

Dear Robert Garcia, Mayor, Long Beach, Rex Richardson, Vice Mayor, Long Beach, Lena Gonzalez, City Council Member, Jeannine Pearce, City Council Member, Daryl Supernaw, City Council Member, Stacy Mungo, City Council Member, Dee Andrews, City Council Member, Roberto Uranga, City Council Member, Al Austin, City Council Member, Patrick H West, City Council Member, and Suzie Price, City Council Member,

We are pleased to present you with this petition affirming this statement:

"We call on the city of Long Beach, to take a leadership role in the protection of animals by passing an ordinance prohibiting the exploitation of animals for amusement and shut down pony rides and petting zoos because these unkind and insensitive exhibits exploit animals for entertainment.

•The ponies, tethered tightly to a turnstile, are forced to plod in circles for hours.

•Petting zoos also subject animals to the stress of transport, unnecessary handling, and crowds of strangers.

Horses are specifically excluded from protection under the federal Animal Welfare Act, so it's imperative that local governments intervene.

Rather than teach children that animals are here for our entertainment and exploitation, let us encourage young people to take nature walks and observe animals in their natural habitats or at sanctuaries.

Hacemos un llamado a la ciudad de Long Beach, para tomar el liderazgo en la protección de los animales, pasando una ordenanza prohibiendo la explotación de animales para entretenimiento. Estas exhibiciones insensibles y de mal gusto, explotan animales para divertimento.

• Los ponis, atados firmemente, se ven obligados a ir en círculos durante horas.

• Los zoológicos también someten a los animales al estrés del transporte, manejo innecesario y multitudes de extraños.

Los caballos están específicamente excluidos de la protección bajo la Ley Federal de Bienestar Animal, por lo que es imperativo que los gobiernos locales intervengan. En lugar de enseñar a los niños que los animales están aquí para nuestro entretenimiento y explotación, animemos a los jóvenes a tomar paseos por la naturaleza y observar los animales en sus hábitats naturales o en santuarios.

Attached, a list with a few individuals who have added their names to this petition, as well as additional comments written by the petition signers themselves. 930 signatures from Long Beach residents have been added in only one week. If you wish to have a copy of the petition with all signatures and comments included, please, send us an email. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmen Mazon

Carmen Mazon

contact@freetheponies.org

Devi Nathan Long Beach, CA 90808 Oct 3, 2017

We are now evolving as a society, & I think Long Beach should serve as an example of intolerance of and spreading awareness of the cruelty to animals who are forced to work as entertainment.

Justine Moreno Long Beach, CA 90808 Oct 2, 2017

An animal should never be used as a form of profit especially in the form inhumane treatment to pony tethered to a pole walking in an endless circle.

Carey Bear Long Beach, CA 90806 Oct 2, 2017

Annalisa Medina Long Beach, CA 90808 Oct 2, 2017

Katrina De Leon Long Beach, CA 90814 Oct 2, 2017

Please stop this cruelty

Socorro Elias Long Beach, CA 90802 Oct 2, 2017

This attraction is completely unnecessary especially at the cost of these animals suffering

Jennifer Long beach, CA 90807 Oct 2, 2017

Katherine McCoy Bland Long Beach, CA 90802 Oct 2, 2017

the pony ride is HORRIBLE and there is no need to torture these animals like this.

