

1. HHS Committee Meeting Minutes For July 11th, 2017

Documents:

[HHS MTG JULY 11 MINUTES DRAFT.PDF](#)

2. Zoning For Smaller Shelters: Initial Discussion

Jeff Levine, Director of Planning & Urban Development

- Overview of issue
- Committee questions and discussion

* No public comment period on this item

Background: While we were working on expanding the zoning for emergency shelters in Portland, some advocates expressed a desire to also explore the zoning for smaller shelters (40 or fewer beds).

Documents:

[SMALL SHELTERS HHS SUPPORTING DOC JULY 11.PDF](#)

3. Plan For Follow-Up To Positive Health Transition

Dawn Stiles, Director of Health and Human Services

Julie Sullivan, Senior Advisor to the City Manager

- Overview of plan for follow-up
- Public comment on the plan for follow-up
- Committee questions and discussion

Background: The City's HIV Positive Health Care clinic closed at the end of 2016 when the grant which funded it was transitioned to Greater Portland Health. As we approach the one-year mark of the transition of many of the City's former Positive Health patients to other facilities, we would like to assess our process around the transition and the overall results.

Documents:

[HHS MTG JULY 11TH HANDOUT 2.PDF](#)

4. Prohibition On Display Of Wild And Exotic Animals

- Overview of proposed ordinance
- Public comment on the proposed ordinance
- Committee questions & discussion
- Committee vote (if committee is ready to take action) or next steps

Documents:

[HHS MTG JULY 11TH HANDOUT 3.PDF](#)
[HHS MTG HANDOUT 4 \(D\).PDF](#)

[HHS MTG HANDOUT 4 \(C\).PDF](#)
[HHS MTG HANDOUT 4 \(B\).PDF](#)
[HHS MTG HANDOUT 4 \(A\).PDF](#)
[HHS MTG JULY 11 HANDOUT 5.PDF](#)
[HHS MTG JULY 11 HANDOUT 6.PDF](#)



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Health & Human Services Committee

July 11th, 2017
5:30 PM / Room 209
City Hall,
Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance:

Belinda S. Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr. (At Large)

City Staff Attendance:

Mayor, Ethan Strimling; Director of Health & Human Services, Dawn Stiles; City Manager's Office, Julie Sullivan; Fire Chief, David Jackson; Director of Planning and Urban Development, Jeff Levine; Corporation Counsel, Danielle West-Chuhta

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:34PM

Chair Ray moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Before the meeting could officially begin Mayor Strimling requested clarification on tonight's discussion on shelters. Chair Ray clarified tonight's discussion would be in fact on smaller shelters.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Zoning for Smaller Shelters: Initial Discussion

Mark Swan from Preble Street gave an overview of benefits of smaller shelters (20-25 beds would be appropriate, population specific, operation cost, licensing requirements – 20 beds is a visible) be able to better serve the most vulnerable if smaller shelters are spread throughout the city. Mayor Strimling whom was present for the discussion asked

Jeff Levine, Director of Planning & Urban Development - gave a detailed overview on proposed updates for ordinance *Sec. 14-474 Conditional uses* zoning language in regards to shelters (See handout #1)

Councilor Batson – requested a matrix and/or map to reflect listing shelters (maximum # beds) along with square footage requirements within zones. Councilor Mavodones - agreed a map would be helpful. Councilor Ray added to the discussion that the proposed language shelters would be able to go anywhere in the city.

AGENDA ITEM 3- Plan for Follow-up to Positive Health Transition

Background: The City's HIV Positive Health Care clinic closed at the end of 2016 when the grant which funded it was transitioned to Greater Portland Health. As we approach the one-year mark of the transition of many of the City's former Positive Health patients to other facilities, we would like to assess our process around the transition and the overall results.

Dawn Stiles, Director of Health and Human Services & Julie Sullivan - gave an overview (see handout #2 *Follow-up Survey on Positive Health Care Transition*) the city will work with the Public Health Program at USM and the Patient Advocacy Committee to survey 149 Positive HealthCare patients regarding transition from city-run clinic that closed back in December 2016. The survey and analysis will be completed by the end of the calendar year.



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

The Chair opened for Public Comment at this time.

-Jenson Steel, Chair of Patient Advocacy Committee, spoke briefly on the closure of clinic that preparations were not made properly. This survey serves as a purpose for patients, this serves as a voice, and the input gathered can be put to great use for others.

-Joey Brennan- serves on Patient Advocacy Committee, shared with the group that patients that left India Street found care elsewhere, feels survey will make patients feel that people do care and the survey from the transitions itself we can all learn from this and be able to share with others

*public comment closed at this time

Councilor Mavodones asked if the results would be available for other communities. Jenson Steele replied – yes

Councilor Mavodones added that the study will be beneficial. Chair Ray thanked Julianne for her continued work on this project as the one year mark quickly approaches. Chair Ray finds the feedback important to see how the transition is going. There are times the city has to make transitions and it is important to analyze the data for future communications.

