

Executive Summary

Call for a ban on wild and exotic animal acts

The Ottawa Humane Society, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and a committee of concerned citizens are currently campaigning to achieve legislation in the amalgamated City of Ottawa to prohibit the use of wild and exotic animals in entertainment. Similar legislation currently exists in more than 25 municipalities across Canada.

Issues of public safety and health

Several issues concerning public safety and health surround the circus. Worldwide since 1990, there have been over 50 deaths and 100 injuries due to captive elephants attacks, 36 deaths and 100 injuries due to captive feline attacks, and 13 deaths and 30 injuries due to captive bear attacks. Further, it has been shown that some circus elephants are either infected with or are carriers of tuberculosis, a contagious disease that affects elephants, other animals, and humans.

Lack of current legislation to protect performing animals

According to Ontario's Municipal Act, Ottawa City Council has the authority to create a by-law that would prohibit the use of live animals in entertainment venues. At present, no provincial or federal laws specifically protect performing animals. The Criminal Code of Canada is often cited by circus proponents as being sufficient to protect the interests of performing animals, but it has limitations and is generally ineffective in dealing with problems relating to the care, housing and training of performing animals.

According to former animal trainers, training methods used on performing animals are cruel and inhumane. One former trainer insists that to "get an animal to perform on cue requires cruelty." When the animals are not being trained or transported, they can be confined to cages, chained or otherwise tethered 90% of the time. Lions, tigers, leopards, bears, chimpanzees, orangutans and many other animals are routinely kept in carts (also known as beast wagons), devoid of stimulation.

Recent action to ban wild and exotic animal acts

Recently, in a much-publicized case in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, the George Cardin Circus was charged by the Newfoundland and Labrador SPCA with causing five bears to "suffer undue privation and neglect in cages that were too small." Mount Pearl has now banned performing animal acts. The poor living conditions of circus animals prompted the province of Nova Scotia to implement circus regulations. As of May 2000, circuses may no longer bring bears or non-human primates into the province and elephants must have suitable housing and cannot be tethered. Public elephant rides are also prohibited.

Supporting organizations

Many animal welfare and animal protection groups across Canada, the United States, and Europe support the banning of performing animals in entertainment venues. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies is “opposed to the use of animals, wild by nature, in all forms of entertainment and advocates for legislation or regulations at the municipal and/or provincial level to prohibit the use of animals in the circus.” The Ontario SPCA “strongly recommends the banning of the use of animals in circuses, traveling menageries and wild animal acts” and states that “animals must not be kept in traveling cages when not traveling.” The Ottawa Humane Society “is opposed to the use of animals in all forms of entertainment which may cause them to suffer and recommends the banning of the use of animals in circuses.”

Conclusion

It is time that the City of Ottawa follows in the footsteps of other progressive Canadian municipalities and enacts legislation to ban wild and exotic animal acts.

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Section 1: Current situation

Why Canadian law doesn't protect performing animals

At present, no provincial or federal laws specifically protect performing animals. The Criminal Code of Canada is often cited by circus proponents as being sufficient to protect the interests of performing animals, but it has serious limitations and is generally ineffective in dealing with problems relating to the care, housing and training of performing animals.

Provincial SPCA legislation is also inadequate. Many SPCAs are reluctant to proceed with legal action because the commitment of labour and finances will impact their existing animal programs. In addition, few SPCAs have in-house expertise regarding captive wildlife husbandry and related issues. Finally, SPCAs find it very difficult to respond meaningfully to complaints about cruelty at the circus because of the very short time within which a circus stays in a given jurisdiction. The lack of legislation at the federal and provincial levels of government and the difficulties faced by SPCAs in investigating cruelty complaints have resulted in many municipalities enacting their own exotic animal and/or performing animal by-laws.

Areas that have banned performing animal acts

The following jurisdictions have banned or severely restricted exotic animal acts:

Canada	British Columbia: 18 municipal jurisdictions, including the City of Burnaby, Chilliwack, the City of Coquitlam, Cowichan, the municipality of Delta, Kamloops, Kelowna, the township of Langley, the regional district of Nanaimo, the municipality of New Westminister, the district of North Vancouver, the districts of Parksville, Saanich, and Salmon Arm, the municipality of Surrey, and the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. Newfoundland: jurisdiction of Mount Pearl Nova Scotia: five municipal jurisdictions: the municipality of Argyle and the towns of Bridgewater, Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth Ontario: jurisdiction of Cobourg Quebec: two Montreal suburbs: Ville St Laurent and Mount Royal
United States	Collinsville, Illinois; Hollywood, Florida; Lauderdale lakes, Florida; Quincy, Massachusetts; Revere, Massachusetts; Tacoma Park, Maryland. Note that many US municipal jurisdictions have prohibitions against certain types of animal performances, like bear wrestling, mule diving, elephant rides, etc. These have not been listed.

Britain	Bans are in effect in over 160 municipalities including Barnsley, Blackpool, Birmingham City, Bournemouth, Cardiff (Wales), Cambridge, Coventry, Derby, Dover, Dunbarton (Scotland), Eastbourne, Exeter, Lancaster, Liverpool, Maidenhead, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Yeomouth, York...
Australia	<p>Western Australia: Fourteen municipal jurisdictions including Armadale, Bayswater, Cambridge, Cockburn, Denmark, Fremantle, Kalamunda, Mosman Park, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove, South Perth, Swan, Victoria Park, Vincent.</p> <p>South Australia: Tea Tree Gully</p> <p>New South Wales Eight municipal jurisdictions, including Blue Mountains, Hornsby, Liverpool, Manly, Newcastle, Pittwater, Warringah, Woollahra</p> <p>Australian Capital Territory: The entire territory is subject to a ban.</p>
DENMARK	Full country ban
Finland	Full country ban
India	Full country ban
Norway	Full country ban
Singapore	Full country ban
Sweden	Full country ban
Switzerland	Full country ban

Section 2: Public health & safety

Public Health Risks: Tuberculosis

A serious public health risk associated with animals in traveling circuses hit the headlines in August 1996 in the United States. At that time, two elephants named Joyce and Hattie, owned by John Cuneo of Hawthorn Corporation, collapsed and died within three days of one another from a strain of tuberculosis that is transmissible to humans. As of early 1997, officials of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that fourteen of 18 elephants owned by Hawthorn Corp. tested positive for TB.

Necropsy reports showed that Joyce and Hattie had only 10 to 20 percent functioning lung tissue when they died, yet they were still made to perform close to the time of their deaths. Photographs obtained by Zoocheck Canada from The Elephant Alliance of California show two *severely* emaciated elephants five months before they died. Hawthorn animals are well traveled throughout North America as that corporation is in the business of renting animals to circuses and shows. Joyce and Hattie were traveling with Circus Vargas at the time of their deaths.

Source: www.zoocheck.com

THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

In Canada, the Garden Bros. Circus, which operates throughout central and eastern Canada, has toured with Hawthorn elephants, as recently as 1994 according to a City of Toronto Animal Control circus inspection report. That same year, the *Toronto Sun* newspaper featured a photograph on March 2 (p. 17) of a “30-year-old Asian elephant” named “Joyce” giving a ride to an eight-year-old Brampton child as the elephant was being unloaded for the Garden Bros. Circus performance at the SkyDome in Toronto.

Elephants named Joyce and Hattie appear on government import documents linking Hawthorn or Circus Vargas, one of the circuses to which Hawthorn leases elephants, to Garden Bros. Circus.

Environment Canada, the government agency responsible for issuing import and export permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), issued a permit to Hawthorn authorizing entry to Joyce and Hattie, as well as Nicholas, from November 18, 1994 to November 17, 1997.

The permit contains a special condition regarding Nicholas. Since he was unable to be certified pre-convention, nor was he captive-bred in accordance with the convention, Nicholas is only authorized to be temporarily imported for personal, non-profit purposes. Under no circumstances is he to be used in any circus activity while in Canada. Permission is said to be granted so as not to separate the elephant group touring in Canada.

Interestingly, a Hawthorn elephant named Nicholas was recently barred entry to Puerto Rico by officials there due to exposure to tuberculosis.

In the 1970s, Garden Bros. Circus was granted a permit valid through to Sept. 30, 1988 to import into Canada yet another Hawthorn elephant named Liz. A Hawthorn elephant by

the same name was barred entry into the State of Florida under court order in October 1996 after health officials learned that she and another elephant had been exposed to tuberculosis. *www.zoocheck.com*

HOW SERIOUS IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK?

The word *zoonoses* refers to those diseases, illnesses and infestations, which are naturally transmitted between vertebrate non-human animals and people. This definition applies to both those conditions acquired by non-human animals from people, as well as those acquired by people from non-human animals. According to The American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), in their publication *Zoonotic Diseases* (1990), of the 200 known zoonotic diseases, tuberculosis is one of several persistent infections that continue to pose a threat to humans.

The strain of tuberculosis involved in the Hawthorn animals, mycobacterium tuberculosis, *is* contagious to humans. Following interviews on the subject with Florida health officials, *Northwest Florida News* reporter Pam Golden said, “Adults are not particularly susceptible -- only five out of 100 exposed would be likely to contract it. Children, however, are more susceptible and, if they contract it and it goes untreated, they could develop tubercular meningitis.”

According to news reports, one Hawthorn elephant trainer tested positive to TB and was placed on a standard 6 month TB treatment program. Testing positive doesn't necessarily mean the person or animal has active TB. The disease could be dormant in the body, and thus, would not be infectious. The entire Hawthorn herd of elephants is being treated with anti-tuberculin medication as a preventive measure.

The AAZK takes zoonotic disease, including tuberculosis, seriously, setting out a preventive medicine program to protect human health, both employee and public. AAZK guidelines include 1. pre-employment physicals for staff, 2. annual health status reviews, 3. protocols for coordination of administration, attending physicians and zoo and aquarium veterinarians during a disease outbreak, 4. prophylactic rabies vaccinations, 5. Annual or semiannual fecal examinations, 6. annual collection of reference serum, 7. limiting contact between high risk personnel and certain at-risk animals, 8. counselling of pregnant workers, and 9. collection of appropriate medical reference material.

With specific reference to tuberculosis, the AAZK preventive medicine program recommends that “All zoo and aquarium employees in contact with animals or animal waste should be skin tested at least once and preferably twice annually. Employees in high-risk areas should be tested every six months. All positive reactors to the skin test should be x-rayed.”

A January 1997 edition of *PULSE*, a publication of the Southern California Veterinary Medicine Association, warns that clinical diagnosis of TB is usually only possible after the disease is advanced, and individuals have become “shedders of the agent”. Arguably, health officials have a strong obligation to act forcefully and speedily against the owner of sick animals, even those who don't exhibit observable signs of the disease, to keep those who have been exposed to it away from others.

In fact, public health officials have responded to the threat of TB in circus animals with swift action. As indicated earlier, some animals have been refused entry. In October

1996, Florida state health officials believed the public health threat from two Hawthorn elephants exposed to TB, Loda and Liz, was significant enough to warrant a court order. The order, granted by Okaloosa County Acting Circuit Judge Keith Brace, barred the two Hawthorn elephants from coming into Florida as part of the Walker Brothers Circus. The *Northwest Florida News* (Oct. 24, 1996) quoted Dr. James Howell, a Florida state health officer, as saying that one of the two elephants showed positive to a skin test for tuberculosis.

Puerto Rican officials barred another Hawthorn elephant, Nicholas, from entering the country, detaining him at the airport at the point of departure. Nicholas was scheduled to give rides to Puerto Rican children according to a news article in the *Chicago Tribune* (Feb. 6, 1997). Nicholas also tested positive for TB. Ron DeHaven of the USDA said that Cuneo moved Nicholas “despite the fact that it had not completed a recommended treatment protocol for tuberculosis” (*Northwest Herald*, Feb. 8, 1997). The U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended Hawthorn's license to exhibit animals for 21 days investigating possible animal welfare violations.

Hawthorn elephants have been in the news before. Tyke, the elephant who went berserk in Honolulu in 1994 during a circus performance, killing her trainer, was owned by Hawthorn. In 1978, an elephant owned by John Cuneo performing in Chicago with the Shrine Circus killed his trainer (*Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 6, 1997). The company has been fined previously for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

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Safety risks

Public safety is jeopardized when wild animals, subjected to difficult living and travel conditions, are allowed to perform in close proximity to the public, without adequate caging, stand-off barriers, and appropriate emergency equipment and protocols.

