body. Confusion and loss of consciousness. Once those symptoms appear, the results is almost always death.

That's a pretty awful death and is easily preventable by classifying all non-domestic cats as dangerous and thus, not suitable as pets or pay-to-play props. As for environmental issues, there isn't a week that goes by that we don't get a call from someone reporting a cougar in their yard. Usually it's a bobcat or a huge domestic cat. That is likely the castoff from the hybrid cat trade.

First generation hybrids between domestic cats and hybrid cats are almost always bigger than either parent and never work out as pets. These cats often escape or are released into the environment, then they breed with feral cats, causing danger to the public and to the local ecosystems who are not designed for these super predators.

Back in the 60s and 70 when the Animal Welfare Act was passed, no one would have dreamed that people would try to make pets out of wild cats. The antiquated rules which have not kept up with protecting wild animals from the abuses they suffer today. I am glad that you're considering a rule change and hope that you will drastically improve the protections afforded wild cats in captivity. The changes you make now will probably have to survive another half century of human evolution. So they should be far more restrictive than you may think necessary for now.

Aaron: Carol, thank you for your feedback. We do have another hand in our queue. Caller, your line is open.

Erica Fleury: Hi, my name is Erica Fleury. I'm calling from the Primate Rescue Center in Kentucky. I would like to address numbers two and three. Number two, what animals should APHIS consider including under the definition of dangerous animals. I'm speaking on behalf of the non-human primates, which is my area of expertise. All non-human primates are dangerous. Especially so when they are raised to be on exhibit in some way. Denying them a natural childhood with their mother increases the animal's general irritability. They are clever and unpredictable by nature. They can never be fully domesticated and can attack after years of complacency and peaceful living.

Number three, what animals may pose a public health risk and why? Non-human primates pose a public health risk because they can easily cause injury, sometimes severely so and can never be fully domesticated. They will attack at some point. They can spread dramatic disease. Some of the most commonly used primates species in the pet trade, Macaques, can naturally harbor Herpes B, which can be spread to humans through bodily fluids and can cause death. Yet it's perfectly legal, in some states, to own a macaque or exhibit one and it's easy to see how an unscrupulous owner or exhibiter would permit public contact with a macaque.

From 1990 through 2014, there have been over 1,200 dangerous incidents involving captive big cats, bears, primates and large snakes in the US, that resulted in over 40 human deaths and over 700 other people injured in these events. Thank you.

Aaron: Erica, thank you for your feedback. We do have another hand in our queue. Caller, your line is open.

Nancy Blaney: Hi, this is Nancy [Blaney 00:11:18] at the Animal Welfare Institute. I just wanted to make a brief comment about the questions in general and the comments that while, necessarily, there is a focus on the dangers of the animals with respect to the public, USDA's concern also has to be the dangers of public contact, as far as the animals are concerned. It is, after all, the Animal Welfare Act.

I think that some emphasis needs to be placed on the harm that public contact does to the animals, regardless of whether they, themselves, are considered dangerous or not. That public contact is not good for them and they suffer stress and other injuries as a result of public contact. Whether it's these ridiculous "swim with" programs or photo opportunities or even some sort of petting zoo. The current handling regulations don't say, necessarily, dangerous animals. While section 2.131A refers to wild or [inaudible 00:12:29], the others refer to the handling of all animals.

I don't think we necessarily need to focus on dangerous animals and we also do need to focus on the welfare of the animals themselves, as opposed to focusing solely on the welfare of the public. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, Nancy. Thank you for your comments. Once again, folks, #2 on your telephone keypad will place you into our presentation queue. We'll give a minute or so for folks to raise their hands. All right and we do have a hand in the queue. Caller, your line is open.

Janice Haley: Hi, my name is Janice Haley and I have a facility here, it's a very small facility called Chuffer , [Company 00:13:26]. We've been in operation for about 19 1/2 years now. Over the years ... We do not raise cubs. We have tigers here, but we do not raise cubs for the sole purpose of doing sit-down photo sessions or anything like that. I have had the opportunity to share them as cubs, as they were growing up.

