

Animal Advisory Commission

June 11, 2013

Dear Mayor and Council,

At the June, 2013 meeting of the Austin Animal Advisory Commission the AAC approved the following motion;

"Recommend to the Austin city council that they pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of bull hooks (aka guides or ankuses) and other implements and tools designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training and controlling the behavior of elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions in the city limits of Austin. Included would be a ban on the use of chains or other restraining devices on elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions in the city limits of Austin."

The commission feels that the use of painful devices to control elephants is cruel and inconsistent with other recently passed ordinances such as the anti-tether ordinance, the Pet Trader ordinance, and the "No-Kill" implementation plan. This action has the support of local group *Action for Animals*, the State-Wide group *Texas Humane Legislative Network* and National Organizations the *ASPCA* and the *Humane Society of the United States*.

It should be noted that the banning of painful devices would in no way prohibit any circus from performing within the city limits. It would only necessitate a change from painful negative techniques to a positive reinforcement based training and control technique. Several zoos around the country have already changed to this method with great success.

It is the hope of the Animal Advisory Commission that Austin will once again lead the way as a shining example to the rest of the country on how animals are treated within our boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Lundstedt, Chair