



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 647		DATE: 3/25/2021	
COMMITTEE: Rural Community Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:08 AM

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I am in Support of this Bill. Farms are the backbone of our Nation and State



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETSY FICKEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: whinwoof@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 9:16 AM
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I urge support of this common sense bill as animal were created to be used by man. People that use animals in their livelihoods and professions take care of them, as an untrigfty animal takes resource away from the care of healthy animals. Even though I am from out of state , this bill will affect me as precedence set to PROTECT legal animal ownership and use.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BJ TANKSLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1495	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 701 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-365-6113	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: A ZOO FOR YOU		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	
ADDRESS: 5995 HIGHWAY C			
CITY: BOURBON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65441
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GREG WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 618-406-3342	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOODY's MENAGERIE		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 68			
CITY: MULBERRY GROVE		STATE: IL	ZIP: 62262
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: HAYLEE HALE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-382-9592	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: 5-H RANCH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2325 COUNTY ROAD 618			
CITY: JACKSON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63755
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN STRANGE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2389	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FEDERATION OF ANIMAL OWNERS		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 554			
CITY: ELDON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65026
EMAIL: kjeeper@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:27 PM

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Animal rights activists are seeking to end all use of animals in any manner. We support laws to protect the use and enjoyment of animals in activities that are part of our national heritage.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MINDY PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-853-8193	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE CAVALRY GROUP		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 147			
CITY: GROVER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63040
EMAIL: mindy@thecavalrygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 7:46 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Testimony of Mindy Patterson, President and co-founder, The Cavalry Group in SUPPORT of HB647, the Working Animal Protection Act. March 25, 2021 Chairman Pollitt and Members of the Rural Community Development Committee: Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in support of HB647, the Working Animal Protection Act. My name is Mindy Patterson, and I am the co-founder and President of The Cavalry Group. For many years, I have worked closely with animal owners and businesses, including dog breeders, horse owners, circus entertainers, exotic animal owners and pet breeders, farmers, ranchers, and other animal related businesses. What I have witnessed in the past decade is nothing short of a transformation in the philosophy related to animal ownership by a small, vocal minority which is not rooted in the care or keeping of animals. Specifically, time-tested animal husbandry practices to ensure the health and safety of both people and animals have been redefined as "inhumane treatment of animals" by those who have an emotion-based agenda. This shift has emboldened government agencies and law makers to appeal to this nonscientific, inexperienced sentiment instead of time tested animal husbandry standards and best practices of animal owners and animal enterprise operators. The "Animal Rights Movement," an ideology and political agenda that has gradually gained a foothold in universities and government throughout the past 40 years. What was once a radical, ragtag group of extremists is now a multi-million dollar coalition of organizations that raise money under the guise of running pet shelters and ultimately, they spend that money on the promotion of unwarranted regulation on animal ownership and enterprise. Namely, these organizations are the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Reasons we SUPPORT HB647: The Cavalry Group has had a front row seat in witnessing the onslaught 62 animal exhibiting and transport bans negatively impacting county and state fairs and circuses, rodeos, and 14 horse-drawn carriage bans passing at the local city council or county council levels throughout the United States. Two of these local bans have already occurred right here in our state of Missouri. Local legislation banning working animals are destroying job opportunities and revenue that these exhibitors and businesses rely on to care and feed their working animals. This legislation came about as a means to slow down the animal rights activists' steam roller at the local level, preventing them from banning working animals used for the purpose of education, entertainment, and exhibition at the local level; thereby requiring the activists to take their ban to the Missouri state legislature. The state of Missouri already has statutes in place that govern safe and humane treatment and of animals. In addition, most exotic animal exhibitors are Class C licensed by the US Department of Agriculture, requiring regular and surprise inspections to ensure humane treatment of their animals. Eliminating access to exotic animals, educational animal exhibitors, carriage horses in urban settings, is that these opportunities provide affordable options for less fortunate and under privileged residents in Missouri to view and