We had every intention when we bought them to keep them for their lives. I have one that's 14 and one that's almost nine. But when they were little, we did share them with people. The reaction that people have when they get the chance to hold a cub and touch a cub and get that connection with them. It stays with them for a very, very long time. I have had people come to me 10 years after and say that it's still right there with them, that they had that opportunity at some point to get up close with a baby tiger or a baby lion. We've had different ones here over the years. It's just something that makes a connection that makes them care enough to want to save the species in the wild.

We're not doing this for the conservation so much as we are for the education area of it. But by allowing the contact with them when they are small and they're not dangerous when they're three months old. People do this because they, by free will, do want to have the contact and they just never forget that connection. I really think it's important that people have the choice to be allowed to do that as long as it's a controlled environment. We've always made sure that the cub was safe. We have strict rules as to what they can and cannot do. If the cub wants to sleep, it needs to sleep. If it's up and playing, then they're allowed to play with it, everyone has to do the hand sanitizer thing before they start.

We're very careful with how it's controlled. We only offered it when they were small, but I know it did have a big impact on a lot of people. This was brought up by Fish , Game back in 2007 here in Florida. We brought in a whole [houseful 00:15:36] of like 60 different letters that I could get up ... Just in two days, I managed to get 60 letters from people that said what it meant to them to have that opportunity to actually touch and connect with a baby wild animal like that. They would never forget that feeling and it does affect people's outlook on the wild population, also.

I just wanted to put that in the mix, here, that there is some good in this also. I don't have expertise in any of the other animals, so I can't really speak for the primates or reptiles too much. But I do know, in our instance here, that we have had a lot of people who were very, very touched by the opportunity to touch a baby big cat here.

Aaron: All right, Janice. Thank you for your comments. And we do have another hand in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Erica Fleury: Hi, this is Erica Fleury, again, from the Primate Rescue Center. I wanted to say something in support of Nancy's comment and actually to contradict something that the last speaker just mentioned. Involving what she called the benefits of public contact. I want to remind the group that public contact also encourages the public to form these attachments to these animals and then want them as a pet. Whether that's a legal or illegal pet.

I can tell you that primate sanctuaries are inundated with these types of pets. People purchase a baby monkey because it's adorable and perhaps they pet one

somewhere and they want it. Then they quickly realize they cannot care for this animal. This also affects the numbers in the wild for conservation. Although people may love these animals, it's harming their numbers in the wild. This can be seen with the recent trends of marmosets or thumb monkeys, most recently. But also with the sloths and even chimpanzees.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums has stated: Unless the demand for non-human primates in personal possession is eliminated, the trade will continue to exist as one of many threats to non-human primate species survival.

The IUCN red-list bulletin has noted that the illegal trade in wild animals to supply the exotic pet industry is having serious consequences for highly desirable species like parrots and primates. For a number of these species, this illegal and unsustainable trade is a significant and urgent threat to their conservation and it is estimated that the global trade in non-human primates includes tens, if not hundreds of thousands of individuals a year.

I just want to remind everyone that these types of photo opportunities and public contact with these animals is directly related to these problems involving legal and illegal pets and their poaching in the wild. Thank you.

Aaron: Thank you, Erica. Moving to our next caller. Your line is open.

Jennifer Leon: Hello, this is Jennifer [Leon 00:18:34] from Big Cat Rescue. I want to compliment the last speaker's comments by saying that it has also been shown that the public contact with these exotic and wild animals actually increases a person's apathy toward these animals in the wild.

There's no proof that allowing the public contact with species that may be endangered and threatened increases the conservation or the money that is going toward the conservation of these animals. There's nothing that shows that folks that have these once in a lifetime opportunities go back and donate toward legitimate conservation efforts. So just to compliment the past comment and say that, if anything, as the last comment said, all that occurred is it's a private ownership, using animals as pets.

I think we can point to a lot of instances recently where humans, thinking they're doing the right thing, took wildlife out of their natural settings. Often times they were young wildlife, they were wildlife who seemed to be left by the mothers. As a result, that wildlife had to be put down because they were unsafely handled and taken away from the safe situation where they could have potentially been cared for by their families.

I think it encourages this idea that we need to step in and handle these animals as opposed to allowing them to be wild and properly taken care of in their proper setting. Thank you.

Aaron: Thank you, Jennifer. And we do have a few more hands in our queue. Caller, your line is open.