Wild animals can be unpredictable; their natural, instinctive behaviours can surface at any time. Those that may not have been evident before may suddenly appear. The danger can be reduced, but it can never be totally eliminated.

According to elephant trainers Alan Roocroft and Donald Atwell Zoll in their book *Managing Elephants, An Introduction to Their Training and Management*, approximately 100 deaths have occurred in circus and zoos since 1980 due to elephant attacks, while another 50 or so injury-causing incidents occur annually in North America. As well, each year a number of elephants are destroyed because they have been deemed too dangerous to work with.

Roocroft and Atwell Zoll go on to say that “the elephant, due to size and strength, is in a way the least forgiving animal to work with; a fleeting lack of vigilance or judgment may bring on dire consequences, even if the elephant's disobedience is no more intense than that of a testy horse”.

Despite safety concerns, circuses and other traveling shows continue to allow elephants and other potentially dangerous animals to perform in front of the public with few safety

precautions. As an added revenue generator, many shows even offer animal rides to the public.

Circuses, when confronted with safety concerns, often respond by pointing to other dangerous activities in which we engage, such as driving. The fundamental difference, of course, is that driving is a necessity in many ways, whereas circus performances are purely entertainment, and safer alternatives are readily available.

Many of the animal acts featured in foreign circuses also tour or are contracted for performances in Canada. With virtually no restrictions on the entry of animals into Canada, many acts criss-cross the border at will. Animals that have proven dangerous in other jurisdictions may become featured performers during circus tours in Canada.

Animal handlers routinely claim their wild/exotic animals are always under control, yet numerous instances of animals reacting in an unanticipated manner have been documented, many with tragic consequences.

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Danger at the circus: Performing animal incident report 2000–2001

September 18, 2001/ Australia

Fifteen people needed hospital treatment after circus director Roman Zinnecker allegedly used elephants to trample protesters outside his big top. (Ananova 09/01)

August 14, 2001/Chile

A circus lion bit the arm of a drunken man named Carlos Ferrara who boasted to friends he would talk to the animals. Mr. Ferrara spent two weeks in hospital recovering. (Ananova 08/01)

August 12, 2001/Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Two lions mauled trainer Geoffrey Lennon during a performance of the Lennon Brothers Circus. Lennon received bites and gashes to his chest, back, buttocks and thighs requiring surgery. (AR News 08/01)

February 22, 2001/Moscow, RUSSIA

An elephant crushed its trainer, Alexander Terekhov, to death after a performance at Durov's Little Corner, a small animal theatre in Moscow. Interfax news agency said ambulance workers confirmed the incident. (Reuters 02/01)

December 30, 2000/Frankfurt, GERMANY

A tiger stopped rush-hour traffic on Germany's busiest motorway for more than two hours before he was recaptured. Sahib, a young male weighing more than 150 kilograms, ran away from a nearby circus and caused a 20 kilometer traffic jam as more than 50 police, firemen and animal handlers tried to catch him. (Globe & Mail, 12/00)

December 15, 2000/New Delhi, INDIA

A 20 year old female circus artist was mauled to death by three tigers during a performance in which the tigers were required to jump over her and through a ring. (Reuters, 12/00)

August 7, 2000/Sao Simao, BRAZIL

Six lions escaped from a circus and caused panic in the Brazilian town of Sao Simao and injured a horse before they were shot dead. (Reuters, 08/00)

April 25, 2000/Jomtiem, THAILAND

A male elephant killed a tourist when the elephant charged the crowd during a show. (PA News e-mail, 04/00)

April 10, 2000/Recife, BRAZIL

Five circus lions killed a six-year-old boy after one grabbed him from his father's hand and dragged him into the cage. Police sprayed the top of the cage with machine-gun fire, killing four lions and injuring two people. A worker with the 'Vostek Circus' told reporters that the lions had not been fed for several days. (Toronto Star, 04/00)

April 2000/Bangkok, THAILAND

A 20-year-old British woman was trampled and gored to death by an elephant at a resort show. Her father and sister were also injured when they tried to rescue her., a puma attacked a woman at the same resort. (Earth Island Institute e-mail, 05/00)

April 2000/Yucca Valley, California, USA

An elephant with the 'Culpepper and Merriweather Circus' escaped from its pen and ran amuck through the desert community after stepping on a ticket-taker. After the elephant was recaptured, three circus horses got loose but were quickly returned to their pens. (Earth Island Institute e-mail, 04/00)

March 2000/Bangkok, THAILAND

A woman was attacked by a puma at a seaside resort and sustained an injury to her arm. (Earth Island Institute e-mail, 05/00)

February 2000/Kent, UNITED KINGDOM

A zookeeper was crushed to death by an elephant at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Hythe, Kent. It was understood that the animal fell on top of him. (Weekly Telegraph, 02/00)

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Section Three: Training methods and tools

Trainers generally deny that they abuse their animals. They say that their animals are a substantial financial investment for them, and abuse would jeopardize that investment. Alternately, they claim that the animals are their friends and they wouldn't hurt them. They also say that it would be dangerous for trainers to aggravate wild animals through harsh training methods because they have to get into the ring with them. These claims are both erroneous and contradictory.

The performance is what makes the animal valuable to the trainer. If a large financial investment has been made and the animal doesn't perform, the trainer has a strong incentive to use harsher methods to "make" the animal perform. A non-performing animal is a liability.

For decades, performing animal trainers have been consistently accused of cruelty to animals. According to former Hollywood animal trainer Pat Derby, "To get an animal to perform on cue requires cruelty." Derby points out that "[a] bear doesn't want to waltz." During her career, she has witnessed "elephants being beaten and electro shocked in the vagina, ears, mouth anus; bears' noses broken and their feet burned, and big cats being struck with wooden bats". Reports of such brutal behaviour, while shocking, are, unfortunately, not unusual.

While many animal handlers now claim to use more humane methods of training, harsh training methods are still often used to control animals and coerce them into performing tricks, according to primatologist Dr. Anne Russon: "Although trainers may focus on positive reinforcement, there are times when they must reassert [a] dominance-dependence relationship either by physical threat or aggression against the animal, by social isolation, or by further restricting their freedom."

While training methods in some situations have shown improvements over the years, abusive techniques are still relatively common. Because the training and disciplining of performing animals occurs away from public scrutiny, harsh methods continue to be employed. (www.zoocheck.com)

The bullhook: the primary elephant training tool

The bullhook is a tool used to punish and control elephants. It is also called an ankus, elephant goad, or elephant hook. The handle is made of wood, metal, plastic, or fiberglass, and has a sharp steel hook at one end. Its shape resembles a boat hook or fireplace poker. Some bullhooks have long, "shepherd's crook" cane-style handles, allowing the trainer a firmer grip so that greater force can be exerted while pulling and yanking the hook deeper into the elephant's flesh.

Both ends inflict damage. The trainer uses the hook to apply varying degrees of pressure to sensitive spots on the elephant's body, causing the elephant to move away from the source of discomfort. Holding the hooked end, the handle is swung like a baseball bat and induces substantial pain when the elephant is struck on the wrist, ankle, and other areas where there is little tissue between skin and bone. (www.circuses.com)

THE PACHYDERM'S EPIDERMIS

The thickness of an elephant's skin ranges from one inch across the back and hindquarters to paper-thin around the mouth and eyes, inside the ears, and at the anus. Their skin appears deceptively tough, but in reality it is so delicate that an elephant can feel the pain of an insect bite. A bullhook can easily inflict pain and injury on an elephant's sensitive skin. Trainers often embed the hook in the soft tissue behind the ears, inside the ear or mouth, in and around the anus, and in tender spots under the chin and around the feet.

San Jose, Calif., humane inspectors found that seven Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephants "had injuries behind or on the back of their left ears. Some of the elephants had scars behind their left ears. Almost all of the injuries appeared to be fresh, with bright red blood present at the wound sites." These bloody wounds were likely caused by the bullhook. In fact, Ringling opposes a proposed U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy that states, "An ankus may not be used in an abusive manner that causes wounds or other injuries." Former Ringling employee Glen Ewell said that beating elephants with bullhooks was a normal routine and that "Ringling even employs a guy to use some special powder to stop up the bleeding when an elephant is hooked too hard. They call it 'spot work.'"

USDA inspectors noted and described bullhook wounds on Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus elephants: "Helen and Bessie both have several white circular inactive ankus scars. Bessie has white circular inactive ankus scars under her chin, on the neck, and dorsal areas. Helen also has the same type of scars behind her right eye and at the dorsal right ear. She also has two longitudinal scars on her tail. ... Two of the six elephants had obvious hook mark wounds on their rear legs. Some hook marks were also observed under the jaw of one elephant. ...[F]our of the six elephants were observed with what appears to be hook marks. These wounds were small in size, round, some were healing, while others were red in appearance. These wounds were present on rear legs, above tails, and on [the] back of front legs."

Within hours of being punctured by a bullhook, a welt or boil may erupt. The wound may grow larger if it becomes infected.

SHOW TIME

While performing in the ring, an elephant responds to verbal commands from a trainer carrying a bullhook and moderate pressure from the bullhook because the elephant has been conditioned through violent training sessions that refusal to obey in the ring will result in subsequent punishment. Moments before entering the ring, while out of public view, trainers may give the elephants a few painful whacks to remind them who's boss and ensure that the elephants perform the specified tricks on command.

Because a dispirited elephant submits to a dominant trainer toting a bullhook, circuses mislead the public with spurious claims that a bullhook is only used to guide or cue an elephant. The difficult tricks that elephants are forced to perform place a great deal of stress on their muscles and joints. The tricks are physically strenuous, and no elephant would perform these grotesquely exaggerated maneuvers on command, over and over,

hundreds of times a year without the constant threat of punishment. In the wild, an adult elephant would lie down in slow, gradual movements no more than once or twice per day. A typical circus act requires that they lie down and rise very quickly several times in a single show. If it were possible for an elephant to simply be “guided” to perform rapid successions of headstands, hind-leg stands, lying down, tub-sitting, crawling, and twirling, the trainer would be carrying a soft, cotton wand, not a hard, pointed object.

Elephants exhibit typical pain avoidance responses to the bullhook by recoiling or emitting fear vocalizations.

Trainers’ Grim Details of Discipline

In addition to bullhooks, trainers use baseball bats, ax handles, pitchforks, and electric shock. Chains, ropes, and block-and-tackle are used as restraints.

Alan Roocroft, an elephant consultant to circuses and zoos, cowrote in his book *Managing Elephants*:

[W]hen corporal punishment is administered to an elephant, it has to be fairly forceful in order that it is perceived by the elephant to be punishment at all. ... [T]he trainer must now intimidate the animal in order to acquire a dominant position. ... [R]estraining a potentially hostile elephant needs at least a crew of eight, preferably 10, in order to insure sufficient ‘muscle’ is available. Once immobilized, the elephant may be the object of punishment in the form of blows with a wooden rod.

In *I Loved Rogues*, elephant trainers George “Slim” Lewis and Byron Fish wrote:

Circus animals are performers, and training them depends on a certain amount of rough treatment. What is true of training for performance is even more true of the basic discipline that must be established before an elephant can work or act. It isn’t kept in a cage, and, while it is chained much of the time, there are many occasions when it walks at liberty with only the respect it pays its handler to keep it in check. It is absolutely essential, therefore, that the animal must have this respect for its handler; and to get down to blunt facts, this quality begins with fear: fear of punishment and discomfort.

A good stout stick should be used, and it should have a sharp prod on the end of it to keep the elephant from turning its head.

[Teaching an elephant to lie down is] done by gradually tightening the chain, a few inches at a time, until the elephant is supporting its weight entirely on the front and hind legs that are free. It is very tiring for a bull to hold up its mass in this manner. When the handler sees it weakening, he gives the command, ‘Down! Come on down.’ The command is repeated until the elephant obeys. Just before it gives in, it will show signs of fear and defeat. Its eyes will bulge and its bowels become loose and watery as they are emptied several times. When the elephant finally surrenders and falls over on its side, it knows it is comparatively helpless and that it has lost a psychological battle.”