experience these animals up close and personal. Reducing these opportunities to learn about, and interact with some of the world's most iconic animals would be fundamentally transforming our American culture and way of life. • It is imperative that Texans continue to foster appreciation and learning about working animals through licensed, regulated, safe and inspected traveling exhibits, zoo exhibits, rodeos, carriage horses, and more. • Exotic animal owners and exhibitors are providing an important link in protecting the survival of these species which are under attack or in some cases already extinct in their native environments. Traveling fairs and animal exhibits teach the importance of true conservation of species as these animals' native habitat is disappearing. • Today, we are facing the threat of extinction for a variety of animal species. Without providing exposure to them in local communities, many citizens will not be educated to understand the importance of conservation efforts underway to preserve at risk species. It is important to protect working animals and businesses at the local level by making it more difficult for the activists to ban them by forcing them to go through the state legislature. • It has become commonplace to believe that humane treatment is not exercised by caretakers of performing animals and exhibits, but that could not be further from the truth. Performing animals are well respected and are provided with a life full of excellent medical care, environmental stimulation, and top-notch husbandry practices all of which are already currently heavily regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Agenda-Driven Policy: Animal rights extremists have pushed for regulatory changes at the city council and county council levels in 29 states while achieving their goals. These bans and ordinances pushed by animal rights groups often mislead city and county council members, and the general public as to their actual effects and true impact on animal related businesses. Instead of using available data, facts and science, the activists prey on the emotions to influence passage of legislation using pictures and video of scenarios that are committed by a minority of animal owners who should be prosecuted using existing animal cruelty laws. The Animal rights organizations have chosen to the local level to pass legislation that begs the question of their genuine long-term intentions that include banning animal ownership and creating a meat free society. The regulations that come from their initiatives invariably have unintended consequences and hurt the very communities and citizens that they are intended to help. Performing animal exhibitions, exotic animal exhibitions, carriage horses, rodeos, service and ranching animals... ALL working animals that facilitate exposure and experience for all income level families, and if it were to disappear, it would take away the only human-animal contact, or exposure, to these amazing animals. Local ordinances banning any animal enterprise utilizing working animals in education, exhibition, and entertainment brings harm to the businesses, but also harms Missouri citizens without the financial capability to take advantage of options only available to the wealthiest, while ultimately advancing the extinction several species of exotic animals and animals in our lives. It is impossible for a person to learn about the need for conservation and protection of endangered animals by someone has never had experiences that these exhibitions provide.

Summary: While the animal rights activists and their ideology paint a frightening, emotional picture, the truth is that just because animal activists care about animals does not mean they know anything about animal care, or choose to recognize that the vast majority of owners are providing the best environment and care to the animals in their charge. Remember, these animals are their livelihood and as such, need to be healthy at all times. Those engaged in actual animal husbandry know far better how to care for animals than well-intentioned urban activists. We must allow time-tested practices to proceed free of interference from over-regulation and bans. Any ban on animals enables the animal rights agenda-driven policy to meet their goal to create a no animal-ownership society. This is not a contrived mission, but well documented in publications that are available from the HSUS, PETA and other animal rights organizations. There is no "crisis" in animal welfare to solve, and no data to support the need for HB647. There is only propaganda intended to harm the rights of citizens and to destroy viable law abiding businesses, as well as the future of animal ownership. We must protect true conservation of all animals through this means of public outreach in educational shows and exhibits, even horse carriage rides, which ultimately lead to their health and well-being in our society. We respectfully ask you, Chairman Pollitt and Members of the House Rural Community Development Committee to SUPPORT HB647 and allow for Missouri to lead the way in standing up for working animals and animal enterprise which is the cornerstone of our American way of life!

Respectfully,
Mindy Patterson
President
The Cavalry Group

The Cavalry Group is a member based company protecting and defending the Constitutional and private property rights of law abiding animal owners and animal-related businesses, nationwide. We defend our members against the onslaught of anti-private property and anti-agriculture animal rights activism in addition to challenging the infiltration of radical animal rights activism in government at the local, state, and federal levels.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MISSI FERGUSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-849-9891	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI HUNTING AND WORKING DOG ALLIANCE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 714			
CITY: WILLARD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65781
EMAIL: missiferguson91@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 8:20 AM	

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Our State Member Alliance is committed to the protection of Missouri's hunting and working dog heritage. We're made up of hunting and working dog enthusiasts, ranchers and outdoorsmen, many of whom use their dogs to aide them in making a living. We advocate for service dogs, search & rescue canines, detection dogs, military and law enforcement dogs, as well as herding, hunting and tracking dogs. The diversity of our member's dogs is as diverse as the tasks they perform on a daily basis right here in Missouri. Hunting and working dogs have been partners with humans since the dawn of existence and for many generations of Missouri hunters and ranchers. We still rely on them to help us survive in many ways-we hunt together to feed our families, they help us manage livestock herds and guard businesses, farms and families. These highly-regulated working dogs owners are increasingly targeted by Animal Rights groups at the State and Local level, who are dedicated to the destruction of ALL animal partnerships, by incrementally legislating us right out of business. And "Our Business" plays a vital role in Missouri Agriculture! Respectfully, Missi Ferguson Executive Director Missouri Hunting & Working Dog Alliance 417-849-9891