Kristy Fells: Hi, this is Kristy [Fells 00:20:17] again. I just wanted to charm at ... On the petting of wild animals. 10 to 15 years ago, I had a chance in Michigan at a Shriner's circus to hold a baby bear. At the time, yeah, it was cute. It was a tiny, little thing. But I felt guilty and, actually, as the years have gone by I've felt more and more guilty because the poor thing was taken from it's momma.

It was actually trying to suckle on my neck. Everyone thought it was cute. All I kept thinking was this poor little thing was out here going from arm to arm to arm. I wouldn't think of doing to a baby bird, as cute as they are, to take it out of the nest and start handing it around the neighborhood for everybody to hold. There's not much difference in doing that to ... I mean, the baby bird will end up dying. The stress cause on bear cubs, lion cubs, it doesn't matter what kind of baby it is. It's away from its mother. They're not meant to be held. Sure, I'd love to pet a baby, or even a grown tiger or lion. It's just something that's not humane. It's not right. I don't think petting that little bear and getting my picture taken with it was worth the trauma to the cub.

It didn't make me want to save anymore bears. I always wanted to save wildlife. I think it's kind of ridiculous that you want to save things if you're allowed to abuse them. I just can't see that. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Aaron: All right. Kristy, thank you for your feedback. Going to our next caller. Caller, your line is open.

Nancy Blaney: Thank you, this is Nancy [Blaney 00:22:16] from the Animal Welfare Institute again. I just wanted to endorse Erica and Carol's comments. They were right on point about the supposed impact of handling a baby animal on the people who are doing it and the terrible effect that it has on stimulating the exotic pet trade.

Again, it is the Animal Welfare Act that we need to be concerned about is what's good for the animals, not what's good, supposedly, for people. Public contact is detrimental to them both on the micro level, the individual animal level. They don't have a choice about whether they're subjected to this or not. It's not about giving people the choice to experience this. On the micro level and on the macro level, as Erica and Carol actually pointed out. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, Nancy. Thank you for your comments. Going to our next caller. Your line is unmuted.

Kathy Campatelli: Hi, my name is Kathy Campatelli and I'm a field [VMO 00:23:23] with Animal Care. As an inspector, I wanted to make a comment addressing question number three. What risk does public contact with dangerous animals present?

I just wanted to advise, or put it out there, that a lot of facilities do have an

exhibition component, there is public contact that occurs with their animals. I think that we need to maybe acknowledge the fact that members of the public can also include non-human members of the public. In these instances where there's an encounter with a wild or dangerous animal, I think it's important for those facilities who are offering that kind of encounter to consider what they would do if a person who is blind who has a seeing eye dog. What would they do with that dog? Would they allow that dog to be involved in that encounter?

It's bringing in different regulations and different types of the law. The Americans with Disabilities Act spells out how public entities must treat people who have service animals. I think that it's important to bring it up to try to work that into the regulation at some point. To be able to say exhibitors need to consider this and they can be held responsible if a member of the public, even if it's a non-human member of the public. If there's dangers coming either way from the public to the exhibit animal or from the exhibit animal to a service animal who is considered a member of the public. Thanks.

Aaron: All right, thank you Kathy for your comments. As our question queue is clear, I'll remind you guys pressing #2 on your telephone keypad will indicate that you wish to ask a question or make comments. We do have a hand. Caller, your line is open.

Howard Baskins: This is Howard [Baskins 00:25:43] from Big Cat Rescue. I'm going to take at face value the caller who said that she took proper care of her tiger cub. But unfortunately, that is not what happens throughout this industry. We have heard from dozens of people who work at the facilities that do this cub petting and photo ops.

Invariably, what happens is, the cubs are torn from their mothers immediately at birth, which is a torment to any mammal mother and cub. There are two reasons that they do that. The first reason is that they want the cub to bond to people and not with the mother because if you leave the cub with the mother, it becomes more wild and less, what they call, manageable. Secondly, they use those early weeks to try to physically punish out of the cubs their natural behaviors. Which are to be in motion, use their claws, use their teeth, use their legs. They don't want to sit still for photo ops.

There is no way for USDA to monitor that activity. You would have to have someone sitting at these facilities full time. You're never going to see that activity in an inspection. By allowing the cub petting, you're basically condemning most of these cubs to a miserable early life. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thank you Howard. Go with our next caller. Caller, your line is open.

