



Florida Animal Control Association

Big Cat Rescue
c/o Jennifer Leon
12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625

March 20, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

The endorsement herein is the Florida Animal Control Association's [FACA] stated support for the proposed federal bill, the Big Cat Public Safety Act. FACA acknowledges that the private ownership of big cats, including lions and tigers, poses an unnecessary threat to the safety of first responders, including animal control officers. Recognizing that first responders may be called to mitigate incidents involving an escaped big cat or may respond to a nuisance call involving a big cat kept as a pet or at an unqualified roadside zoo - there is the potential for extraordinary risk to the safety and well being of the officer. The ownership of such animals should be restricted by the parameters outlined in the bill language.

We applaud Big Cat Rescue's efforts to introduce and pass the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which would end the ownership of big cats as pets and prohibit public handling. The Florida Animal Control Association [FACA] Board of Directors endorses the Big Cat Public Safety Act and encourages the bill's passage in this 116th session of Congress. The keeping of big cats, such as lions and tigers, as pets as well as public handling opportunities, pose a needless risk to the safety and wellbeing of the community and first responders.

FACA urges federal legislators to cosponsor the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Staton', is written over a horizontal line.

Kim Staton, President
Florida Animal Control Association