AGENDA ITEM 4- Prohibition on Display of Wild and Exotic Animals

Councilor Batson supports the Prohibition of Display of Wild and Exotic Animals. Councilor Batson introduced Gina Geary and Katie Hansberry – any questions committee will refer to Gina & Katie to answer.

Chair Ray asked Danielle West-Chuhta, Corporation Counsel for feedback: (see handout #3)

- Remove criminal violation section we do not have the ability to do so – Would the city be able to regulate? Violation section needs to be tweaked.
- Section A - talks about violation by any person allow – Wild and Exotic animal travel act? What is the goal here? Need to be more specific? Something to talk about – no such acts in the city? May only impact? Limited, needs to be clear for whom is enforcing this
- Who is enforcing? What department is responsible for enforcing? Legal cannot be the department. In the past, an ordinance named enforcement department can be the City Manager or designee as a good fall back– that way they could enforce the ordinance as he/she would designee – need to add established reasons for council to review
- What prompted this ordinance?

Council Mavodones asked if tweaks were completed – Danielle replied not yet, but can be ready for council to review. Chair asked if there were any comments for Danielle. Katie & Gina asked even though the ordinance is not amended as of today – Can this proceed to Council?

Chair Ray responded this is still possible. Danielle will complete tweaks to be brought forward to council with no hiccups.

Public Comment opened at this time:

Katie Hansberry, HSUS Maine State Director (Humane Society) Portland Resident - strongly encouraged support for this ordinance she gave a detailed overview regarding traveling animal cruelty (please see handouts #4 the Katie read to committee)

Gina Geary, Portland Resident, Animal Behaviorist, thanked the committee for this opportunity in support of the ordinance took the floor gave a detailed overview for her support for the ordinance. She spoke on the five freedoms raising wellness, welfare physical and emotional as well as mental state of the animals, protection, nutrition (see handout) for more details.



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Paula Erbeck, Portland resident - nobody profits, morale issues, people are turning a blind eye, horrible conditions that the animals are in, subcontractors are out of Florida and contracted by circus and a huge distant between where the shows happen, sends a disillusion messages to children

Michael Steinmeyer-appreciates being able to speak on the subject where he did not know this was on the agenda this evening- and definitely not in favor of animal cruelty, only objection to this would be would this bar public display or ban exotic animals for educational purposes where Portland does not have a zoo? (Chair Ray responded will answer questions at the end of public comment)

Joey Brennan-Portland resident, will be brief, in years ahead our great grandchildren will not know what circuses are, they will be a part of the past-You know what thing to do is?

Val Giguere, (see handout #5) Animal Maine Coalition -sent a letter of support, this perpetrates the system this is not great on many levels.

Jackie, Limerick resident, traveled in to speak- is a protestor, animals suffer, it is unnatural state for animals, they deserve to live in sanctuaries.

Melissa Gates- Founder of Animal Rights- (see handout) has witnessed many issues, animal care givers smoking around the animals, pitch forks being used, she has videos on her website, elephants have been known to carry TB – gave a timeline for elephant that carried TB- this has NOT happened here – but it could. TB kills 1.5 million people every year. Elephants need to be tested and testing results vary.

Accidents happen. These animals are forced to travel long miles in tiny cages. Kids are encouraged to touch the animals in these cages. I hope you take the time to read my submission. Wardens are not trained for proper permits issuance for these animals, we have seen a dwindle of people protesting.

Public opinion has gone down. We need to teach kids taking animals out of the wild is not ok. Portland needs to make a stand (see handout #6)

Nicole- volunteer animal rights activist- spoke on Mary the elephant, domestically overrun, its 2017 we know better Portland has an opportunity to take a stand

****Closed Public Comment at this time**

Committee Discussion:

Chair Ray responded to public comment/question re: banning display of animals all together – yes this ordinance would ban public display of animals

Chair Ray discussed further with Danielle regarding corrections to ordinance specific eliminate all such acts- Is the intent to limit animals in acts? The section needs to be clear. The ordinance will need clarification on wording, expand on this section

Councilor Mavodones – he spoke to not having animal acts here in Portland, likes changes discussed Danielle – will draft the changes

- Fines \$250
- Whereas reason & intent
- Person as – enforcing (could be City Manager or designee)
- effective date (Notification of upcoming acts want to give plenty of notice)
- refer to City Council

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Jeff Levine, AICP
Director, Planning & Urban Development Department

Memorandum

To: HHS Committee
From: Jeff Levine, Director
Date: July 6, 2017
Re: Small Shelters in Residential/Other Zones

We have been asked to look at expanding the new emergency shelter zoning language to permit smaller shelters in residential zones.

In order to prepare some suggestions for further action, I spoke to shelter providers to get a sense of their operational needs and how a smaller shelter might operate. I visited a couple of the smaller shelters operating in Portland and reviewed the surrounding zoning. It appears that a shelter of fewer than 20-25 beds is unlikely to be viable. Given the current best practices, even a shelter of that size is likely to need close to 10,000 square feet of building space to operate.

