

SAMPLE PETITION LETTER FOR NEW YORK STATE FAIR
RE: SAY NO TO EXOTIC ANIMAL EXHIBITIONS

New York State Fair
ATTN: Mr. Troy Waffner, Director
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ATTN: Governor Cuomo
gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us
518.474.8390

Dear **Mr Waffner OR Governor Cuomo**,

As a concerned citizen, I urge the New York State Fair to enact a policy against hosting exotic animal performances and exhibitions to protect public safety and animal welfare. Exhibition of bears and other exotic animals is irresponsible, inappropriate and an urgent matter of public safety and animal welfare.

Bears should be living in the wild, not forced to travel from venue to venue, confined in small cages, and denied all that is natural to them. Exhibition animals can't exercise, sleep or eat when they choose, and can't escape the overwhelming noise and chaos of the circus, fair or festival where they are exhibited.

Additionally, allowing exhibition of bears puts the public at unnecessary risk of animal attacks and exposure to disease. Temporary enclosures and metal netting is not a suitable barrier for containing a wild, exotic animal and is not enough to keep the public safe. These animals are also vectors of many parasites, bacterial infections and diseases that can be passed on to humans (zoonosis).

The performances and interactions offered through your current exhibitor, Bearadise Ranch are inherently cruel, causing undue stress from excessive handling and exposure to loud noises and constant stimulation.

In their natural habitats, bears roam vast distances, hunt and forage, seek out mates, raise families, swim in rivers and bask in the sun. As props for entertainment, they can do little more than pace about limited temporary enclosures until they are forced to move on to their next destination. Bear exhibitors often prioritize profit over animal welfare, neglecting proper nutrition, exercise and veterinary care, and many use force and intimidation to compel bears into performing tricks, resulting in ongoing stress for the animals.

I urge the New York State Fair facilitators to say no to animal abuse and undue risk for public safety - enact a policy against hosting exotic animal performances and exhibitions. Hauling bears and other exotic animals around the country, placing them in tiny cages, exposing them to ongoing stress and noise, and using them for photo ops and public entertainment is cruel, and irresponsible and the New York State Fair should not condone such activities.

Sincerely,

FIRST AND LAST NAME