BREAKING BABIES

In July 1998, 30 elephant calves between 2 and 7 years of age were captured from the Tuli Block in Botswana. Their front legs were tightly hobbled and the back legs chained in a stretched position so they were unable to lie down. They were deprived of adequate food and water and beaten repeatedly with rubber whips and bullhooks that caused abscesses and lesions. An investigator with the National Council for the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals described a training session, "One elephant was tied up in the warehouse. ... When the elephant simply moved its trunk or shifted its weight, the mahouts [elephant handlers] would all hit it. Especially the mahout in front, who would whip its face with a rubber whip. I counted that during this training session of 20 minutes, the elephant was hit or stabbed with an ankus a total of 136 times."

Chains

Circus animals that are not confined to cages may often be chained or tethered up to 90% of the time. Most circuses routinely chain their elephants, while ungulates such as camels, zebras, and horses are tethered or stalled.

Elephants are normally chained by one front leg and one rear leg during training sessions, transport and often between shows. Chains are usually, although not always, long enough to permit the elephant to take a step or two forward or backwards, and to lie down. Inadequate exercise and prolonged standing in wet, unsanitary conditions may lead to foot problems such as foot rot, cracked nails, and infected cuticles.

According to former Birmingham Alabama Zoo Director Bob Truett "...Elephants kept chained all night tend to develop excessive foot problems and stereotyped movements that seem to indicate frustration and neurosis. If it were not possible for me to keep elephants without chaining them overnight, then I would not keep elephants."

While circuses continue to defend the chaining of elephants, a growing number of zoos throughout North America have altered their elephant management programs so that they no longer include chaining, except for brief periods to allow for routine veterinary care and foot maintenance. As well, an increasing number of zoos have opted to go the route of protected contact management, where actual tactile contact between elephants and their handlers is reduced to near zero levels. This type of management strategy protects handlers from injury and elephants from abuse by harsh trainers.

Baby elephants born in breeding compounds are prematurely removed from their mothers for training. During the separation process, calves are kept isolated and tied with ropes at the front leg and back leg. Rope burns may develop as they struggle against the restraints.

Apart from the limited time that they are in the ring or on stage --sometimes as little as a few minutes a day—performing animals live a life of extreme confinement.

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Other Tools of the Trade

The whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods, and other tools used during circus acts and training sessions are reminders that the animals are being forced to perform.

WHIPS

The sting of a whip causes lingering, intense pain.

BEATING AND ELECTRICAL SHOCK

Like the whip, a jolt of electrical current is painful. Circuses often use electric prods and smaller hand-held shocking devices that are easily concealed.

STICKS, AXE HANDLES, BASEBALL BATS, METAL PIPES

These weapons are used to hit and beat restrained animals in order to break their spirits and show them “who’s boss.”

“To get an animal to perform on cue requires cruelty...elephants being beaten and electro-shocked in the vagina, ears, mouth and anus; bears noses broken and their feet burned, and big cats being struck with wooden bats.”—Pat Derby, former Hollywood animal trainer.

FIREARMS

Circuses use wild animals who are by nature unpredictable and dangerous. When animals rebel against a trainer’s physical dominance, they sometimes pay with their lives. Rampaging elephants have been gunned down in city streets and caged tigers have been shot to death.

MUZZLES

Animals such as bears may be forced to wear muzzles in an attempt to keep them subdued and to discourage them from protecting themselves if they feel threatened. Muzzling can interfere with vision and respiration.

www.circuses.com

The Realities of Performing Animal Acts

Most performing animals’ lives are traumatic and short-lived. Because animals do not naturally ride bicycles, stand on their heads, or jump through rings of fire, whips and electric prods, and other tools are often used to force them to perform. Add to this the stress of extensive travel, confinement in dirty, undersized cages, and inadequate food and water supplies, and you have a day in the life of a circus animal.

Housing and transportation

THE CIRCUS “BEAST WAGON”

Because of the nature of traveling shows, namely that they are in the business of traveling, most performing animals spend their lives in small, barren transport cages known as beast wagons. Lions, tigers, leopards, bears, chimpanzees, orangutans and many other animals are routinely kept in beast wagons. Their cages are often so small (many measuring just 4—5 feet wide by 8—10 feet long) that it is difficult for the animals they contain to simply turn around. The animals defecate, urinate, eat, drink and sleep in the same small area. Such conditions can be found even in the largest circuses.

One example is the Moscow Circus, which housed Asiatic brown bears, some weighing more than 500 pounds, in cages measuring just 41 inches wide by 54 inches long during its Canadian tour in 1991. The bears were not able to stretch out, play, explore, or engage in their normal repertoire of behaviours. Few animal living quarters are as devoid of stimulation as the circus beast wagon.

In an effort to curtail public concern about the housing provided for animals on the road, a few circuses and touring acts have marginally increased the size of their transport cages or incorporated fold-away extension sections for existing travel cages. Unfortunately, the changes are mostly cosmetic in effect, and do little to address the biological/behavioural needs of the animals. Circus conditions fall far below even the minimum acceptable standard for any reputable zoo.

CONDITIONS ON THE ROAD

Circus Animals suffer terribly from constant travel. They may be kept in unheated, poorly ventilated vehicles and trailers, closely confined, standing in their own urine and feces, with food and water withheld for traveling or performing convenience. According to Ken Langelier, DVM, a trainer with the Garden Circus, on a Canadian Tour for the Shrine Circus, said he “had lost one bear to heat prostration in a previous tour.” Langelier said, “This particular circus performed two to three times daily seven days a week for 72 straight days while in Canada.”

Often, even after a 48 to 50 week touring season, the animals will not be given accommodation and conditions appropriate to their needs.

A 1996 undercover investigation of circus winter quarters owned by Britain's Mary Chipperfield revealed animals in squalid conditions. After reviewing the investigation materials, veterinarian Samantha Lindley commented that the accommodation for the elephant and giraffe were “so inadequate and so obviously indicative of either a lack of knowledge, care, or both that it seems incomprehensible to have to comment”.

Some performing animals may exist in a permanent state of transit. Since many animal acts are independently owned and operated, they simply move on to another circus when their current tour ends.

On May 3 2001, The Newfoundland SPCA dealt with a similar case and achieved a successful conclusion in provincial court as outlined in this press release:

“The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies commends the efforts of the Newfoundland SPCA in successfully bringing charges against the George Cardin Circus International for inadequate care of their animals. This is believed to be the first time such charges have been laid against a circus in Canada.”

On May 1 2001, at Provincial Court in St. John's, Newfoundland, two employees of the George Cardin Circus pleaded guilty to having committed offences contrary to Newfoundland's Animal Protection Act. The two employees, the ringmaster and the animal trainer, each pleaded guilty to charges that they caused five bears to suffer undue privation and neglect when they maintained the bears in cages that were too small.

Evidence presented in court revealed that the charges arose from performances in the City of Mount Pearl, Newfoundland in June 2000. It also revealed that the bears were inspected by the Newfoundland SPCA on three different occasions. Each time, they were held in cages approximately 25 square feet in size with pairs of bears in two of the cages and a single bear in the other. During each inspection there was no water available and any food that was available was contaminated with fecal material.

The evidence also revealed that four bears were let out only for brief performances and spent the rest of the time caged, with the fifth bear not being let out at all but being caged continuously due to the fact that it was retired from performing.

Also read into evidence were excerpts from the reports of four experts, three of who were veterinarians. One expert, with over seventeen years of experience in assessing conditions of captive wildlife, stated that this was the worst case involving bears he had encountered, with the exception of twelve bears that he had seen in the Moscow Circus. All four experts found the conditions intolerable and inhumane.

One of the four noted that what was described by the inspector as lethargy was indicative of deep depression, which could ultimately lead to starvation or dehydration. One of the four inspected the animals at another location in Atlantic Canada and his observations concurred with those of the SPCA Investigator who inspected the circus in Mount Pearl.

The SPCA asked for the maximum fine under the Animal Protection Act, \$200.00. The Judge agreed that the maximum should be imposed and expressed the view that the prescribed maximum was woefully inadequate. He fined each defendant the maximum and expressed the view that the legislature should amend the legislation to increase the penalties prescribed by the legislation.

The Judge commented that he hoped the real deterrent would be that parents would be persuaded not to bring their children to such exhibitions where animals are kept in the manner that these bears were kept.

The City of St. John's prevented the George Cardin Circus from coming to that city last summer and has taken a stand against circuses with performing animals being permitted to operate within its boundaries in the future. (www.zoocheck.com)

Section Four: The public education/conservation myth

www.zoocheck.com

What do you learn by watching elephants balancing on their heads, muzzled bears in tutus riding bicycles, or chimpanzees dressed up as a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? Is it true that these activities are merely extensions of natural behaviours and encourage the public to appreciate and learn about animals.

Wild animals performing in circuses, traveling shows or novelty acts rarely exhibit behaviours that represent the range and complexity of behaviours exhibited by their counterparts in the wild. Removed from their natural ecosystems and social environments, these animals are required to perform actions and live in conditions that are abnormal, unnatural and, at times, dangerous.

While it is true that circus attendees have the opportunity to see the size, shape and colour of the animals, these are aspects can also be learned from television, movies, books, or the Internet. Meanwhile, what they don't see are the behaviour patterns, social interactions, intelligence, hunting instinct, maternal care giving, food gathering and movement patterns, and all other facets of animal behaviour that have taken tens of thousands of years to evolve in each species.

Removing animals from their natural environment gives a negative educational message to the public by creating a distorted picture of the animals—often endangered species such as the Asian elephant, chimpanzee, or Bengal tiger, which are at serious risk of extinction in the wild.

At a time when reputable zoos and conservation organizations throughout the world are trying to create an appreciation and protective attitude toward endangered species, circus audiences are still encouraged to laugh at animals portrayed as clowns.

Because of an increasing public concern for wildlife conservation, the more astute circuses have recognized that they need to change their image if they want to stay in business. With professional public relations experts and image consultants, many circuses are now trying to convince the public that confining endangered animals to cramped beast wagons or training them to do silly stunts is not only educational but also conservation at work.

Claims by the circus industry that they make a legitimate contribution to conservation through the captive breeding of endangered species are based on false logic. Many circus animal species, such as tigers, are already in a surplus situation in captivity, so breeding is unnecessary. The breeding of Asian elephants, the cornerstone of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "conservation" program, is already well-established in Asia, where it belongs. There is no need to conduct captive breeding programs in North America.

Further, human encroachment into elephant territory and habitat degradation are real roadblocks to the survival of the Asian elephant. Circuses do nothing to address these problems. Even if circus elephants were available for placement back into the wild, they couldn't be released, as the existing natural areas for Asian elephants are already at capacity.

The truth is, captive breeding in circuses does nothing to help endangered species.

Links between the wildlife trade and circuses

Despite claims to the contrary, many performing animals have come from the wild. According to the 1994 Traffic Europe-World Wildlife Fund report *CITES And The Regulation of Wildlife Trade for European Circuses*, there is a limited but consistent circus trade in wild-caught apes, bears, elephants, and other species which has escaped the attention of wildlife trade enforcement authorities. The report states that “*wildlife trade related to circuses is highly unregulated*” and circuses succeed in evading enforcement efforts.

ANIMALS ENTERING CANADA

Circus operations and trade in animals are difficult to monitor because circuses continuously change names, animal acts, and locations. As well, the number of circuses is staggering. In Europe the number is estimated to be between 500 and 1000. Similar numbers are estimated for Central and South America, and Southeast Asia. North America is thought to have more than 300 circuses and traveling animal shows.

Unfortunately, little official attention is directed to circuses at international border points and within national boundaries. Officials of CITES, an international treaty aimed at controlling the commercial trade in endangered species, admit that “there are loopholes which can be exploited by unscrupulous traders”. Many countries refuse to participate in the treaty and become conduits for international trafficking.

Enforcement and penalties are notoriously weak throughout the world, with Canada being particularly lax. When it comes to circuses, traveling shows and novelty acts, Environment Canada, responsible for enforcing CITES regulations in Canada, routinely rubber-stamps import documents without any verification of the information contained within.

ILLEGAL TRADE

Other sources suggest a direct link between circuses and the illegal wildlife trade. Former animal dealer Jean-Yves Domalain confessed to trading almost exclusively with legitimate zoos and circuses even though his business was mostly illegal. He says that over 90% of the illegal trade in wild animals is illegal at source; legally traded wildlife may be the exception. The impact of the illegal trade on wildlife populations is devastating. It is estimated that 80% of the animals handled die either in the capture process, in transit or within first few months of captivity.

Many of the older animals in circuses and similar shows were captured from the wild. For example, one British study found that 34 out of 36 Asian and African elephants used in British circuses were originally wild-caught.

