

Desert Sun Letters, Feb. 19: Stop using Exotic Animals at Fairs

Stop using exotic animals at fairs

The Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival is underway and with it will come a number of exotic animal acts and exhibits. In recent years the festival has hosted a baboon act, capuchin monkeys, zebra, ostrich and camel races, an emu run, camel rides, exotic cats, pythons, macaws and others were on display, including a tiger cub being used for photos with patrons.

Advancing the Interests of Animals and Animal Defenders International (ADI) are asking the festival to end the use of exotic animals and fair-goers to avoid these cruel acts.

More than 50 local ordinances across the U.S. prohibit or restrict the use of these animals in traveling shows; 31 countries have similar national legislation and hundreds of local ordinances of this kind are now in place in towns and cities around the world.

The reason for these sweeping changes is that studies have shown that it is simply not possible to provide these animals with the environment they need to maintain physical and psychological health.

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