

Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA)
Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)

Invite you to attend a Congressional Briefing:
Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act

September 20, 2012
4:00PM- 4:30pm
2261 Rayburn House Office Building

This will be a widely attended event.

Speakers:

Actress Tippi Hedren

President and Founder of the Roar Foundation
Famous Actress in Alfred Hitchcock movies

Muskingum County Sheriff Matt Lutz

Sheriff of Zanesville, Ohio, led the local law enforcement direct response when a backyard exotic animal owner took his own life just after releasing the 38 big cats and other dangerous exotics he had been keeping on his farm.

Jeffrey Flocken

D.C. Director- International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Nancy Blaney

Federal Policy Advisor- Animal Welfare Institute

Nicole Paquette

Deputy Director for Programs and Policy- Humane Society of United States (HSUS)

Adam Roberts

Executive Vice President- Born Free USA

About:

We are approaching the one-year anniversary of the unforgettable Zanesville, Ohio tragedy when a backyard exotic animal owner took his own life just after releasing the 38 big cats and other dangerous exotics he had been keeping on his farm.

An alarming number of wild cats have been bred and sold as domestic pets in the U.S. This trend threatens public safety and often results in the mistreatment of these animals.

Currently, only 27 states have laws prohibiting private possession of big cats, and the remaining states have weak or no laws in existence. H.R. 4122, a bi-partisan bill, addresses how private

possession of lions, tigers and other dangerous big cats, threatens public safety, diminishes global big cat conservation efforts, and leads to grave maltreatment of these iconic species.

H.R. 4122, The Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act, would prohibit private possession of big cats except at highly-qualified facilities, like accredited zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, where they can be properly cared for and restrained. Also, since nobody, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), state agencies, or local first responders, knows exactly how many dangerous big cats are being kept in private hands, under what conditions, and in what locations, the bill would require any persons who currently possess big cats to register those animals with USDA in order to keep the cats they currently own. The bill would also outlaw the breeding of any big cat except at accredited zoos and research and educational institutions.

To RSVP or for further questions, contact Oscar.Urteaga@mail.house.gov (Rep. McKeon) at 202-225-1956, or Melanie.Abe@mail.house.gov (Rep. Loretta Sanchez) at 202-225-2965.