Based on these parameters, and the request to develop text that would accommodate smaller shelters in as many zones as possible, the best approach would be to retain the new conditional use text, add emergency shelters as conditional uses in all zones (except the ROS zone,) and put limits on the number of beds permitted based on the scale and character of each zone. One question you may wish to consider is whether to limit the smaller shelters to residential zones, or to include the business zones not included in the recent rezoning, as well as the India Street Form Based district. The exact permitted size in each zone is still being analyzed, but the smallest feasible shelter size will be a factor.

Another potential issue to consider is the dimensional standards in each zone. For the Florence House, the existing setback requirements were one of the reasons a conditional zone was requested. However, since that time, the dimensional standards in several zones, including the R-6 and the B-2, have been adjusted to more closely reflect the desired built form. While there is more work to do on the dimensional standards in our zoning, I would recommend that effort be part of our ongoing work in updating the zoning code, rather than simply part of an emergency shelter amendment.

The attached draft text attempts to turn these concepts into zoning language. This is just an initial draft to aid with your discussion. I welcome your comments and thoughts.

[TO BE ADDED TO EACH ZONE WHERE SHELTERS WILL BE PERMITTED]

Sec. 14-xxx.1. Conditional uses.

The following use shall be permitted only upon the issuance of a conditional use permit, subject to the provisions of section 14-474 (conditional uses), and any special provisions, standards or requirements specified below:

(xx) xx. Emergency shelters, subject to the following conditions, in addition to the provisions of section 14-474 and the use specific standards of Section 14-474 (c) 3.

[TO BE ADDED TO THE NEW CONDITIONAL USE STANDARDS]

Sec. 14-474. Conditional uses.

...

3. *Use Specific Standards.* The following additional standards of review apply to the specific uses.

a. Emergency shelters are subject to the following conditions, in addition to the provisions of section 14-474 (c) 2. Notwithstanding section 14-474(a) or any other provision of this Code, the Planning Board shall be substituted for the Board of Appeals as the reviewing authority for any shelter ~~also subject to Level III site plan review:~~

1. The facility shall provide adequate space for conducting security searches and other assessments;
2. The facility shall be designed with a centralized shelter operations office on each level providing sight lines to sleeping areas;
3. A Management Plan adequately outlining the following areas shall be provided: Management responsibilities; Process for resolving neighborhood concerns; Staffing; Access restrictions; On-site surveillance; Safety measures; Controls for resident behavior and noise levels; and Monitoring Reports.

- i. Adequate access to and from METRO service shall be provided. The facility shall be within a ¼ mile of a METRO line, or shall be within ½ mile of a METRO line and provide adequate indoor space to permit all shelter guests day shelter, as well as implement strategies to help residents utilize transit;
 - ii. The facility shall provide on-site services to support residents, such as case management, life skills training, counseling, employment and educational services, housing assistance, or other programs;
- 4. Suitable laundry, kitchen, pantry, bicycle storage, and secure storage facilities for shelter stayers shall be provided on-site; and
- 5. An outdoor area for guest use shall be provided on-site with adequate screening to protect privacy of guests.
- 6. Emergency shelters shall be sited to provide privacy for any abutting residential properties through screening, location of windows, siting of outdoor areas, and comparable factors.
- 7. The number of beds permitted in an emergency shelter shall be limited as follows:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Beds</u>
<u>R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 [,R-5, R-5a]</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>[R-5, R-5a,] R-6, R-7, B-1, B-1b</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>B-2, B-2b, B-2c, B-6, B-7, IS-FBC</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>All other zones where permitted</u>	<u>No maximum</u>

Follow-up Survey on Positive Health Care Transition

Initial Presentation to the City Council's HHS Committee

July 11, 2017

The City will collaborate with the Public Health program at USM's Muskie School and the Patient Advocacy Committee to survey approximately 149 Positive Health Care patients regarding the transition process and their satisfaction with their new health care providers.

I have begun discussions with Brenda Joly, PhD, Chair of the Graduate Program in Public Health at Muskie, to determine how best to proceed with:

- Identifying a student for the fall semester and a faculty advisor for the project
- Developing the survey instrument
- Determining modes of administration
- Submitting to the IRB
- Administering the survey
- Analyzing and reporting on the data

Because we will be surveying patients regarding their satisfaction with health care delivery, we will be required to go through USM's Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure patient protections are in place.

We intend for the work to be completed by the end of calendar year, given the time required to find the right student to do the work and to go through the IRB process.

During the transition process, a patient committee was created, which has now morphed into the Patient Advocacy Committee, meeting regularly at the Frannie Peabody Center. This group is a critical survey stakeholder, and they have developed a draft one-page survey that we will use as a starting point. We intend to work with the Committee as an advisory group throughout the process.

Julie Sullivan
Senior Advisor to the City Manager
jas@portlandmaine.gov
756-8363

handout
#2

DRAFT

handout
#3

Chapter 5 ANIMALS AND FOWL*

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Article V. Prohibition on Display of Wild and Exotic Animals

Sec. 5-506. Definitions.