Diane Johnson: Hi, this is Diane Johnson from Big Cats Rescue. I also wanted to kind of go off what Howard was saying. Public contact with big cats, bears and non-human primates is first and foremost a public safety issue. Yes, there is animal welfare issues, but that's probably the most important part of it.

Often, the exhibitors are already breaking guidelines put forth by USDA to regulate these. Without complete prohibition of allowing these public contacts that they're going to continue to find loop holes and ways to cheat the system. With that in mind, there are also a variety of reasons the public shouldn't have contact with wild animals. Especially big cats, bears and non-human primates. All of these animals are apex predators. Meaning that they dominate the habitat in which they live. This doesn't exclude humans and they even attack humans who have trained and raised them.

Many injuries do not occur from a malicious attack from the animals. But a result of being much stronger and much more dangerous than the trainer can account for. Many exhibitors will use cubs as a different alternative to the adult versions of these wild animals. Which will make your pets face trauma and fear of humans and these are [juveniles 00:28:27].

The first month of a big cat, bear or non-human primates life is dependent on the mother's care. For instance, the mother big cat, bear, and non-human primate provide the necessary colostrum to develop the young's immune system. I believe[in audible 00:28:42] the Animal Welfare Act is to prevent the long-term abuse of most animals that are exhibited in these pay-to-play scenes.

Once they can no longer be used for encounters, they are often sent to places that are horrendous and sold as pets or sold into the black market trade. Exhibitors will often claim their efforts are for education and conservation, yet, like we mentioned a few different times, a few different callers have said. It only teaches people to have these cats as pets, because they look like they can be trained. They learn that they can train a cat and they can somewhat be domesticated, as they think. Then they seek one on their own.

While there are many countries that have these animals natively, they have strict breeding programs for release. By no means, will they take our genetically inbred animals from captivity. The reason that these places come off for conservation and education all sound great but they're not the truth and they are technically gaining more support for the industry.

APHIS is already stretched thin inspecting the enormous amount of places that exhibit these animals. They're doing that to the best they can but much of the abuse falls under the radar. By prohibiting public contact with these animals, USDA will be able to more efficiently and effectively inspect all exhibitors and protect the life of many wild animals in captivity. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thank you Diane. As we go to our next caller. Caller, your line is open.

Kathy Dochile: Good morning. This is Kathy [Dogille 00:30:25] with Animal Rights Hawaii, Honolulu. I'd like to address question five. What are the most humane training techniques to use with dangerous animals? It's sort of a self-answering question.

There are none. To even consider that that's a possibility is ... It would be impossible for APHIS to actually make sure that what is considered humane, which is a good question, is actually taking place.

Some of our facilities in Hawaii haven't been inspected by APHIS for over two years. I agree with the previous caller who said that APHIS is already stretched very, very thinly and until it can do its job with the current regulations, I would not allow any more changes that would make it easier for people to interact on a personal level with wild animals. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thank you Kathy. Going to our next caller. Caller, your line is open.

Erica Fleury: Hi. This is Erica Fleury again from the Primate Rescue Center. I wanted to echo Nancy's reminder. Nancy, from the Animal Welfare Institute, that the Animal Welfare Act should ... we need to keep at the forefront here that this is about the animals, themselves and not the humans that might be involved in these various industries. I also wanted to mention that, like someone had mentioned about big cats, non-human primates suffer gravely when they are removed from their mothers at a young age for the purpose of exhibition or handling purposes.

Naturally, in the wild, they will stay with their mothers for years. So when they are removed at birth, in order to make training and "humanizing", I guess, for lack of a better word. They suffer from this for the rest of their lives. They can have psychological problems. They will self-harm. They can have obsessive compulsive behaviors. We see this very often in the primate sanctuaries because we get animals from these industries. It's also very similar for non-human primates. I also wanted to comment about humane training techniques.

Like the last caller, I wanted to say that primate sanctuaries, the reputable ones at least, only train using positive reinforcement behavioral techniques. They do that, only, so certain medical exams or procedures can be carried out for the animals well-being. This isn't to train the animals to do anything that they wouldn't normally do. But if one of them has diabetes and needs to get a shot every day, it's certainly much less traumatic if you train them to put their arm out, so they can get their shot of insulin. Rather than having to be darted or something traumatic on a daily basis. I would suggest that positive reinforcement behavioral techniques should be the only sort of training ever utilized by people with captive animals. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thanks again Erica. As we clear our presentation queue once again, I'll remind our audience, #2 on your telephone keypad will place you in our presentation queue. Once again, pressing #2 will place you into the presentation queue. All right and we do have another hand raised. Caller, your line is open.

