

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 3281

By: Humphrey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to animals; creating the Endangered Ark Foundation Preservation Act; providing purpose; defining terms; exempting certain acts from cruelty to animals; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1685.2 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Endangered Ark Foundation Preservation Act".

B. The purpose of this act is to preserve the safety, health, and well-being of elephants in Oklahoma.

C. As used in the Endangered Ark Foundation Preservation Act:

1. "Free contact" means the use of tools and techniques such as a guide and tether to help elephants cope with certain conditions or as necessary during intensive procedures associated with treating chronic illnesses or animal reproduction; and

1        2. "Protected contact" means the contact between elephant and  
2 handler through a barrier such as a chute or an elephant restraint  
3 device.

4        D. It shall not be considered cruelty to animals as provided in  
5 Section 1685 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes for licensed  
6 operators of a nonprofit entity caring for elephants to practice  
7 free contact and protected contact.

8        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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