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NICK WITTIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-465-7125	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BARNYARD BUDDIES		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 18889 MARIES ROAD 505			
CITY: DIXON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65459
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA JO PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE RANEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: steph@smcpackaging.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 10:44 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY DUGGER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-259-1915	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PET BREEDERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 730 WEST MAIN STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: VICKI LANTZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-243-7862	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LAZY L SAFARI PARK, LLC		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 2763 COUNTY ROAD 618			
CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63701
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BOB BAKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-361-3944	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 300066			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH ORECK		PHONE NUMBER: 435-644-2001	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY		TITLE: NATIONAL MANAGER, PUPPY MILL INITIATIVES	
ADDRESS: 5001 ANGEL CANYON RD.			
CITY: KANAB		STATE: UT	ZIP: 84741
EMAIL: elizabetho@bestfriends.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/16/2021 2:54 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Honorable Chair Pollitt, Vice-Chair Sharpe and members of the Committee: On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our Missouri members, I respectfully off our concerns about House Bill 647, which could strip Missouri localities of their authority to regulate pet dealers. Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of retail pet stores, are cruel and inhumane breeding factories in which profit takes priority over the health, comfort and welfare of the animals. Although the USDA regulates most commercial breeders, the minimum federal standards do not ensure a safe or quality life for dogs. These types of kennels can legally have more than a thousand dogs in one facility, and those dogs are allowed to be confined to very small cages for their entire lives, breeding continuously in order to produce as many puppies as possible for the pet trade. And USDA inspection reports show that many USDA-licensed breeders continue to sell animals to local pet stores even after being cited for serious violations at their facilities. In other words, having a USDA license does not ensure responsible breeding. Pet stores rely on commercial pet mills and their distributors to supply their stores because reputable breeders won't sell to pet stores for two simple reasons: it's not financially viable and they don't sell to third parties. And this pledge never to sell a puppy to a pet store can be found in every reputable breeder's code of ethics, including virtually all of the parent breed clubs of the American Kennel Club. Because the focus is solely on profit, commercial breeding operations typically cut all possible corners to keep their overhead low, at the expense of the health and well-being of their animals. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a pet facing an array of immediate veterinary problems or harboring genetic diseases that surface down the line. This creates a financial burden on the consumer and can lead to animals being surrendered to overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters. Thus, this is not just an animal welfare issue but a consumer protection concern. Responsible breeders do not sell their animals in this manner. On the contrary, they encourage potential buyers to visit the home where the animals were bred, they conduct an interview to be sure the match is the best one for both the buyer and the animal, and they require a contract that requires the buyer to provide good care, to spay and neuter the animal, and to return him/her to the breeder if things don't work out. These sensible provisions do not apply when animals are sold through pet stores. It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs and cats while so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until states take the initiative to halt the supply of pets being imported from substandard commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths. Also concerning is the fact that 21 states have been hit by an outbreak linked to pet shop puppies. Those who benefit most from companion animal sales in pet stores are the retailers themselves. While they may profit from the practice of buying these pets at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them at a high

price (typically without first spaying or neutering them), it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and kill unwanted animals in the community. Pet stores that sell commercially bred pets can choose to be part of the solution rather than the problem by phasing out the sale of animals in favor of other common, profitable revenue streams such as pet product sales, grooming and day care, and by offering space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from those stores, as so many pet stores across the country already do, very successfully. Pet stores that have transitioned from selling companion animals to offering rescued pets for adoption have found this humane model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Therefore, allowing localities to regulate pet dealers would not prevent pet stores from doing business, but would alleviate a significant burden on Missouri's shelters and rescue groups by increasing pet adoptions. Further, it would not prevent anyone from purchasing a pet directly from a private breeder. Nearly 400 cities, counties and states have enacted retail pet sales legislation in order to effectively address the problem of puppy and kitten mills from the point of sale. While statewide commercial breeding regulation is important, it should not preclude localities from taking even more stringent steps to eliminating the puppy and kitten mill problem in their own communities. Allowing businesses that profit from the sale of puppies from mills to determine how localities choose to regulate their businesses is not in the best interest of those communities, nor of the state. Best Friends and our Missouri members, supporters and partners thank you in advance for your careful consideration, and we urge you to oppose House Bill 647. Respectfully, Elizabeth Oreck National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives Best Friends Animal Society bestfriends.org/puppymills



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE BARDGETT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760	
REPRESENTING: THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jacque@bardgett.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 12:37 AM

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The City of St. Louis opposes HB 647 and HB 841 because they would prohibit any form of regulation to ensure the health and safety of both the public as well as the working animals. For example, regulations outlining operating hours for horse carriages in the City of St. Louis ensure horse carriages are not operating on heavily trafficked streets in downtown St. Louis during rush hour which protect others on the road, pedestrians, carriage riders, and the carriage horses. Without regulation in the past, the City of St. Louis has seen some unfortunate situations unfold that resulted in the deaths of carriage horses and injuries sustained by carriage customers and the public. Without some reasonable regulations the City of St. Louis, the public, and good operators are all susceptible to frivolous lawsuits.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLI ZUG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kthisgirlsgotit@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2021 7:44 AM

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I am curious about the information and legislation being discussed. Thanks, Have a Great Day ! Kelli Zug