Jennifer Leon: Hello. This is Jennifer again from Big Cat Rescue. I also agree that positive reinforcement is the only method that should be used for the training of these animals. But I was questioned, even if positive reinforcement was used or the type

of work that we do here at Big Cat Rescue, which is operant conditioning. A form of positive reinforcement. How is that being regulated? How could inspectors accurately surmise whether or not positive reinforcement was the only training method being utilized and that it was done to the standards that the USDA or that APHIS would proliferate? That's more of a question. I don't honestly have an answer for that so I'm really kind of wondering if that's something that could be ... If training techniques are authorized, is that something that could be greatly concerted in the language to any kind of an amendment? Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thank you for your feedback. Folks, just a quick reminder, #2 if you wish to ask a question or present comments. I'll give a couple minutes for folks to raise their hand. All right, Kay, I am not seeing any further hands in the queue.

Kay C.K.: Thank you, Aaron. I thought I would remind our listeners and potential speakers of what the questions are. The first question is: What factors and characteristics should determine if a type of animal is suitable for public contact? When the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service describes an animal as dangerous, there are certain characteristics we use to classify the animal such as the size, strength and instinctual behavior of an animal. Risk of disease transmission between animals and humans. Those such as Herpes B. And ability to safely and humanely handle or control the animal in all situations.

Question number two: What animals should APHIS consider including under the definition of dangerous animals? For example: Are all non-human primates dangerous? We currently identify some animals as dangerous including but not limited to non-domestic felis. Such as lions, tigers, jaguars, mountain lions, cheetahs and other hybrids thereof. Wolves, bears, certain non-human primates such as gorillas, chimps and macaques. Elephants, hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, moose, bison, camels and common animals known to carry rabies.

Question three: What animals may pose a public health risk and why? What risk does public contact with dangerous animals present to the individual animal and the species and why?

Question four: What are the best methods of permanent, usable animal identification for dangerous animals?

Question five: What are the most humane training techniques to use with dangerous animals?

Question six: What scientific information, peer reviewed journals preferred, is available that identifies the appropriate weening ages for non-domestic felis, bears, elephants, wolves, non-human primates, and other dangerous animals?

Question seven: What industry, organizational or governmental standards have been published for the handling and care of dangerous animals?

Question eight: What constitutes sufficient barriers for enclosures around dangerous animals to keep members of the public away from the animals? What methods, such as structures, distance, attendants, etc. are needed to prevent injury to the public and to the enclosure and keep the animal safe? While still allowing a meaningful viewing.

We hope that you will provide us additional input on any one of these questions. Back to you, Aaron.

Aaron: All right and we do have a hand in our queue. Caller, your line is open.

Erica Fleury: This is Erica Fleury again from the Primate Rescue Center. When Kay was reading through the questions just now, it brought up an interesting thought from me. Number one which questions the factors and characteristics that should determine if a type of animal is suitable for public contact. They talk about the instinctual behavior of an animal. It just made me think that for just about every animal being considered here, there instinct is not to approach humans and snuggle with them and pose with them and seek attention. Their instinct is to avoid humans. I would suggest that because of that, if not for the many other reasons that we've discussed, an animal should not be suitable for human contact if their instinctual behavior is to avoid humans. Thank you.

Aaron: All right, thank you Erica. Folks, once again, #2 on your telephone keypad will indicate that you wish to ask a question or make comments. We'll give just a couple more seconds if anyone wishes to ask a question.

All right. Kay, I'm not seeing any more hands in the queue.

Kay C.K.: Okay, thank you Aaron. Well thank you again for providing us your input to help us better determine our course of action regarding the handling and public contact with dangerous animals. The recording and transcripts of this session will be accessible via our website. If you were not able to speak during this listening session, you have one additional opportunity on August fourth. You will need to register for the session. We encourage you to submit full written comments on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Now, the operator will close out the session.

Aaron: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining this afternoon's call. The call has now concluded and you may disconnect.