The following words and phrases have the following meanings:

Department means the City department responsible for enforcement of this Article.

Director means the Director of the City department responsible for enforcement of this Article.

Display means any exhibition, fair, act, circus, ride, or similar undertaking in which animals are required to perform tricks, give rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment, amusement, or benefit of a live audience, whether or not a fee is charged.

Mobile or traveling housing facility means a transporting vehicle such as a truck, trailer or railway car, used to transport or house animals while traveling for exhibition or other performance of wild and exotic animals.

Traveling animal act means any display of wild and exotic animals where such animals are transported to, from, or between

locations for the purpose of such display, in a mobile or traveling housing facility.

Wild or exotic animal means any live animal from any of the following scientific classifications:

- a) Artiodactyla (including hippopotamuses, giraffes, camels, and llamas, but excepting cattle, swine, sheep, and goats);
- b) Crocodylia (including alligators and crocodiles);
- c) Elephantidae (elephants);
- d) Felidae (including tigers, lions, jaguars, leopards, cheetahs, and cougars, or any hybrid thereof, but excluding domestic cats);
- e) Marsupialia (including kangaroos);
- f) Non-human primates (including apes, monkeys, and lemurs);
- g) Perissodactyla (including rhinoceroses, tapirs, and zebras);
- h) Pinnipedia (including seals, sea lions, and walruses);
- i) Ursidae (bears); or
- j) Elasmobranchii (including nurse sharks and lemon sharks)

Sec. 5-507. Prohibited Acts.

(a) It shall be a violation of this Article for any person to allow for the participation of a wild or exotic animal in a traveling animal act; and

(b) The maximum penalty for violations of this Article shall be \$500.00. Each day a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense, as shall each wild or exotic animal exhibited.

Sec. 5-508. Administration and Enforcement.

The Director is hereby charged with the responsibility for
the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this
Article.

Order 267-16/17

Passage: 8-0 (Duson absent) on 6/5/2017

Effective 6/15/2017

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)

BELINDA S. RAY (1)

SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)

BRIAN E. BATSON (3)

JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)

JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

PIOUS ALI (A/L)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**ORDER REFERRING
THE WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMAL ORDINANCE
TO THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

ORDERED, that the City Council hereby refers the Wild and Exotic Animal Ordinance as attached hereto to the Health & Human Services Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Health & Human Services Committee review the Wild and Exotic Animal Ordinance and provide its final recommendation on this issue to the City Council.

Investigative Report

ShowMe Tigers Circus Act



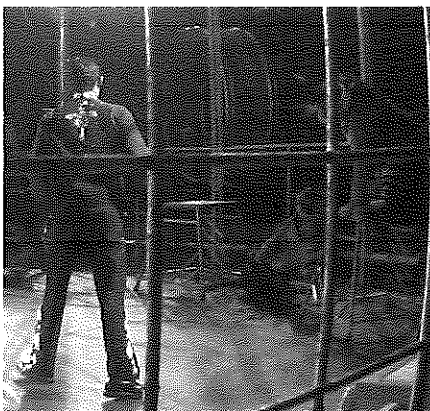
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



BAN WILD ANIMAL ACTS



Tora flinches and snarls as Easley whips at her 31 times during a practice session.



A tiger snarls and cowers between pedestals during a performance.

During early 2017, an undercover investigator with The Humane Society of the United States spent several weeks working and traveling with Ryan Easley's ShowMe Tigers circus act. Our investigation found that the eight tigers featured in the act were trained and handled through the violent use of whips and sticks, forced to perform tricks that could lead to physical ailments, left in cramped transport cages when not performing, and fed an inappropriate diet. Easley, who uses the stage name Ryan Holder, tours with Carden Circus, often performing for Shrine Circus. Jay Pratte, an animal-behavior expert, trainer and wildlife consultant with 25 years of experience, stated in a declaration provided to The HSUS, "Ryan Easley utilizes archaic training methods which entail fear, force and punishment. In my professional opinion, the tigers at ShowMe Tigers are suffering from psychological neglect and trauma on a daily basis." The HSUS has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for potential violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and is urging the agency to investigate ShowMe Tigers and to take swift enforcement action for violations of federal law.

Abusive Training

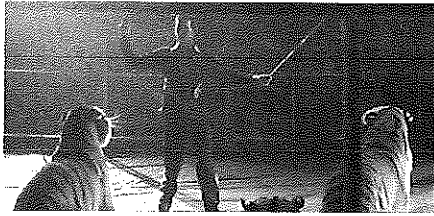
Our investigator documented Easley using a lunge whip and a long stick as training tools to control the six female and two male tigers. He cracked the whip, sometimes making a loud noise and sometimes making contact with the tigers, and he used the stick to prod and hit the tigers. While Easley did not always use the same degree of force in whipping and striking the tigers during the show as he did during a practice session, the tigers never knew what to expect. It was obvious that the mere presence of these tools created a great deal of anxiety for the tigers.

