

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5909

To promote public safety and improve the welfare of captive big cats, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2006

Mr. RYUN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and
Mr. MOORE of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To promote public safety and improve the welfare of captive
big cats, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “Haley’s Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. BIG CATS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Animal Welfare
7 Act (7 U.S.C. 2132) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following new subsections:

1 “(p) The term ‘big cat’ means any live species of lion,
2 tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar or any hybrid
3 of such species.

4 “(q) The term ‘direct contact’ means any situation
5 in which an individual may potentially touch or otherwise
6 come into physical contact with any live specimen of a spe-
7 cies.”.

8 (b) APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAW.—Section 3 of
9 such Act (7 U.S.C. 2133) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following: “The Secretary may deny or revoke a
11 license based on a recommendation from the appropriate
12 State or local officials with jurisdiction over captive wild-
13 life.”

14 (c) PUBLIC SAFETY.—Section 13(a)(2) of such Act
15 (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the final
19 period and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21 paragraph:

22 “(C) to provide for public safety.”.

23 (d) INCREASED FINES.—Section 19 of such Act (7
24 U.S.C. 2149) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in the first sentence, by striking
2 “\$2,500” and inserting “\$10,000”; and

3 (B) in the seventh sentence, by striking
4 “\$1,500” and inserting “\$5,000”; and

5 (2) in subsection (d) in the first sentence, by
6 striking “\$2,500” and inserting “\$10,000”.

7 (e) PROHIBITION ON DIRECT CONTACT WITH BIG
8 CATS.—Such Act is further amended by adding at the end
9 the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 30. PROHIBITION ON DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN**
11 **PUBLIC AND BIG CATS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), it shall
13 be unlawful for an exhibitor or dealer licensed by the Sec-
14 retary under this Act to allow direct contact between a
15 big cat and a member of the public.

16 “(b) EXCEPTION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not
18 apply to an exhibitor that is a zoo, as determined by
19 the Secretary.

20 “(2) CONSIDERATION OF ACCREDITATION.—In
21 determining whether an exhibitor is a zoo under
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

23 “(A) whether the exhibitor is accredited
24 by, and in good standing with, the Association
25 of Zoos and Aquariums; and

1 “(B) whether the exhibitor operates with
2 sufficient regard for public safety.”.

3 (f) REGULATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Agriculture shall issue regulations pursu-
7 ant to section 21 of the Animal Welfare Act (7
8 U.S.C. 2151) to implement the amendments made
9 by this Act.

10 (2) RESTRICTION ON LICENSES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
12 culture may not grant a license under section 3
13 of such Act to a dealer or exhibitor that pos-
14 sesses or intends to possess a big cat until the
15 regulations described in paragraph (1) have
16 been issued.

17 (B) EXCEPTION.—The restriction de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to
19 the renewal of an existing license.

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