Section Five: Frequently asked questions

Even if exotic animals in circuses are not physically abused, is it still okay to have them perform in circuses?

No. Circuses that have performing animal acts are inherently cruel. First, animals are often taken from their natural environment and placed into an environment that is foreign to them. Since breeding in captivity is difficult, circuses, zoos, and animal rental companies rely mainly on animals acquired from the wild to maintain their stock. These animals are denied all that is natural to them in their new confined environment; even their natural food sources have to be improvised.

Second, training methods are inherently cruel. How do you get a 500-pound tiger to perform unnatural and ridiculous tricks without dominating him? These animals perform for one reason—fear. They know that if they do not do what they are told, there are severe and painful consequences. These animals are wild, even if they are living in captivity.

What if this is our only chance to see these wild animals in person?

Circus animals are forced to perform ridiculous and sometimes painful unnatural tricks. The question you should be asking is, “Do I really want to see these beautiful animals in such a degrading and unnatural way?” Chances are, the answer is no. There is no educational value in watching these animals perform their tricks. The best way to learn about these magnificent animals is by watching educational videos or simply tuning into the Discovery Channel. By doing this, you will be helping to conserve these species in their natural habitat. You will also be learning a great deal about what these animals' natural behaviours really are.

Aren't we depriving children of an historically fun event?

Absolutely not. Children love animals and undoubtedly enjoy seeing a wide variety of species. If older children were aware of how circus animals were treated, transported, and housed, they would undoubtedly not want to support such an event. Most children are completely unaware of what goes on behind the scenes as well as how the animals got to where they were. Younger children rely even more on their parents' judgement and will learn to accept what their parents accept. Parents need to be educated on these issues so they can in turn educate their children.

Don't circus animals perform tricks out of love or respect for their trainers?

No. While circus promoters claim that trainers use only positive reinforcement, or rewards, reports prove otherwise. Circus training methods include beating animals with clubs and other objects (even during performances) and depriving them of food. Trainers sometimes strike elephants with sharpened hooks, which can result in physical injury. Trainers resort to brutal methods to maintain a position of dominance. Wild animals will always behave in instinctive and unpredictable ways and can never be made willing or safely manageable through training.

Aren't circus animals like beloved children, taught and nurtured their whole lives?

No. Many circus animals are leased seasonally from dealers. The animals move from circus to circus, following seasonal contracts. Many circuses don't provide regular, competent veterinary care. Animals who aren't obedient or who have grown too old to perform may be sold or given to zoos, roadside attractions, research laboratories, or private individuals – options unlikely to improve their quality of life.

After the show, do the animals rest in comfort?

No. After the show, the animals are locked in cages and shipped to the next town. Circus animals spend too much of their lives in small, often dirty cages, barely able to turn around. Circus animals often are shipped in trucks and railway cars without heat or air conditioning and often are deprived of food and water for extended periods.

Isn't the circus safe fun for the whole family?

No. People, as well as animals, are getting hurt at the circus. In 1995 an elephant named "Tyke" charged through an audience in Honolulu after killing one circus employee and injuring another. Tyke was shot to death in the city street. In 1990 a chimpanzee abandoned his motorcycle act, rushed into the stands, and hit a child. In 1994 "Mickey," a baby elephant, was beaten during a performance. A month later, during another performance, Mickey attacked a child.

Section Six: Supporting organizations

Letters of support

The effort to ban exotic animal acts is supported by dozens of animal welfare and environmental organizations across the world. The following organizations have submitted letters to this group in support of banning exotic animal acts:

- Animal Defense League of Canada
- Animal Protection Fund
- Biofilia Consultants en Environnement
- Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- Fauna Foundation
- Global Action Network
- Jane Goodall Institute
- Humane Society of Canada
- The Humane Society of the United States
- Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
- Union Quebécoise de Rehabilitation des Oiseaux de Proie
- Vancouver Humane Society
- Helene Van Doninck DVM
- Veterinarians Opposed to Inhumane Circus Environments - VOICE
- World Society for the Protection of Animals
- Zoocheck

Local Animal Organizations Policies on Wild and Exotic Animal Acts

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Ontario SPCA and Ottawa Humane Society oppose the use of animals in all forms of entertainment which may cause them to suffer.

POSITION OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES (CFHS)

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies takes the following position on the use of animals in entertainment:

CFHS opposes the use of animals in all forms of entertainment or displays which may cause them to suffer.

CFHS believes, in particular, that animals performing or on display in a traveling environment will be deprived of a normal existence and may lack proper attention to their physical, social, and psychological needs.

CFHS contends that the following are detrimental to the well-being of animals:

- a) travel or confinement that impairs the animals' physical, psychological and social needs.
- b) the use of abusive, cruel or stressful training techniques or devices or agents employed to cause the animals to perform.
- c) close confinement, the lack of exercise and other physical requirements, the inability to express natural behaviours and lack of appropriate socialization.
- d) the administration of any drug for non-therapeutic purposes in order to alter the performance or behaviour of the animals.

Animals Which are Wild by Nature Used in Entertainment

CFHS opposes the use of animals, wild by nature, in all forms of entertainment.

CFHS believes that wild animals maintained in a traveling environment for entertainment purposes will be deprived of a normal existence and will lack proper attention to their physical, social and psychological needs.

CFHS opposes:

- a) the further capture and captive breeding of wild animals for entertainment purposes.
- b) the use of abusive, cruel or stressful training techniques or devices or agents employed to cause these animals to perform.
- c) travel for entertainment purposes because it fails to provide for the animals' physical, psychological and social needs.
- d) close confinement, the lack of exercise and other physical requirements, the inability to express natural behaviours and lack of appropriate socialization.

(July 1995)

<http://www.cfhs.ca/GeneralInfo/AboutCFHS/Philosophy/entertainmentpol.htm>

POSITION OF THE ONTARIO SPCA

The Ontario SPCA strongly recommends the banning of the use of animals in circuses, traveling menageries and wild animal acts. No animal should be trained or be required to perform in a manner which causes it suffering or distress.

The Ontario SPCA recommends that where animals are allowed to perform under the law, they must always be provided adequate shelter, appropriate food, fresh water and regular exercise. The transport of animals must be in a manner appropriate to the species allowing for adequate safety and a minimum of stress. Animals must not be kept in traveling cages when not traveling.

The Ontario SPCA strongly recommends the adoption of a Code of Practice for the Use of Animals in Entertainment, which would include the film industry, and which would define the care and requirements of animals used to make films or for other entertainment, to ensure these animals are not abused, injured or subjected to stress while being so used.

http://www.ospca.on.ca/wwa_ps.html - c.1.

POSITION OF THE OTTAWA HUMANE SOCIETY

The OHS is opposed to the use of animals in all forms of entertainment which may cause them to suffer and recommends the banning of the use of animals in circuses.

The OHS recommends that where animals are allowed to perform under the law, they must always be provided with adequate shelter, appropriate food, fresh water and regular exercise. The transport of animals must be in a manner appropriate to the species allowing for adequate safety and a minimum of stress. Animals must not be kept in traveling cages when not traveling.

The OHS recommends the adoption of a Code of Practice for the Use of Animals in Entertainment, which would define the care and requirements of animals used to make films or for other entertainment, to ensure these animals are not abused, injured or subjected to stress while being so used.

<http://www.ottawahumane.ca/exotic.htm>

Section Seven: The alternative

The following circuses offer an animal-free alternative to exotic animal acts.

Animal-free circuses

Bindlestiff Family Cirkus	P.O. Box 1917, New York, N.Y. 10009 (212) 726-1935 http://www.circusweb.com/circuswebFrames.html
Circus Chimera	(888) 663-7464
Cirque Eloize	1801 rue d'Orleans, Montreal, Québec, H1W 3R6 (514) 971-4838
Cirque Éos	P.O. Box 53017, Succursale Canardière, Québec, G1K 5K3 (418) 661-1961 ecq@cirqueeos.qc.ca
Circus Ethiopia	contact: Andrew Goldman, andy@circus.org http://www.circus.org/20html
Circo Fantastico	5272 Rive Road, Ste. 530, Bethesda MD, 20816 (301) 654-1789
Cirque Ingenieux	145 West 45th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10036 (301) 926-3401
Circus Millennia	2700 S. Lang St., Arlington, VA 22206 (703) 683-5040 circusjen@hotmail.com www.circusmillennia.com
Circus Minimus	215 W. 88th St., Ste. 12G, New York, NY 10024 (212) 712-9644 kevcircus@aol.com
Cirque du San Jose	634 N. Eighth St., San Jose, CA 94112 (408) 929-0678
Circus Smirkus	1 Circus Road, Greensboro, VT 05841 USA (802) 533-7125
Cirque du Soleil	1217 Notre-Dame E., Montreal, Québec, H2L 2R4 (514) 522-2324
Earth Circus	P.O. Box 420189, San Francisco, CA 941142 USA (415) 753-5980
Fern Street Circus	P.O. Box 621004, San Diego, CA 92162 (619) 235-9756 highkin@acusd.edu
Flying Fruit Fly Circus	P.O. Box 1101, Wodonga, Victoria, 3689, Australia 02-60242384 Fffcircus.schooledumail.vic.gov.au
Flying High Circus	Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 32306 (904) 644-4874
Gamma Phi Circus	Illinois State University jpolacek@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu
Great Y Circus	Community Circus Arts Corporation; P.O. Box 7941, Redlands, CA 92375 (909) 793-2161
Gregangelo & Velocity Circus Troupe	225 San Leandro Way, San Francisco, CA 94127 (415) 664-0095 velocitysf@gregangelo.com
Hiccup Circus	Hawaii's Volcano Circus Educational Non-Profit Organizations; RR 2, Box 4524, Pahoia, HI 96778 (808) 965-8756 http://hiccupcircus.com

Lazer Vaudeville	621 S.W. First Ave., Ocala, FL 34474 (352) 622-4404 lazervaudeville@msn.com
Little Russian circus	334-3055 Tomken Road, Mississauga, ON L4X 3X9 (905)273-9281
Make a Circus	755 Frederick St., San Francisco, CA 94117 (415) 242-1414 clown@makeacircus.org
Mexican International Circus	609 14th St. N.W., Ste. 300, Calgary AB T2N 2A1 (800) 563-3014 www.Mexicancircus.com
Mexican National Circus	11233 52nd Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5W 3H8 (403) 471-4320
New Pickle Family Circus	2 Embarcadero Center, Suite 770, San Francisco, CA 91444 USA (415) 544-9344
Pan Twilight Circus	Rhode Island, USA http://users.ids.net/~tomss/ptc/index.html
Swamp Circus	19 Wansfell Road, Brightside, Sheffield, S4 8BE, UK 011 44 114 256 0962
Cirque de Archaos	France: performed in Toronto, Ontario - September 1991
Euro Circus: the Russian Fantasy	USA
New Shanghai Circus	China
No Elephant Circus	USA; performed at Lincoln Centre, New York, August 1991
Que-Cir-Que	France/Switzerland: performed at Harbourfront, Toronto, Ontario – July/August 1997

Appendix A: Media coverage of circuses

Canadian Articles

Circus animal acts torture: Petition gives council chance to show guts and foresight

David Swick, The Daily News (Nova Scotia), May 16 2002

Most people have to get mighty angry before they will attend a meeting, send a letter, or sign a petition. Politicians know this, so they pay special attention to these kinds of feedback.

Petitions get attention even when they don't have huge numbers. Consider that most petitions presented to Halifax regional council have between 50 and 200 signatures. These still carry weight: 50 or 200 signatures are that many more than zero. And politicians know, too, that people who get upset enough to sign a petition tend to remember the issue come election time.

So it will be interesting to see how council reacts to a petition gathered by Councillor Steve Adams of Spryfield. At Tuesday's council session, Adams will present a petition with more than 1,000 signatures.

"This is the biggest petition I've been involved with, by far," Adams said, after pulling over his car to talk on his cellphone. "And I'll bet we have another 300-400 signatures yet to come in."

Adams and the petitioners are asking council to pass a resolution requesting that the provincial government outlaw exotic-animal acts in Nova Scotia. More than 40 communities in Canada and the U.S. have banned the use of exotic animals in circuses. So have Finland, Sweden, Israel and Singapore.

Four Nova Scotia communities have already outlawed the use of elephants, tigers, kangaroos, etc., citing the inhumane living and training conditions these animals are subjected to.