While in the performance ring, the tigers exhibited classic signs of fear and behavioral stress. They squinted, flinched, flattened their ears back, sat with hunched shoulders, snarled, cowered, moaned in distress, swatted at Easley or the training tools, crept reluctantly to position in the performance ring, and bolted back to their pedestals—sometimes in the middle of a trick.

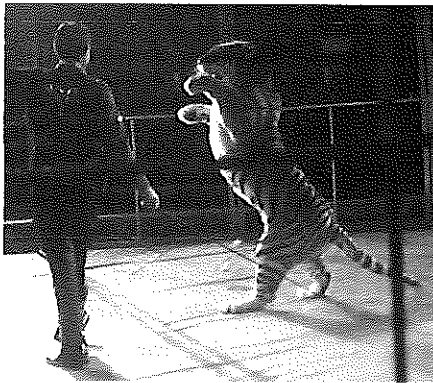
During a practice session, our investigator documented Easley becoming visibly annoyed with a tiger named Tora who was not responding to commands. Easley



A whip mark appears on the back of a tiger's head (right) as Easley whips him during an abusive practice session.



The tigers' flattened-back ears as Easley raises his whip and goad are a sign that they anticipate conflict.



Walking upright could lead to physical disorders such as arthritis.



This tiger never received veterinary care for a raw, open wound near her eye.

aggressively whipped at Tora to get her down from the pedestal, making contact with her paws, chest and face multiple times. In less than two minutes, Easley whipped at a traumatized Tora 31 times while she flinched, snarled and roared.

Some of the tigers are forced to walk backwards and hop forwards while upright on their hind legs, a physically grueling trick that could lead to physical disorders such as arthritis.

Constant Confinement

When Easley went on tour for the circus season, the tigers were kept in pairs in transport cages that measured 6½-feet long x 4-feet wide x 4-feet high. The two male tigers, each weighing more than 500 pounds, shared one transport cage. Except for the few minutes each day when the tigers performed, they were kept exclusively in transport cages where they ate, slept, paced, urinated and defecated in the approximately 13-square feet of floor space afforded to each one. Not once were they provided the chance to exercise outside the transport cages. In fact, the tigers' exercise cage was never even unloaded from the trailer.

Tigers are generally solitary animals. When multiple tigers are caged together with no opportunity to escape from an aggressive, stressed cagemate, conflicts can turn deadly.

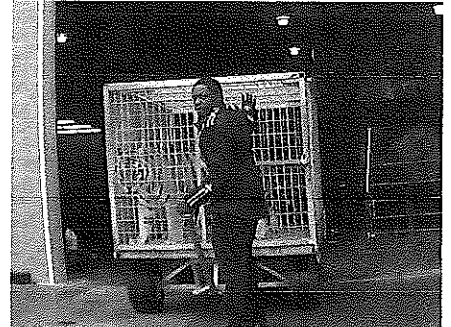
They were never provided with any enrichment items to keep them physically and mentally active. Tigers love to swim, but Easley's tigers have no access to a pool. Confined to transport cages on the road, they were never able to walk on grass, jump onto elevated resting platforms, or even stretch upright. According to Jay Pratte in his declaration to The HSUS, "The big cats at ShowMe Tigers are [...] deprived of the minimum standards of care exercised by professional institutions that house big cats in captivity."

Neglect

Before Easley's circus act went on tour, the tigers were kept at his winter quarters in Hugo, Oklahoma. Despite temperatures that were often well below freezing, the tigers had no heat source and were only provided a mere inch of bedding during bitterly cold weather.

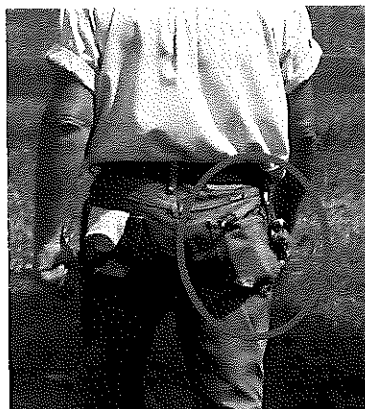
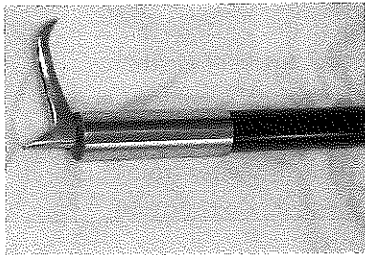
For the duration of the HSUS investigation, Easley typically fasted the tigers more than once per week, fed the tigers almost exclusively raw chicken legs, and rarely provided any dietary supplements. On fasting days, the tigers were not given bones, rawhides, or similar items to promote periodontal health and encourage natural feeding behaviors as is done at professionally-run facilities.

Tora, the tiger who our investigator documented being subjected to extensive whipping during the practice session, did not receive veterinary care for a raw open wound on the side of her face. The USDA had previously cited Easley in 2012 for not providing veterinary care to Tora when she had a 1-inch cut on her ribcage.



The tigers spent 23-1/2 to 24 hours per day in transport cages.

