

**LOS ANGELES  
EQUINE  
ADVISORY  
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5<sup>th</sup> District: David Ramey, DVM  
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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



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Mayor's Office: Scott Perez

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February 10, 2022

**Concessions Taskforce of the Park Commission;**

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee would like to add its voice of support to the continued operation of the Griffith Park pony rides. Pony rides allow children of all ages to interact with large animals, an opportunity that is becoming increasingly rare in today's urban societies. Ponies benefit from the care and compassion that they receive. People benefit from the opportunity to interact with the gentle, patient animals.

Of course, any animal used in service of people must be kept humanely, and their welfare must be ensured. In that regard, we support recommendations made to the City about veterinary care, in the "Griffith Park Pony Rides Policies and Practices Report to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Los Angeles," December 8, 2021, submitted by Rachael Sachar, DVM, as well as the letter submitted to the concessionaire, Mr. Steven Weeks, on January 26, 2022, by Ms. Rachel Ramos, Concessions manager.

LAEAC member Gene Gilbert visited the pony rides on January 30, 2022, and found the ponies to be to be alert, sheltered, well nourished, well-groomed, and with their hooves trimmed (in accordance with previous visits that she has made). She also was in contact with the pony ride operator, Mr. Steven Weeks, on February 6, 2022, where she thanked him for the in-depth response to the veterinary report commissioned by the City.

We appreciate the opportunity to advise the City Council and are honored to be able to provide input on equestrian matters for the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

David W. Ramey, DVM  
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee



Cc.

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