



Kane County Animal Control Statement on ‘Bengal Tiger Encounter’ Exotic Animal Act at Kane County Fair

June 23, 2021 - Kane County Animal Control (KCAC) Director Brett Youngsteadt released a statement today saying the county does not have the authority to prohibit a Bengal Tiger Encounter act at this year’s Kane County Fair, but KCAC will strictly enforce state and local statutes regarding the humane care and treatment of animals.

Youngsteadt said KCAC has received numerous comments about the Bengal Tiger Encounter show set to take place July 14 to July 18, 2021, at the Kane County Fair.

“Kane County Animal Control takes animal care and safety very seriously,” Youngsteadt said. “We will ensure that every animal act that comes through this county is treated humanely. We will conduct a thorough inspection of everything -- animals and enclosures included -- as soon as they arrive in Kane County and continue to monitor them while they are in our jurisdiction.”

The Bengal Tiger Encounter is booked by the Kane County Fair Board of Directors and operated by Variety Attractions, the talent buyer of record for 350 acts nationwide.

KCAC has the authority to ensure that all acts follow the laws set forth by the state (510 ILCS 70/1 Humane Care for Animal Act) and county (Chapter 5 of the county code section 5-16 Prohibited Animals).

Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog emphasized that the Kane County Fair is not affiliated in any way with Kane County government.

“KCAC does not have the authority to stop an act like this from performing in our county, as we are non-home ruled,” she said. “This decision would have to be made at the state level to change the authority given to the counties. We recommend reaching out to your local state representative to let them know your concerns so we can see this change made statewide.

“We too care very much about these animals and will continue to ensure that anyone that comes through Kane County treats all animals with the utmost care.”

For more information about Kane County Animal Control, visit KaneCountyPets.com

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