Circuses in Maine



An elephant handler conceals the business end of a bullhook in his back pocket.

"Blood was gushing everywhere. The kids were left stranded. The attendants were afraid to get the kids off the elephant."

Mother whose two children were atop a Commerford and Sons' elephant who attacked a trainer while giving rides at a fair. In 2016, the Anah Shrine Circus featured Commerford's elephants.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Updated: March 1, 2017

Circuses that do not use or are phasing out elephants

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus eliminated elephant acts from its shows in 2016. Kenneth Feld, president of Feld Entertainment, Ringling's parent company acknowledged, "There's been, on the part of our consumers, a mood shift where they may not want to see elephants transported from city to city."¹ **Circus Vargas** long ago eliminated all animal acts in order to cut costs and has seen attendance numbers grow between 3% and 6% over the last few years.² Numerous **Shrine** temples have announced plans to eliminate elephants in future circuses. For example, the Al Bedoo Shrine Circus in Montana stated that 2016 was the last year to see elephants at its circus and the Ainad Shrine Circus in Illinois indicated that 2016 would likely be the last year for elephants.^{3,4} And Minnesota Zurah Shrine CEO Ross Hjermstad believes using elephants, tigers, and lions in circuses will become a thing of the past, stating, "It's something that is going to be inevitable at some point. There is a growing trend to get away from those animals."⁵

Animal-based circuses have been dwindling in popularity for decades, while contemporary circuses that dazzle crowds solely with skilled human performers, such as Cirque du Soleil, have soared. According to a November 2016 article in **Forbes** magazine, circus attendance in the United States has dropped an estimated 30 to 50 percent over the last 20 years and gross revenue from circuses in the U.S. fell almost 9 percent between 2007 and 2012.

Circuses with elephants that perform in Maine

Every exhibitor that has recently appeared in Maine with elephants has a record of federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations and/or dangerous incidents.

Many circuses do not have their own U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) exhibitor license but instead contract all of their animal acts. For example, the Shriners do not own a circus or have a USDA license to exhibit animals. Each Shrine temple that produces an annual circus hires a circus to perform under the Shrine name, or the temple works with a circus producer who arranges for that year's animal acts, as well as jugglers, trapeze artists, and other performers.

In 2016, the **Anah Shrine Circus in Bangor leased elephants from RW Commerford and Sons** to perform in the shows and provide rides. One of Commerford's elephants has been involved in three dangerous incidents while giving rides to children. In March 2006, Commerford's elephant named Minnie injured two employees while giving rides at a children's fair in Massachusetts. As children were being loaded onto her back, Minnie became agitated and swung her head toward the employees, shifting her weight and pinning them against the loading ramp. An eyewitness reported that one of the employees had provoked the elephant by striking her in the face. One man sustained a chest injury and the other a broken arm. Both were taken by ambulance to the hospital. Two bystanders sustained bruises.^{6,7,8} In August 1998, while carrying children on her back at a state fair in New York, Minnie panicked, knocking down and then stepping on the trainer. A 3-year-old girl was also injured after falling off the elephant. Both of the injured people were treated at a local hospital.^{9,10} In August 1989, Minnie attacked and seriously injured a handler after he struck her with a stick at a fair in Vermont. Minnie picked up the handler with her

trunk and threw him against a trailer, breaking his shoulder and jaw. Two children were riding on the elephant's back at the time. According to a witness, "Blood was gushing everywhere. The kids were left stranded. The attendants were afraid to get the kids off the elephant." Commerford continued using Minnie for rides at the fair despite public outcry that the elephant was too dangerous.^{11,12}

In 2008, the **Anah Shrine Circus** in Bangor featured elephant exhibitor Lancelot Kollman, who forced a sick emaciated elephant named Ned to perform and give rides. Ned, who was about 2,000 pounds underweight, was subsequently confiscated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The **Garden Bros. Circus**, which has appeared in Auburn and Biddeford, typically **leases elephants from Carson & Barnes Circus**. Carson & Barnes has a long history of abysmal animal care and has been repeatedly cited and fined by the USDA for violations of the AWA including:

- Using a bullhook with "excessive force" on an elephant who was giving rides to the public.¹³
- Repeated failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a thin elephant who had lost hundreds of pounds.^{14,15}
- Repeated failure to safely handle elephants. Inspectors wrote, "The safety of the elephant and [a member of the public] were at risk" and the actions of the handler "allow[ed] for the risk of serious injury to members of the public."^{16,17,18}
- Repeated failure to maintain control of elephants, resulting in at least two instances of elephants bolting from handlers and becoming injured.^{19,20,21}
- Failure to provide elephants with shelter from cold rain, with adequate shade, and with a safe transport trailer.^{22,23,24}

Elephants with Carson & Barnes have also been involved in numerous dangerous incidents. In 2014, while leaving a performance arena, Carson & Barnes handlers lost control of three elephants who subsequently ran into a parking lot, resulting in injuries to two of the elephants and damage to two cars in the lot.^{25,26} In 2010, a Carson & Barnes elephant named Viola who was performing with Cole Bros. Circus bolted from handlers and ran directly past a line of people waiting to buy tickets, sending some running toward the parking lot. Viola slid in the mud and tumbled down a hill and into a ditch. She was loose for approximately 30 minutes before being recaptured.^{27,28,29} In 2007, three Carson & Barnes elephants escaped from their enclosure and roamed through the town.^{30,31}

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³ "Shrine Circus returns to Billings; it's the last year featuring elephants," *Billings Gazette*, March 29, 2016.

