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### **REXANO, Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership, statement regarding the escapes of chimpanzees in Las Vegas**

The recent chimpanzee escapes generated lot of media attention regarding the public safety in regard to the exotic animal ownership. The rarity of the exotic animal incidents makes them sensational, aka, newsworthy.

However, the simple reality is that only one person died in Nevada since 1990 due to exotic animal attack, (tiger trainer, aka occupational hazard, not a public safety risk) that is 0.045 person per year. For comparison 250-400 people die yearly in NV in traffic accidents, 5 thousand of heart diseases, almost 500 by suicide and around 450 by flu and pneumonia. Dogs killed more people in recent years in NV than exotics have in last 22 years.

Nevada is one of few freedom loving states with no outright ban on the private ownership of many exotics; however counties and cities already have existing regulations in place.

Nevada is a unique state with a mix of tourist attracting, huge revenue generating freedoms not enjoyed by other states: regulated gambling, prostitution, guns and exotic animals.

With almost 39 million visitors in 2011 and 2 million residents in Las Vegas metropolitan area, the exotic animal ownership has a safety record any industry would be proud of. The rare but high profile big cat incidents harmed the owners and trainers (aka occupational hazard), but not the public or tourists.

If Senator Michael Roberson, R-Clark County, is truly worried about public health and safety and economy, he should concentrate on real issues, instead of introducing unneeded, tax payers' money wasting, job killing, exotic animal bans.

Few months ago, the governor of West Virginia vetoed an unfair exotic animal ban due to funding and state fiscal issues. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, July 20, 2012 news release, United States unemployment rate is 8.2%, West Virginia's 7.0% and Nevada's 11.6%.

In April 2012, a 1 year old child was killed by a dog in Roberson's district. The dog Onion is still alive, wasting taxpayers' money waiting for the Nevada Supreme Court to decide his fate. The city was expected to euthanize Onion, in accordance with its vicious dog ordinance, why isn't the existing law enforced?

Any legislator that worries more about non existing, but media grabbing, exotic animal issues needs to be voted out of office. We need fiscally responsible legislators that truly care about the real issues that actually improve the safety, well being and health of the residents of Nevada, instead of wasting taxpayers' money and time on sensational monkey business.

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