But the provincial government last fall jumped in to say it - not the municipalities - has jurisdiction, and the Hamm government does not think the law needs changing. So exotic animal acts are still legal.

A recent poll suggests that Nova Scotians are almost exactly split on the issue. But the fact that 50 per cent of us do not want to support the physical and psychological torture of animals is affecting which circuses come here.

Adams says he has verbal agreements with the Dartmouth Sportsplex, Halifax Forum and the Atlantic Winter Fair to keep circuses with exotic animals out of their buildings. The only other site in the area to host an animal circus in the last few years was Dartmouth's

Mic Mac Mall, in its parking lot. A call to Mic Mac Mall was not returned before deadline yesterday.

This weekend a star-studded circus comes to town - and it does not use exotic animals. The Moscow State Circus is doing a 10-town tour of Nova Scotia, featuring acrobats, contortionists, jugglers, gymnasts, musicians and clowns. It plays the Sportsplex tomorrow and Sunday.

Sportsplex manager Rod Dixon says it's no coincidence that the circus in his building does not have animals. "That's one of the main reasons," Dixon says. "A lot of people are upset to have animals caged and transferred around the country."

Although he doesn't have exact figures, Dixon believes that the animal-free Moscow State Circus attracted a crowd "as good, if not better" than the last circus with animals that appeared at the Sportsplex.

I hope council does the right thing: endorses the petition and sends it on to the province. Council showed guts and foresight in bringing in a pesticide ban, and throwing out the old, unnecessarily harsh winter parking ban.

Now it's time for another show of insight and courage.

dswick@hfxnews.southam.ca

Zookeeper loses arm to lion: Effort to reattach limb fails after private tour of animal's sleeping quarters goes sour
The Vancouver Sun, May 15, 2002 (News, A14)

TAMPA, Fla. -- A zookeeper whose arm was bitten off by a lion at Busch Gardens had been feeding meat to the animal as part of a training exercise minutes before the attack, park officials said.

Surgeons were unable to reattach the arm of Amanda Bourassa, 21, following Sunday's attack, which occurred as she took her parents and boyfriend on a behind-the-scenes tour of the animal's sleeping quarters.

State wildlife investigators said witnesses indicated Bourassa may have poked part of her hand or a finger through a four-cm opening between the bars when the 160-kilogram lion grabbed her.

Her right arm was severed near the elbow.

The attack occurred outside the view of tourists as Bourassa was giving a tour available only to zookeepers' family members. The park has suspended such tours, said Glenn Young, the park's vice-president of zoological operations.

Busch Gardens officials said the 12-year-old lion, Max, would not be destroyed, but said safety policies would be reviewed.

A representative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission said an initial probe found no violations in how the lion was being caged.

Young said minutes before the attack, Bourassa and three other zookeepers were performing a routine training exercise with the lion to encourage good behaviour during health checks.

The lion was ordered to lie down with his tail extended through the bars, a position needed to draw blood from the animal's tail, Young said. No blood was drawn during the training and Young said the animal wasn't agitated.

Bourassa rewarded the animal by tossing him bits of meat.

The park also has a lioness. The lions have not been on display since the incident

Help ban circus animals: A couple of city councillors are gathering a petition

David Swick, The Daily News (Nova Scotia), February 28, 2002

What I'm about to describe is not pretty. It may even make you ill. But if you are one of the 50 per cent of Nova Scotians who think exotic animals should still be used in circuses, it is information you need.

To get wild animals to do so-called tricks, they have been hit with whips, poked with electric prods, and choked with ropes. The animal is taught it must do what is demanded, or it will feel more pain. Elephants are often trained and handled by using clubs implanted with sharp, heavy steel hooks. Cruelty comes in another form, too. In nature, elephants walk for miles every day; in the circus, they spend most of their time chained in place.

Animals in circuses can suffer enormous psychological distress. Since 1990, elephants have killed at least 46 people. A tiger that performed with the Shriners Circus in Dartmouth in 1999 was later gunned down by a SWAT team after killing two trainers in Florida. Finland, Sweden, Israel and Singapore have prohibited the use of exotic animals in circuses. So too have more than 40 communities in Canada and the United States.

Here in Nova Scotia, four municipalities banned such acts, and a move was underway to press Halifax council for the same decision.

In November, however, the province stepped in to say that this matter falls under its jurisdiction - and the province is not ready to make exotic animal acts against the law.

So Halifax veterinarian Hugh Chisholm and the councillor for Spryfield, Steve Adams, are starting a province-wide petition. They are asking Nova Scotians to ask the provincial government to forbid the use of exotic animals in circuses.

"Some people don't care," Dr. Chisholm says. "They want to be entertained no matter what, and we'll never reach them. But more and more people every year are questioning this. We're not in the 19th century, and we need to question these things."

"Last year," Adams says, "the circus had a guy here who boxed a kangaroo. That's just not fair. Why not let me in the ring instead? I'd go in and box the guy."

Chisholm and Adams may have already won one battle. Last year, a circus with exotic animals played for one day at the Forum while protesters marched out front. This year, Forum manager Al Driscoll says, the Forum has withdrawn its offer of a tentative date to the circus.

The Forum will make more money from another offer, Driscoll said. At the next meeting of the Halifax Forum board, board members will discuss creating a policy towards exotic circus animals. As more people become aware of the plight of these animals, circus owners are getting concerned.

The most bizarre example of this, as reported by the online magazine Salon.com, involved the Ringling Brothers - Barnum and Bailey Circuses hiring a former CIA spy to target and spread misinformation about people and organizations who bring circus practices to light.

Targets included a Washington freelance journalist who was harassed for eight years, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the source for some of the information in this column. PETA can find outrageous ways to get its message across, but its research is solid.

Anyone wishing to help Chisholm and Adams circulate the petition is invited to call Adams at 497-8818.

Go for it.

Circus asks U.S. government for permission to move polar bears to St. Martin CP Wire; Thu 21 Feb 2002. National General News; Kim Guttormson

Winnipeg Free Press WINNIPEG (CP) - A circus accused of leaving polar bears to swelter in the Puerto Rican heat wants to move the arctic **animals** to another Caribbean island.

The Suarez Bros. Circus, in the middle of a **cruelty** trial for allegedly leaving seven bears without water or a cool refuge as temperatures soared to 40 C last summer, has asked the U.S. government for permission to export the bears from the American territory of Puerto Rico to St. Martin.

The U.S. Fish and **Wildlife** Service says its review of the application will be more extensive than usual. Spokesman Mitch Snow said he doesn't anticipate a decision any time soon.

The news comes at the same time as movie star Ewan McGregor takes up the cause of the bears.

The Scottish-born actor's roles range from a drug addict in Trainspotting, to the young Obi-wan Kenobi in Star Wars: Phantom Menace, to a lovestruck song-and-dance man in the Oscar-nominated Moulin Rouge.

But it was hosting a documentary on polar bears which took him to Churchill, Man. - home of three of the Suarez Bros. bears - that got him involved.

“I find it appalling that such intelligent and graceful **animals** are forced to live in deplorable conditions for the sake of `entertainment’,” McGregor wrote in letters to the U.S. agencies charged with protecting the **animals** while they're on U.S. soil.

“To imagine their current plight with a tropical circus, layer on your heaviest winter clothing and spend all day outside on a hot, steamy day.”

McGregor's publicist said he is on location and not available for interviews.

The Mexican-based Suarez Bros. Circus has been touring Puerto Rico since last spring, including the island's hottest summer in a decade.

The **animal cruelty** trial resumes next Wednesday and Thursday. The circus was told the bears had to remain in Puerto Rico pending the outcome of the trial.

If the circus is found guilty, there is the possibility the judge could confiscate the bears, something **animal** rights groups are hoping for.

People for the Ethical Treatment of **Animals** has lined up American zoos willing to house the bears.

In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture wrapped up a four-month investigation into allegations the air and water temperature for the bears was not properly maintained and said no violations were found. (Winnipeg Free Press)

20:00 (Eastern Time)

Town votes for animal bylaws

Valerie MacDonald, Cobourg Daily Star (Ontario), December 3, 2001

Cobourg councillors have voted in favour of two separate issues which will provide animals more protection within town limits.

The creation of a vicious-dog bylaw was unanimously supported by council's executive committee after concerns were raised by citizens afraid for themselves and their animals.

Several instances were outlined to council in which people and their pets were targets of vicious dogs either in the street or on their own properties.

Under the bylaw (which still must come to council for a final vote) a dog which has previously bitten or mauled other animals or humans must be muzzled and properly restrained, on its own property or anywhere else.

A six-month trial period will be initiated with the town's bylaw enforcement officer. The cost is \$50 per incident which the town will pay, says Mayor Peter Delanty.

In addition, the bylaw will required proof that the animal has had its rabies shots, said Councillor Gail DeVeau who brought the motion to the council floor last night.

She was also responsible for requesting a bylaw be passed to prohibit wild and exotic animals from performing in circuses or other shows held in or on town property.

A 10-minute video by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, entitled *The Plight of Performing Animals*, prefaced the vote. It showed scenes depicting how circus elephants and big cats were trained and housed - and the abuse and confined quarters they endure.

It also raised the issue of animals getting out of control and hurting people.

No other Ontario municipality has passed such a bylaw.

"Let us break this new ground," said Councillor Lloyd Williams, agreeing with the motion.

But Councillor Bill MacDonald wanted to know if the people of Cobourg really felt this was a burning issue.

Besides a solitary presentation to council (by Diana Storen) and several letters, no one was in the gallery listening to the debate, several councillors noted.

"We'd be the first in Ontario (with this bylaw)," urged Mrs. DeVeau, ultimately convincing the majority of fellow councillors to support her.

Councillors MacDonald and Dean McCaughey did not vote for the restriction.

Mr. McCaughey had previously queried whether such animal acts were still brought to Cobourg.

This past summer a circus with wild and exotic animal acts rented an arena pad from the town, replied Mr. Delanty.

Port Hope Council, acting on the request of local high school students, has prohibited the riding of exotic animals, he added.

Winnipeg Free Press - Front page story

Manitoba fights to rescue bears. August 16, 2001, Kim Guttormson

THE province has joined an international effort to rescue Manitoba-born polar bears from a travelling circus that has left them sweltering in the heat in Puerto Rico.

Conservation Minister Oscar Lathlin is sending a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), urging it to make sure the bears are treated properly -- even if that means confiscating the animals.

"I'm going to be asking them to make sure the needs of the polar bears are looked after," Lathlin said yesterday. "If it means taking them away from the circus, I believe that will be the best thing for the animals. I'm really disturbed by what I'm hearing."

The Mexican-based Suarez Bros. Circus was charged by Puerto Rican authorities this week with cruelty after the animals were found enduring 45 degree heat in a parking lot in the town of Ponce with no water and no shade. Three of the seven bears are originally from Churchill.

"All were with their tongues outside, breathing really hard," said Julio Diaz, a Puerto Rican animal welfare advocate who reported the bears' treatment to a local prosecutor, who then filed two charges with the court, one for unnecessary cruelty, the other for keeping the animals in filthy cages.

"They were basically on the floor. We're really afraid. There's three more towns (on the tour of Puerto Rico) and it's the hottest part of the summer."

A Puerto Rican natural resources officer will now check on the bears twice a day.

The U.S. fish and wildlife department had issued a licence allowing the Suarez Bros. Circus to take the bears into Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory.

The licence required the circus to give the animals access to either a pool or an area with cooler temperatures, Diaz said.

In the wild, the well-insulated Arctic animals can overheat at 0 C. In summers, they're able to cool off in streams, Hudson Bay, the ocean and patches of permafrost.

The animals are not used to unrelenting, oppressive heat.

Diaz added that one bear also seemed to have a fungal infection on its head.

The concern is that the circus will leave the island, and once beyond the U.S. jurisdiction there is little that can be done to monitor the bears' condition.

The circus is set to appear in court in Puerto Rico on Sept. 14.

Diaz and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an international animal-rights group based in Virginia, are complaining to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, hoping an inspector will seize the bears.

"I would hope (USDA) would give great consideration to Canada's dismay," said PETA spokeswoman Debbie Leahy. "They wouldn't want their polar bears ending up in this miserable circus."

Leahy said the bears are also mistreated in the ring, where they're whipped and prodded to ensure they perform tricks such as going down a slide, walking upright and climbing ladders.

Vicki Burns, executive director of the Winnipeg Humane Society, said her organization will lend its voice to the PETA complaint, urging the bears' removal from the care of the circus.