⁴ "Shrine Circus Coming to Salem Thursday and Friday," *WJBD*, June 8, 2016.

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⁶ Lisa Gentes, "Workers hurt by elephant," *The Milford Daily News*, March 6, 2006.

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¹² Mike Donoghue, "Elephant attack raises concerns," *Burlington Free Press*, August 31, 1989.

¹³ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 29, 2011.

¹⁴ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, January 5, 2015.

¹⁵ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 7, 2013.

¹⁶ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 29, 2011.

¹⁷ USDA, Settlement Agreement, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Carson & Barnes Circus Co., Inc., July 26, 2012.

¹⁸ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 7, 2011.

¹⁹ USDA, Settlement Agreement, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Carson & Barnes Circus Co., Inc., July 26, 2012.

²⁰ USDA, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015.

²¹ Leah Thorsen, "Moolah Circus organizers taking steps so elephants don't get loose again," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 19, 2015.

²² USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 12, 2010.

²³ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 22, 2011.

²⁴ USDA, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 2, 2012.

²⁵ USDA, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015.

²⁶ Leah Thorsen, "Moolah Circus organizers taking steps so elephants don't get loose again," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 19, 2015.

²⁷ Jason Snyder, "Circus elephant captured after escape," *The News & Advance*, April 27, 2010.

²⁸ Untitled, *WSET*, April 27, 2010.

²⁹ USDA, Settlement Agreement, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Carson & Barnes Circus Co., Inc., July 26, 2012.

³⁰ Bill Taylor, "Hi ... we found an elephant," *Toronto Star*, July 13, 2007.

³¹ Omar El Akkad, "Elephants on the loose cause a circus in Ontario," *The Globe and Mail*, July 12, 2007.

What Experts Say

Experts agree that using wild animals in circuses requires inhumane training methods and fails to provide animals with an appropriate environment for their physical or psychological health. Below are a few comments from experts about the use of elephants and other wild animals in traveling shows.

"By definition, traveling shows cannot provide the space, substrates, climate and social conditions necessary to meet even the basic needs of animals. It is extremely hard for even a modern zoo with great technical expertise and expansive space and resources to meet these needs. In addition to the constant stressful travel, the daily living conditions, often with prolonged restraint, aversive and cruel methods of physical training are very harmful."

Ron L. Kagan
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Detroit Zoo

"I observed that the big cats in Ringling Bros.' Red Unit were treated with aversive stimuli that they were unable to avoid and are managed through fear, coercion, and punishment. ... Circuses do not promote conservation, education, or the advancement of animal welfare or management techniques. They are a cruel relic from human history, and for welfare reasons, big cats should be banned from circus exhibition and placed in more appropriate environments with trained, skilled caregivers."

Jay Pratte, B.S., M.A.
Animal training, behavior, and welfare consultant
Bachelor of Science degree in zoology and behavioral psychology, Masters of Interdisciplinary Studies in zoo and aquarium leadership, 25 years of experience training both domestic and exotic species

"The simple fact is that captive elephants, and performing elephants in particular, cannot cope with the consequences of the standard of care and living conditions governed by the use of the bullhook."

Philip K. Ensley, DVM, Dip. ACZM
Associate veterinarian (retired) at the San Diego Zoo for 29 years following a postdoctoral training program as a Smithsonian Fellow at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC.

"Elephants are self-aware, empathetic and are capable of higher-level emotions such as love, anger and grief. They have a complex system of communication, can remember other individuals after more than a decade of separation and have an understanding of death. Elephants also experience long-term psychological wounds caused by trauma and abuse. ... Bullhooks and similar devices used to control and confine elephants in traveling shows and circuses are inappropriate and inhumane."

Joyce H. Poole, PhD
Co-Founder, Co-Director, ElephantVoices
World expert in elephant social behavior and communication. Forty years of experience studying elephants in the wild and working for their conservation and welfare.

What Experts Say

"I have spent the majority of my life working around and caring for captive elephants, including in circuses and zoos where I helped train and manage both old and young elephants. I have used on elephants all of the commonly used training tools, including but not limited to bullhooks, electricity, axe handles and pitchforks. ... Unfortunately most people do not know what goes on behind the scenes ... Once dominance-based management is removed you can ... begin to see the elephants for who they really are: sensitive, intelligent, caring and uniquely forgiving and empathetic individuals."