Nancy Muntner Long Beach, CA 90815 Oct 2, 2017

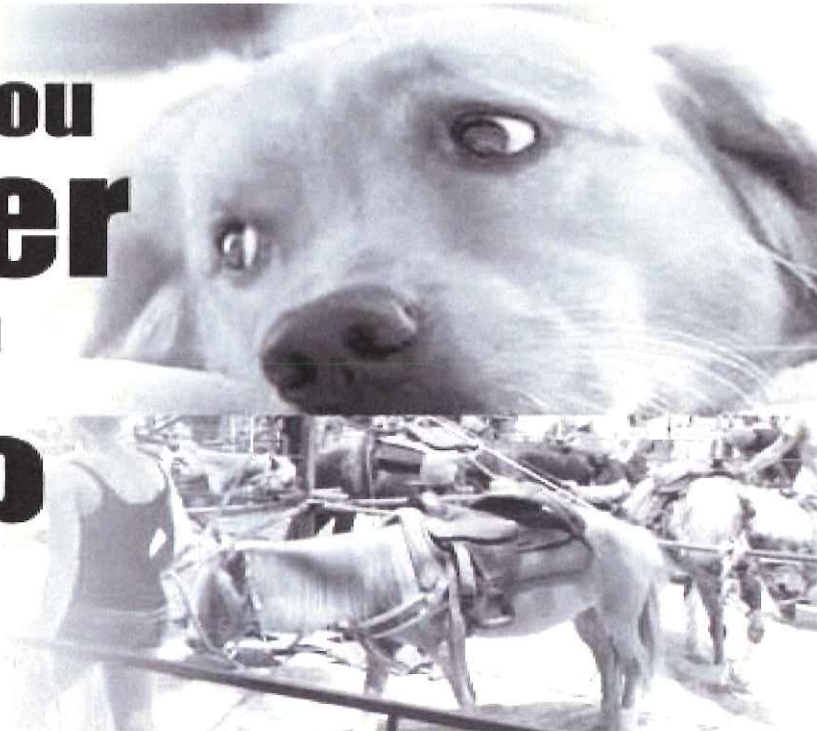


Animal Care Long Beach, has granted license to "Pa's Pumpkin Patch" to operate a carousel pony ride and a petting zoo in P.C.H. for many years. Ponies are tethered tightly to a turnstile and are forced to walk round and round for hours a day. These animals are also pretty stressed by the loud noises coming from cars and motorcycles circulating P.C.H. Quite a few cities and states have banned carousel pony rides such as Santa Monica, California; Miami Shores, Florida; Hollywood, Florida; Pamplona, Spain...The World Equine Organization has called for a complete ban of carousel pony rides. Here is what the main groups have to say about pony rides. From the ASPCA: "The ASPCA is opposed to the cruelty that is inherent in using either wild animals or livestock in unaccredited zoos, roadside menageries, petting zoos, game farms and the like, and in attractions such as elephant rides, camel rides, and llama and pony rides that either stand alone or are attached to such venues. Tethered tightly to turnstiles and forced to plod in endless circles, ponies can suffer from hoof ailments and are often left sore and chafed from ill-fitting equipment. Equines are specifically excluded from protection under the federal Animal Welfare Act, and if local or state authorities fail to intervene, the outcome can be deadly." About petting zoos: "The animals used in petting zoos are hauled around in tractor-trailers, confined to small pens and cages, and forced to interact with large crowds of people." From Green Mountain Animal Defenders: "Green Mountain Animal Defenders opposes the use of animals in any form of in which animals have no choice but to participate. The ponies are generally sent for slaughter or otherwise discarded when no longer profitable. Carousels with ponies are an outdated attraction that cause stress and suffering to the animals due to the noise and bustle of the fairs. In addition, they undergo mental and physical exhaustion caused by endless circling, and are also exposed to environmental conditions that can be extremely harsh."

Would you tether your dog?

Sign our petition at:

<https://freetheponies.org>



Not Always a Happy Ending

Let's take a moment to think about what happens to ponies when they get injured or are too old to travel and provide rides. What if a person decides they no longer want to run a pony ride business or are suddenly unable to? While a select few ponies may be lucky enough to end up at a nice sanctuary, the sad reality is many unwanted horses are euthanized, sold at auction or sent to a slaughterhouse overseas.

Promote Kindness and Respect

Our failure to recognize and appreciate animals as intelligent beings capable of pain and suffering is what allows exploitation to continue, and it won't stop until we take action. Partaking in pony rides or petting zoos is completely unnecessary, especially when there are plenty of other fun activities providing humane options for children to interact with wild animals. If you want to see horses or other animals, visit a reputable sanctuary that allows children to witness these beautiful creatures in their natural state. Help them understand the importance of treating all animals with respect and encourage participation in activities that help animals rather than harm them.