"If we don't find a way to take action to prevent this happening, they may live another 10, 15 years in that situation," said Rob Laidlaw, with the World Society for the Protection of Animals Canada.

He has tracked for years what happens to polar bears that leave Canada and is opposed the circus being issued a licence to bring the bears into Puerto Rico.

"They're lying in a cage in a parking lot in the heat. Unfortunately for the bears, they survive. Even if it went to the worst zoo to live, it's a far better life than it's experiencing in the Suarez Bros. Circus."

The condition of polar bears in the circus first came to Manitobans' attention in 1996, when a Free Press photographer spotted the show during a winter vacation.

It turned out the circus, which only tours tropical countries, acquired three of the bears from a zoo in Germany, which had received them from Manitoba. The province donates orphaned or problem polar bears to foreign zoos, although there hasn't been an orphaned cub in the province since 1995.

In 1998, the then-Conservative government tightened its legislation about who can receive the animals, but there's little the province can do about their fate once they're out of the country.

There is one polar bear remaining in the Assiniboine Park Zoo, 35-year-old Debbie, who lost her mate Skipper two years ago. Zoo curator Dr. Bob Wrigley said they aren't putting another bear in with Debbie but there are plans to build a better exhibit for any future residents.

"We're going to hold off until we make some changes," Wrigley said about the addition of new polar bears, adding that it may be difficult to rebuild their polar bear numbers because there are fewer orphan cubs available.

Burns said a British-based group called Born Free has reached an agreement with the Manitoba government, allowing it to work with orphaned cubs and try to have them adopted by a surrogate mother.

The Record (Sherbrooke)

August 15, 2001, Rita Legault

SHERBROOKE - On May 7, 1978 an elephant trainer was killed in front of more than 1,000 horrified spectators during a circus performance in Rock Forest.

During the incident, another elephant escaped from the big tent pitched in the middle of the shopping mall parking lot and bolted down Bourque Boulevard before being brought down by a police sharpshooter.

The incident is one of more than 130 recorded circus mishaps over the past two decades, about half of which involved elephants running amuck. The worldwide incidents have been documented by the Humane Society of the United States and other animal welfare activists as part of an ongoing campaign to prohibit wild animal acts.

Sherbrooke's Societe de protection des animaux has launched an awareness campaign hoping the public jumps on the bandwagon to ban animal acts like those in the Shriners Circus which is in town this week.

“All animal welfare groups are opposed to animal circus acts,” comments Emannelle Jodoin who researched the matter for SPA-Estrie. The local humane society has gathered information from a variety of sources including the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.

Among other concerns, SPA-Estrie is distressed about the living conditions of circus animals.

“Except for a few minutes in the show ring, circus animals live in crates and cages where they have little room to move around and where they must eat, drink and defecate,” says Jodoin.

There are also concerns about public safety following incidents like the one in Rock Forest. The SPA quotes a report from elephant trainers Alan Roocroft and Donald Atwell Zoll which says elephant attacks in circuses and zoos have claimed 100 lives since 1980. There have also been some 75 wild cat attacks. About one third were fatal.

“There is a strange paradox when parents who seek to protect their children bring them to a circus where children are injured and animals are abused,” the expectant mother comments.

“Even if circus animals are trained and they do what they are told most of the time, they are still wild animals,” comments SPA spokeswoman Valerie Charbonneau, recalling the 1978 incident where the elephant went berserk and killed its trainer in the middle of a performance.

“It's not because a bear is wearing a pink tutu that it is any less a wild animal,” she said.

The SPA also denounces claims that circuses educate children about wild animals. Charbonneau said circus animals do not exhibit natural behaviour.

“They force tigers to jump through hoops of fire,” she said, adding that animals fear fire and the trick goes against every natural instinct tigers possess.

“There are lots of ways to teach children about animals without taking them to the circus,” Charbonneau said, adding that circuses and zoos transmit false images.

“It's completely out of context,” she said. “If children run into a bear in the wild, will they have the same fear and respect for the animal after seeing it dance on a ball at the circus?”

The SPA is also concerned about ineffective laws and regulations which are supposed to protect animals. Charbonneau said there are few inspections and even fewer prosecutions.

Charbonneau said the local SPA decided to comment on circuses because of the appearance by the Shrine Circus.

“We are not opposed to the Shriners and their cause, it's their method of fundraising we're against,” she says.

Despite their opposition, the SPA does not plan to picket performances or organize a public boycott. They simply want to educate the public and hope they won't buy tickets.

“Our goal is not to criticize the circus, but to get the public to ask questions,” Jodoin said.

“If we sow a few seeds of doubt in the mind of circus goers, perhaps they will desert the circus on their own,” Charbonneau adds.

Charbonneau said she's convinced many circus goers love animals.

Circus, activists clash; Show denies animals ill-treated; parents denounce sales tactic

The Windsor Star, August 7, 2001, Mary Agnes

A travelling animal circus spawned a war of words on the weekend from parents angry over ticket prices and animal activist who picketed the show.

“We feel it's exploitation,” said Terry McKinley of ARK II, a local animal rights group. “They'd be better off in sanctuaries.”

The dozen or so activists said the Wonderful World of Animals, which held seven shows at the Windsor Arena over the holiday weekend, kept bears and other critters in trailers with no bedding and inadequate ventilation.

And, the activists allege, most circus animals are trained to do unnatural tricks using cruelty.

One ARK II member said even the very worst zoo is better than a travelling road show.

The group set up pickets before each show and said some would-be patrons turned around at the gate when presented with pamphlets. Circus organizers disputed that assertion.

Derrick Rosaire, who handles the bears, says the bears spend six months of the year at his 12-acre compound in Florida. The only time they are muzzled is right before the act for the audience's protection and their trailers are large and well-ventilated.

Must pass

All animal shows must pass a host of state, federal and provincial inspections, he added.

The bears were born in captivity and Rosaire says he treats them better than most people treat their pet dogs.

Circus staff were quick to condemn the protesters for using dated pictures of muzzled bears on placards and even wearing leather shoes.

"They do nothing to help animals," said George Coronas, also with the Wonderful World of Animals. "All they do is picket."

Parents also raised a stink about the price of tickets to the show, which promised Russian bears, llamas, leopards, Arabian horses and snakes. Free tickets for kids were available at local merchants, but parents were hit with a \$17.50 admission fee.

Parent Kim Malotte, who took her six-year-old son to the show, called the deal false advertising and said the show wasn't worth the adult admission price.

Before leaving during intermission, she saw four bears, two dogs and a horse and couldn't understand the announcer because the sound system was so bad.

Because the arena was sweltering, many parents were forced to douse kids with water in the bathroom or buy expensive drinks or \$4 Sno Cones, said Malotte.

She said about 20 parents demanded their money back during the Friday night intermission, but were refused.

Other parents who spoke to The Star during a Saturday afternoon show expressed similar frustrations.

But Coronas said parents had only to call the arena's box office to find out the adult ticket price. And, many parents arrived with a gaggle of kids to take full advantage of the deal.

"What cinema do you have in this city that lets kids in for free?" he asked.

As for the refunds, Coronas said no production lets patrons see more than half the show and then ask for their money back.

Windsor Arena manager Cheryl Hachey said the heat inside was not unbearable. "If it was too hot, I would close down the show," she said.

Globe and Mail

Old-style circus called passé; Public concern over treatment of animals will force change, Halifax vet says. August 1, 2001, Kevin Cox

HALIFAX -- As hundreds of Halifax children flocked to an arena to see the elephants at the Shriners' circus yesterday, veterinarian Hugh Chisholm predicted the demise of the annual rite of summer.

The Halifax vet, part of an international group of veterinarians who believe that circuses train and confine animals inhumanely, said the public is beginning to shun shows that include tricks such as dancing bears, boxing kangaroos and tigers jumping through hoops.

Some circuses, fearing actions by local humane societies, are including more human clowns and acrobats instead of high-profile lions and tigers.

“Change is coming and I think it's just a matter of educating the public that this [performing circus animals] is passé. We don't see freaks at the circus any more and there is a reason for that: It's just not socially acceptable. This is just taking things one step further,” he said.

Dr. Chisholm was one of more than two dozen protesters who carried placards and handed out pamphlets decrying the show by the Tarzan Zerbini Circus, which included performing elephants, a kangaroo and several dogs.

The veterinarian said concerns about animals being transported in small trailers and cages, and being mistreated and forced to perform silly tricks is starting to sink in with the public. About 25 Canadian municipalities have banned live-animal performances, including six communities in Nova Scotia.

“It's not just a bunch of animal-rights activists out here [protesting]. There are people out here who represent educated professionals in this province,” he said.

Earlier this year, the ringmaster and an animal trainer with the George Cardin Circus pleaded guilty and were fined \$200 each for causing privation and neglect to five bears in Mount Pearl, Nfld., by keeping them in cages that were too small.

That case marked the first time a circus performing in Canada had been convicted under animal-protection legislation.

The demonstration yesterday was ignored by many parents who took their children to the show, but it clearly irritated some members of the Shriners organization, which takes the circuses to Atlantic Canada to raise about \$100,000 a year.

Keep animals out of circus: Chisholm, Adams leading the fight at city council level The Daily News (Halifax). July 10 2001, David Swick

No one could accuse Hugh Chisholm and Stephen Adams of being "animal-rights nuts." Chisholm is a veterinarian who eats meat and wears leather; Adams is the tough and often conservative councillor for Spryfield.

Yet these two men, who do not know each other, are leading the fight to have metro do the right thing and ban circuses with wild animals.

"About five years ago, a client brought in a video that the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies made," Dr. Chisholm says.

"That video made me concerned and angry. So, I started going to circuses in metro, to see what I could see behind the scenes: the sizes of enclosures, etc. The more I saw, the angrier I got."

Domesticated animals different

Adams has seen the terrible truth in videos, too.

"Some people," he says, "fear that if we forbid exotic animals, next we'll outlaw the Atlantic Winter Fair, cattle, etc. But that's not the same thing at all. Those are domesticated animals; elephants and tigers are not."

A couple of weeks ago, Chisholm made a presentation to council, asking it to join the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association and the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in opposing the use of wild or exotic animals in circuses and similar displays. The proposal has been referred to staff, and will likely return for a vote in the fall.

Three years ago, a similar presentation was made to council, sent to staff, and never came up for a vote.

This time, there is a fair chance that council will vote to condemn the use of wild animals, a decision that could effectively stop circuses with animals from coming here.

"Some people might say we don't have jurisdiction," Adams said. "Well, we didn't have it for pesticides, either ... If we want to do this, we can. We can say a special permit is needed for a specific zone, but then no permits will be given there."

Chisholm, who operates the Atlantic Cat Hospital in Halifax, is a member of Veterinarians Opposed to Inhuman Circus Environments (VOICE). The national group has discovered that circus animals can be on the road for up to 50 weeks a year, and are often forced to eat, sleep, defecate, and urinate in the same tiny, confined space.

Stereotypical behaviour such as head-bobbing, swaying back and forth and pacing are common in these wild beasts, and indicate psychological distress. This can result in a psychological breakdown -- and serious harm. A Bengal tiger that performed with the Shriners Circus in Dartmouth in '98 was subsequently gunned down by a SWAT team after killing two trainers in Florida.

“Does it make sense to keep an animal in a cage for 23 1/2 hours a day, so a child can see it for 15 minutes?” Chisholm asks. “Is this worth it?”

Kids can watch videos instead

He says that children can better learn appreciation for the majesty of animals by watching videos, TV shows and offerings on the Internet. I would add that the magic fun of circuses doesn't have to include brutalized animals -- think of Montreal's Cirque du Soleil.

“I'm not against animals or pets,” Chisholm said. “But there are certain ways that animals should be treated. We need to draw a line in the sand and say, ‘This is not acceptable.’”

**The Chronicle-Herald -- Metropolitan
Metro Wednesday, June 27, 2001 A9**

Councillor wants anti-circus bylaw; Veterinarian says exotic animals often mistreated, pose dangers. Jeffrey Simpson

Halifax regional council might stop the circus from coming to town.

Dr. Hugh Chisholm, of Veterinarians Opposed to Inhumane Circus Environments, told council Tuesday night that five municipalities in the province and several others across the country already have bylaws prohibiting circus acts that use animals.

Dr. Chisholm said that using exotic and wild animals in circuses is cruel to the creatures and potentially dangerous for people.

