

USDA and State Licensed

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Pet Quality Exotic Specialists

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February 20, 2004

To: Phillip L Chao
Office of Policy & Planning
Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Mr. Chao I am writing in concern of the Food and Drug Administration ruling, (21 CFR Parts 16 and 1240 [Docket No. 2003N-0400] RIN 0910-ZA21). Also the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (42 CFR Part 71).

I feel that these two agencies may be using their power to halt the trade of exotic animals for personal biased reasons. I am friends with a responsible, exotic pet owner and I feel it is an individuals right to have exotic animals as a companion.

No one disputes the quality of a dog or cat as a pet, but a few. And it is the few activists whom set out to stop all animals as pets. With our world growing smaller each and every day, it is of the utmost importance that not only we learn to co-exist with all animals, but invite these animals into our lives to preserve their existence.

There has never been any publication comparing injuries/ fatalities/ disease transfer of "domestic pets" against "exotic pets", that I am aware. I feel that the domestic pets have caused more trauma than exotics. I feel that each person is very much different than the next as well as each pet is very much different.

I realize that exotic animal owners represent a small minority of pet owners, at just 72 million people Nation wide. But they should have the same rights to their pets as others. Mr. Chao it is your responsibility to make sure the government agencies involved does not make erratic, biased, decisions.

Best Regards,

Melonie Buchanan
Melonie L Buchanan

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