"There are numerous reports of elephants rampaging and tigers attacking their trainers," he said.

One Bengal tiger named Jupiter that performed with the Shrine Circus in Dartmouth in 1998 has since been gunned down by a SWAT team because it killed two trainers in Florida, he said.

"Being raised in captivity by a loving trainer is no guarantee of safety."

Many trainers repeatedly beat the animals to keep them in line, he said.

The animals are also confined in small enclosures that are inadequate and lead to them developing neurotic behaviour or becoming aggressive, he said.

"The quality of life of circus animals falls far short of what even the poorest-quality zoo provides," he said.

"Observing animals perform tricks and silly stunts can hardly be considered educational. Children learn that animals are nothing more than talented actors rather than gaining any appreciation of their true beauty and majesty."

Coun. Steve Adams (Spryfield-Herring Cove) asked for staff to draw up a bylaw banning circuses that use animals.

But Coun. John Cunningham (Dartmouth Centre) suggested it might be better to debate it at a committee of the whole session of council first.

"So council will have the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons," he said.

Mr. Adams dismissed that as a waste of time.

"I don't want to sit through a committee of the whole when animals are being tortured," he said. "It makes me sick."

At the advice of the municipal solicitor, council agreed to first have staff look into whether the city has the jurisdiction to enact such measures on its own.

In other council business:

- Council decided to continue its contractual obligations with New Era Farms while the compost facility completes \$2 million worth of upgrading.

- Council decided to send a request to the provincial government to allow the city to include prohibiting commercial properties such as medical clinics from spraying pesticides under its bylaw.

**The Western Star(Corner Brook)
Wed 13 Jun 2001**

ST. JOHN'S (CP) -- Mount Pearl council formally banned animal circuses on Monday.

Council approved new regulations that prohibit any circus which has wild or exotic animals.

The regulations also require other circuses, as well as go-cart and amusement park operators, to obtain licenses in order to operate in Mount Pearl.

Councillor Bernice Miller says the regulations give council greater control over such events, including the power to revoke licenses when the regulations aren't followed.

Miller says council decided to make the changes following a recent court case where workers at an animal circus were convicted of cruelty to animals.

Circus fined for animal cruelty (CBC)

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. - A New Jersey-based circus will have to be a little more careful the next time it comes to Newfoundland.

Judge suggests people stay away from circus

Today, two members of the George Cardin International Circus pled guilty to cruelty to animal charges in provincial court. Ringmaster Charles Ameral and trainer Derek Ross were sentenced to fines of \$200 each. That's the maximum for the offence.

Neither defendant was in court today, but in the past both men have maintained that their animals were well-treated.

Circus bears were kept in cages that were dirty and too small. In most cases, the bears were caged for 23 hours a day, brought out only to perform. In his remarks, the judge said the maximum sentence needs to be looked at. He added that the best sentence may be for people to simply stay away the next time this circus comes to town.

Local SPCA lays charges against circus. The Telegram, Newfoundland.

August 1, 2001, Glen Whiffen

The local SPCA has charged two men associated with the George Carden

International Circus for alleged cruelty and mistreatment of animals while the travelling show was in Mount Pearl for performances in June.

The charges, filed with provincial court in St. John's Friday, were laid under the Criminal Code of Canada and the province's Animal Protection Act.

Five counts

Charles Amaral and Derek Ross, both listed on court documents as being of unknown addresses but associated with the circus, face five counts each.

The charges include causing unnecessary pain and suffering to five bears; causing unnecessary pain and suffering to eight ponies; negligence in failing to provide proper care to the ponies; causing unnecessary pain and suffering to five elephants; and negligence in failing to provide adequate water or care to five elephants.

The alleged offences occurred between June 23 and 28. Amaral, believed to be owner, manager and ring master, and Ross, a trainer/handler, were served with the legal documents in P.E.I. where the circus has been holding its latest performances. Amaral could not be reached for comment Monday. A first appearance on the charges is scheduled for Sept. 6 at provincial court in St. John's.

Controversy has followed the circus since it began performances in Atlantic Canada earlier this summer. The circus was kicked out of Nova Scotia for having bears in its show, which is against provincial regulations, and got an icy reception from St. John's Mayor Andy Wells who refused to grant the circus a licence to perform in the city.

John Lavers, a special constable with the Newfoundland and Labrador SPCA, confirmed Monday charges were laid, but said he could not comment on details of the case.

In an earlier Telegram story, however, Lavers stated that he, another SPCA special constable and a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer conducted an inspection of the animals while the circus performed in Mount Pearl.

SPCA special constables are empowered to conduct such inspections. He said they found ponies and elephants chained at the leg and living in extremely cramped quarters in a tractor-trailer, and without adequate water or ventilation. As well, he claimed, bears were living two to a pen with no water, and their food was contaminated by fecal matter.

Amaral explained at the time the animals are only chained during transport to prevent their movement from overturning a moving vehicle.

He said the animals receive water about every two hours during rest stops on the road.

Lavers has said the SPCA is hoping federal inspectors may also consider laying charges against the circus for alleged breaches of the Health of Animals Act and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act.

The Telegram, June 13, 2000

No circus for St. John's. Barb Sweet and Bernie Bennett

St. John's will refuse the George Carden International Circus a permit, but it can still perform in neighboring Mount Pearl.

After viewing a presentation by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which brought along a video by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, St. John's council Monday night said it would go further and consider a bylaw banning outright all circuses that feature exotic animals such as tigers and elephants.

The video shown at the private session of council was not specifically about the Carden circus, which was booked into Memorial Stadium June 23 and 24.

But on the video, councillors saw an elephant killed on a rampage in Florida and it also detailed methods used to train circus animals.

Mayor Andy Wells said there will be no penalties for the St. John's Civic Centre Corp. if the circus can't perform.

"I was very surprised all members of council approved it," said Wells, who had already spoken out publicly against the circus.

"The whole business (of performing animals) is an abomination. It's cruel and inhumane."

Coun. Keith Coombs, chairman of the Civic Centre Corp. said the circus had a contract with Memorial Stadium, but it was contingent on the city issuing a permit.

Coombs and Coun. John Dinn said they took their children to the circus in years past, but different morals apply now about the treatment of animals.

Dinn said he never enjoyed seeing animals caged up.

The vice-president of the province's SPCA, Kathy Hodgkinson, was delighted with St. John's decision.

Circus acts with acrobats, tight-rope walkers and other acts are still welcome in the city.

"No other circus with exotic animals will, I think, get approval in St. John's," Hodgkinson said after her delegation met with council.

"You have exotic animals that are caged in small cages, transported long distances and made to perform unnatural acts."

Bullhooks, sticks with hooks on the end, whips and electric prods have all been used to train circus animals, she said.

"To some extent it would have been irrelevant which circus came to St. John's with exotic animals. We're not talking about just this circus. It could have been any circus, the same issues apply," she said.

The George Carden International Circus, which has operated for the past 30 years, uses elephants, bears and dogs.

In a letter written to the city, promoter John Walsh denied a claim that the circus had been cited by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1998 for unprofessional behaviour after one of the circus workers had been poking and prodding a tiger with a stick.

Walsh said the inspection reports are recommendations and corrections are required in 30 days. He said the tiger incident occurred with an act that was under contract to the circus and the individual involved was dismissed.

The SPCA failed to keep a circus from performing in metro in 1997.

The show will go on in Mount Pearl at the Glacier, however, despite the efforts of Coun. Ken Meeker a couple of weeks ago to have it banned.

Meeker's efforts came too late, Mayor Dave Denine pointed out, because the city had already signed a contract in January with the circus.

Denine said there is no by-law in place in Mount Pearl to exclude exotic animals performing in any circus in the city, so all regulations are being adhered to.

Meeker is expected to go after that by-law banning exotic animals in future circus appearances.

Coun. Ed Grant produced a pile of documents at Monday's Mount Pearl council meeting showing the Carden circus to have an excellent record and reputation after 30 years in operation, including letters of commendation from animal rights groups.

Meanwhile, the Newfoundland branch of CUPE came out Monday in support of the SPCA's pitch to have circus animals banned in the city.

CUPE president Wayne Lucas said Wells was on the right track by calling on the Civic Centre Corp. to cancel the circus because of its "dreadful record" of abuse of animals.

Letters to the Editor

Animal acts didn't add to circus show Guelph Mercury, June 3 2002, by Heather Stover

Dear Editor - Members of the South-Western Ontario Chapter of Circus Watch were in Guelph last week to observe the Garden Bros. Circus.

Outside the stadium, protesters cramped in a cage drew attention to the suffering of circus animals and "clowns," handed out information leaflets and gave balloon animals to passing children.

Inside the stadium, stunning performances by jugglers, acrobats and trapeze artists were outshone only by Ian Garden's numerous glitzy costume changes.

Unfortunately, this circus is still clinging to a few out-dated animal acts that could be omitted. Small dogs prancing around like little furry people and Ian Garden's pony act were no match for the human cannonball or the skits involving some audience participation.

Most unsettling is the continued use of elephants. Their plodding performance presents a sad caricature of these proud animals and the danger that the elephant rides present to the public is alarming. During the 20-minute intermission children and parents filled the stadium floor to see the elephants and wait for a ride.

There was no security; our investigators were able to roam about unimpeded and unquestioned. If those elephants had gone on the rampage no trainer with a bull-hook would have been able to stop them and the absence of clearly marked exits from the floor would have been catastrophic.

We believe that there is no emergency plan capable of ensuring the safety of the public. The only way to protect the public from dangerous animals is to keep them out of close proximity to people. Luckily the show went off without incident.

At \$58.25 for a family admission the Garden Bros. Circus is not cheap. On top of that there is popcorn, cotton candy, drinks, elephant rides and this year's tacky toy. Ian Garden shamelessly hawked a \$10 plastic light sabre with an elephant head putting additional financial pressure on many parents.

These all add up to a hefty sum for an afternoon's entertainment but the biggest hidden cost is to public safety.

Heather Stover

London

**Mayor showed leadership on animal rights issue
Port Hope Evening Guide, April 23 2002, Jane Weeks**

To the Editor:

Hurrah for Mayor Rick Austin for supporting the proposed bylaw to prohibit the exploitation of exotic animal and circus activities on town-owned property or in its facilities. That's why he's the mayor -- he shows leadership. Too bad the councillors didn't follow his lead.

These are enlightened days that we live in, or at least we like to think so. When I was a child there were no animal protection groups to expose the horrendous treatment of the animals we saw in circus performances.

There are now, and we do know, unless we choose to remain ignorant. Remember the hue and cry when Nikita the Rottweiler was dragged behind a car? I haven't seen it, but I understand that the video showing the treatment of "performing" animals is enough to make macho men cringe. What's the difference between this and Nikita's treatment? Would councillors think that the video is appropriate viewing for their children or grandchildren?

Get with it, council. If it's fine to pass the buck and ask the province to do it, then why isn't it fine for you to show some gumption? Kudos to Diana Storen for having the courage of her convictions, and to Cobourg council for showing morality and leadership on this issue.

Jane Weeks/Grafton

**Support ban on animal acts
Port Hope Evening Guide. April 16 2002, Diana Storen**

To the Editor:

Cobourg's new bylaw that prohibits performances by wild/exotic animals on municipally-owned property is the first in Ontario.

On April 9, I asked Port Hope council to enact the same bylaw, with the intention of closing Northumberland to circuses that feature such cruel and out-dated entertainment. This is a very tiny step along a road that I believe will eventually lead to the abolition of the animal circus.

It is my hope that our two small towns will shame bigger cities into adopting similar legislation, with a ripple effect that will bring down the big top for good!

I am asking the readers of this newspaper to help me with my campaign. Please write letters to Port Hope council, 56 Queen St., P.O. Box 117, Port Hope, ON L1A 3V9, or

the Port Hope Evening Guide (details on this page), urging Port Hope to close its borders to any circus with performing animals.

If you need reasons, consider the following:

It is by means of brutal training methods that circus animals learn to do the unnatural stunts one sees at a circus.

The beast wagons in which the animals live and travel offer cramped, unhealthy conditions.

Every year there are many documented incidents of frustrated animals injuring their trainers and/or spectators.

Contact ZOOCHECK CANADA www.zoocheck.com if you would like more information. Thank you on behalf of those who are exploited and have no voice.

Diana Storen / Cobourg

**Students go bananas over chimpanzees
The Sudbury Star, March 9 202, Lenna Rhodes**

Dear Editor:

Re: Making Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees Amazing Experience -- March 2.

I thoroughly enjoyed the column regarding David Lickley's coming IMAX film entitled Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees.

Last year I did a complete Jane Goodall unit with my junior division language students.

Students had the opportunity to read Goodall's book, My Life With the Chimpanzees.

The newspaper column allowed me to reminisce whenever Lickley told of his encounters with an alpha male chimp named Frodo.

I had involved my students within a chimpanzee unit, before knowing that Goodall was actually coming to Sudbury. They participated in book reports, African research, designed posters with messages about taking care of chimpanzees along with other educational expectations. All of the curriculum-based objectives complemented the new curriculum.

Excitement was generated by students and this theme developed into one of school spirit.

Activities such as Banana Day promoted healthy eating, chimp facts were read over the intercom, and other pertinent hands-on approaches were meaningful and challenging.

Children were heard talking about chimpanzees in the hallways, and many students brought in stuffed monkeys, holding them tightly, like babes within a land of wonder and discovery.

Enthusiasm was infused by this interesting subject matter throughout entire families within the community. Positive feedback by many was rewarding and encouraging.

We saved pennies to adopt a chimpanzee. Upon raising \$150 we were sent a Chimpanzee Guardian certificate along with a coloured, glossy photograph of our adopted chimpanzee named Ikuru, whose mother was accidentally killed in the Congolese war. We were given documentation about Ikuru which explained how the Jane Goodall Centre saved her.

Our pennies also made our school official members of Roots and Shoots because we truly showed that we cared for **animals**, people, and the environment.

Like Ikuru, many chimpanzees have a unique story and I am so happy that the newspaper is honouring Jane Goodall, for she has indeed rescued many chimpanzees from the **cruelty** of harsh laboratory testing and circus mockery.

Last spring, I attended a magnificent Roots and Shoots conference at Science North and a representative from the Jane Goodall Institute sent our school a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement which read: "Only when we understand can we care; Only if we care will we help; Only if we help shall they be saved."

I was disappointed that a few adults condemned my unit, saying that I should be caring more about mankind and the poor people within Sudbury vs. a bunch of chimpanzees. I was saddened whenever I heard that my efforts were critiqued because the theme was considered unique.

Perhaps these individuals thought that I had gone bananas and was indeed going apes over a topic which was beyond their acceptance. However, I continued to stand my ground and my motivational strategies produced results of quality student samples and glittering eyes. I know that I reached many children not only within the contents of the curriculum but with opportunities to allow them to appreciate their natural surroundings. If it weren't for outstanding individuals such as Jane Goodall, intelligent chimpanzees would not stand a fair chance on our planet. If it weren't for the chimpanzees, we wouldn't be who we are today, in more ways than we could ever imagine.

I brought the African experience to children in Sudbury and I am so proud of The Sudbury Star for bringing information to our community about a woman who is certainly unselfish and angelic in so many ways.

Perhaps the individuals who thought my unit was useless, should promptly read My Life With the Chimpanzees and receive a front row ticket to watch David Lickley's Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees IMAX film.

Lenna Rhodes
Sudbury

The Ottawa Citizen

Monday, January 28, 2002

Re: Circus on Ice leaves its skates at home, Jan. 23.

We at the Ottawa Humane Society join all those who care about animals in breathing a sigh of relief that the managers of Casino du Lac Leamy showed their principles and insisted that the Moscow Circus leave its "hockey-playing" bears at home.

The statements made by circus officials show a staggering ignorance about animals. Training animals to engage in these unnatural behaviours is often appallingly cruel.

We hope the City of Ottawa will be as progressive as the casino and the 28 B.C., Quebec and Atlantic municipalities that have banned exotic animal circuses in their jurisdictions. Otherwise, the next visit from the Moscow Circus could be to Ottawa, and it could include these tragic bears -- and it would all be perfectly legal.

Bruce Roney, Ottawa,

Executive director, Ottawa Humane Society

Winnipeg Free

Monday, November 19, 2001

City urged to ban animal exploitation

I understand that Winnipeg city council is considering a ban on the use of wild and exotic animals in circuses.

In British Columbia, over 22 municipalities have passed bylaws prohibiting the use of wild and exotic animals in circuses. Vancouver, Victoria and their neighbouring communities have had these bylaws for over a decade. Municipalities all across the country are working for this initiative. These bylaws support the feelings and attitudes of the communities. Circuses exploit animals and cities are no longer proud to host them.

Our well-respected animal welfare organizations have policies that strongly oppose the use of wild and exotic animals for entertainment purposes and they are speaking out. The SPCA, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Zoocheck and Veterinarians Opposed to the Inhumane Circus Environments (VOICE, founded in Nova Scotia) all consistently oppose the capture, acclimatization, training and use of animals, particularly exotic ones, in circuses.

There is no humane way to operate a travelling circus. The inherent cruelty involving the constant confinement in small cages or on chains, the travelling 10 months of the year and the abusive training techniques all cause immense suffering. Baby elephants are repeatedly stretched with ropes and beaten in order to break and train them. These intelligent, social mammals often live their whole lives in travel trailers chained by their legs. They are often forced to sleep standing up (the other animals are in small travel cages) where they eat, urinate and defecate. The training behind the scenes involves the use of steel rods, whips, muzzles, electric prods, bullhooks, food and water deprivation, paw burning, chains and isolation. Once they grow old or start to show stubborn or aggressive behaviour, they are often sold to poorer circuses in Third-World countries, to exotic animal dealers, roadside zoos and even to game farms to be shot by trophy hunters.

The cruel and demeaning way that animals are treated in circuses sends the wrong message to our children, that we can manipulate and abuse animals any way we like for profit. In nature, bears don't ride bicycles, elephants don't stand on their heads and a tiger would never jump through a fiery hoop. These animals perform out of fear with broken spirits.

We must teach our children compassion and respect for wildlife and the environment.

I urge the City of Winnipeg to join us and the many progressive communities in banning animal abuse and exploitation.

Connie Mahoney, Kelowna, B.C.

People must speak up to protect animals

Winnipeg Free

Monday, November 19, 2001

This letter is in response to Tom Oleson's column City hall to be only circus in town (Nov. 10).

Mr. Oleson has taken a very myopic view of the proposal to ban the use of wild and exotic animals from circuses in Winnipeg. He has completely missed the point and the intent of the proposed bylaw. Does the sheer lack of incidents of circus animal cruelty or accidents in Winnipeg mean that they do not exist? I think not. Perhaps Mr. Oleson should read the recent stories about the Suarez Circus and its treatment of polar bears, or the George Cardin Circus in Newfoundland for its treatment of animals. In the latter case, the Newfoundland SPCA launched a private prosecution against a circus trainer and ringmaster, resulting in a guilty plea being entered by the defendants.

The whole purpose of introducing a bylaw to ban the use of wild and exotic animals in circuses is to protect these animals from physical and psychological cruelty. Simply put, these kinds of animals are not meant to be trained by humans to perform unnatural acts and subjected to travelling across the continent. These animals belong in their natural environment, which does not involve performing tricks for people's amusement.

Finally, Mr. Oleson states that "animals have no rights" and that "the laws against cruelty to animals are there not because we think animals have rights but because we require people to behave decently." Well, animals should have rights. And, it is the decent people who put themselves out there, risking being labelled as extremists or activists, who are trying to protect them. If these people will not speak for these animals, who will?

Jill Bemis, Winnipeg

Ban exotic animal circuses

The Ottawa Citizen, August 1 2001, Bruce Roney

Re: Why do people attend the barbaric circus? July 26.

The Shriner's Circus was indeed back in town. Like most circuses, the Shriner's Circus rents animals from one of a handful of companies providing live exotic animals to shows across North America. These wild animals travel great distances and spend most of their lives confined in tractor trailers or small pens.

We at the Humane Society and everyone who cares about animals find this abhorrent. It does not, however, meet the current legal definition of animal cruelty or an animal in "a state of distress."

Parliament must pass Bill C-15 to widen the definition of animal cruelty and to assist investigators in their pursuit of prosecutions. The proposed legislation, replacing provisions in the Criminal Code originally written in 1892, would finally remove animal cruelty from the sections of the Criminal Code that deal with property crime.

The Humane Society inspected the Shriner's site two of the three days it was in Ottawa and found that the animals were maintained in a manner satisfactory under the law, but we feel that this is insufficient to ensure the overall well-being of the animals.

Ottawa Council must take the lead from the 28 British Columbia, Quebec and Atlantic municipalities that have banned exotic animal circuses in their jurisdictions.

At a minimum, the city should use its licensing powers to fund inspectors to be present at all times while the animals are in the city.

The time for exotic animal circuses is over. The time for change has begun.

Bruce Roney, Ottawa

Safety is animal activists' concern

The London Free Press

By Florine Morrison, Freelance writer

Rebuttal

The recent Free Press editorial, Animal act wearing thin (June 16), should have been titled, "Fence-sitting wearing thin." In three short paragraphs, the piece vacillates between society's discomfort with our frivolous use of animals for entertainment and its dependence on tired excuses that allow dangerous, outdated animal acts to continue.

The initiative to prohibit wild animals from performing in London is motivated by a deep concern for the danger that these animals present to the public, a respect for animal life and the belief that it is no longer acceptable to display animals in this fashion. Public education is important and so it is necessary to clear up the misguided notions in the editorial.

Circus patrons should realize that there are no provincial, federal or municipal regulations to protect them from dangerous animals such as the tigers, elephants and bears that accompany circuses and no requirements for vaccination or certification of elephants coming into Canada. Although the harsh confinement that touring animals endure does deprive them of all natural behaviour, it does not adequately protect the public. Tigers that kill, bears that bite and elephants that have been exposed to tuberculosis have all been allowed to enter London with little or no thought for public safety. Professional elephant handlers know elephants are unpredictable and can injure and kill without warning. The Journal of the Elephant Manager's Association states, "Elephant

handling/training is a vocation considered to be one of the most risky operations in the U.S." For that reason, many reputable zoos are now using the "protected-contact" system. Handlers are not in the same enclosure or proximity with the elephant; they remain outside of the enclosure and outside the social structure of their animals. These measures are impossible to duplicate with touring animals.

Misleading information regarding the authority to ban wild animal acts in Ontario continues to confuse this issue. Ten years ago, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the ban on performing animals in Toronto because it had been enacted under the wrong section of the Municipal Act. Subsequent legal opinions, including that of the Court of Appeal, all agree municipalities do have the authority to ban exotic animal acts if it is done to protect the public. A municipal bylaw is the appropriate way to address these concerns.

In spite of the fact traditional circuses still manage to draw a small crowd, their numbers are dwindling. The Shrine Circus was here for only one day this year and each year the Garden Bros. Circus attracts a smaller crowd. Fund-raising events for the Shriners and the police retirees could only benefit from a more socially acceptable event. Many successful circuses do not use animals. They amaze crowds with human skills and would probably attract a large number of Londoners who now choose to avoid close contact with dangerous, stressed circus animals.

If city council should choose to shun responsibility for this issue and turn it "into a business decision," as the editorial suggests, the results could be deadly. It is the duty of our council to make decisions to protect our community. This is often done without 100-per-cent support and in spite of business concerns.

Smoking bylaws protect us from second hand smoke, pesticide laws would reduce exposure to poisons. Councillors want to take proactive measures to protect us from dogs that bite and the city has already prohibited us from keeping dangerous wild animals as pets.

The proposal to prevent these same dangerous animals from entering London with circuses would be consistent with these.

Appendix B: Sources

Organizations cited

American Association of Zookeepers, Inc., 3601 S.W. 29th St., Suite 133, Topeka, KS, 66614, www.aazk.org

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, 102-30 Concourse Gate, Nepean, ON K2E 7V7, 613-224-8072, www.cfhs.ca

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Environment House, Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: 4122-917-8139, www.cites.org

Elephant Alliance (The), 6265 Cardeno Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037, 858-454-4959, www.elephantalliance.org

Ottawa Humane Society, 101 Champagne Ave. S., Ottawa, ON K1S 4P3, 613-725-3166, www.ottawahumane.ca

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 501 Front St., Norfolk, Virginia 23510, 757-622-PETA, www.circuses.com

Zoocheck Canada Inc., 3266 Yonge St., Suite 1417, Toronto, ON M4N 3P6, 416-285-1744, www.zoocheck.com

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