Scott Blais, CEO

Global Sanctuary for Elephants

"Establishing the ankus as an aversive stimulus is done by repeatedly striking the elephant with it and/or poking (sometimes lacerating the skin) with the metal tip on sensitive parts of the elephant's body such as the mouth, ears, chin, cuticles or anus. The elephant learns to associate the bullhook, or the sight of it, with pain and therefore fear."

Margaret Whittaker, Animal Behavior Consultant

Gail Laule, President

Active Environments, Inc.

"The Elephant Sanctuary has two decades of experience in managing and caring for elephants that have been retired from lives in entertainment. The long list of medical, physiological, and behavioral issues that our resident elephants must confront each and every day demonstrates that life on the road, performing tricks and giving rides, all prompted by negative reinforcement training and the use of the bullhook, is fundamentally hard on elephants—physically and emotionally."

Janice Zeitlin, CEO

Richard Rhoda, Board Chair

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

factsheet

State and Local Restrictions Governing Traveling Shows and Circuses in the U.S.

Four states and more than 125 other localities in 34 states have passed restrictions governing the use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.

Arkansas

Eureka Springs	Bans the display of wild animals.
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California

Statewide	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants (effective January 1, 2018).
Corona	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Dinuba	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
Encinitas	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Hanford	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
Huntington Beach	Bans performing wild animal acts.
Irvine	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses.
Los Angeles	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
Marin County	Regulates animal acts.
Newport Beach	Proclamation from Mayor that city will not display wild animals for entertainment.
Oakland	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants (effective September 1, 2017).
Orinda	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Pasadena	Bans the display of wild animals and rodeos on city property; restricts displays of domestic animals.
Rohnert Park	Bans the display of wild animals.
Rolling Hills Estates	Bans performances of wild animals for public entertainment.
San Francisco	Bans wild animals from performing in the city, including motion pictures.
Santa Ana	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
West Hollywood	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.

Colorado

Boulder	Bans the display of wild animals.
Loveland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Timnath	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.

Connecticut

Stamford	Bans carnivals, circuses, and wild west shows.
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Florida

Citrus County	Bans the use of prods, sticks, electrical shock, chemical or physical force on performing animals.
Destin	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Hallandale Beach	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
Hollywood	Bans the display of vertebrate animals on city property for entertainment; bans the display of wild, threatened or endangered species on private property for entertainment.
Margate	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
Mary Esther	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Miami Beach	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
Okaloosa County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Panama City	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Pompano Beach	Bans animal displays on city property for entertainment (except horses); bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.

Georgia

Baldwin County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Coweta County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause harm to performing animals.
Fulton County	Bans the use of bullhooks and any device that inflicts pain on, or is likely to cause injury to, elephants.
Union City	Bans the use of bullhooks and any device that inflicts pain on, or is likely to cause injury to, elephants.

Hawaii

Maui County	Bans the display of cetaceans (whales and dolphins).
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Iowa

Ames	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Burlington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Roland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.

Idaho

Blaine County	Bans the display of wild animals as part of a circus, animal act, exhibit, or other special event.
Ketchum	Bans the use of wild animals in traveling animal acts.

Indiana

Beech Grove	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
Bloomington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.

Munster	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Whiting	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Kansas	
Olathe	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Wyandotte County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals; bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Kentucky	
Grant County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Kenton County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Louisville	Bans the use of African elephants for rides; regulates the use of Asian elephants for rides; bans public contact with other inherently dangerous animals used in circuses.
Massachusetts	
Braintree	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Cambridge	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.
Pittsfield	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Plymouth	Bans the display of dangerous wild animals in traveling shows.
Provincetown	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Quincy	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Revere	Bans the display of wild animals for entertainment.
Somerville	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Weymouth	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Michigan	
St. Clair Shores	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Minnesota	
Minneapolis	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants (effective January 1, 2019).
Mississippi	
Statewide	Prohibits temporary exhibits from allowing public contact with most wild animals.
Biloxi	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Brandon	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Clinton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Crystal Springs	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
D'Iberville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Flowood	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Gulfport	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Horn Lake	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Jackson	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Meridian	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.

Ridgeland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Southaven	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
West Point	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Missouri	
Richmond	Bans the display of wild animals.
Montana	
Missoula	Bans performing wild animals, wild animal exhibits, and elephant rides.
Nebraska	
Bellevue	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
New Jersey	
Bergen County	Bans performing wild animals on county property.
Cumberland County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
Hudson County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
Jersey City	Bans performing wild animals on public or private property.
Passaic County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
Vineland	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on city property.
New Mexico	
Las Cruces	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
New York	
Statewide	Bans public contact with big cats; bans public contact with endangered or threatened species, including elephant rides.
East Hampton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Greenburgh	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses; prohibits all rodeos on town property; bans wild animal species from "parades, carnivals, races, rides, public shows, trade shows, photo opportunities, or similar undertakings in which animals perform tricks, fight or participate in performances for amusement."
Southampton	Bans the display of wild animals.
Wallkill	Bans public contact with big cats and bears at fairs, circuses, carnivals or exhibitions.
North Carolina	
Asheville	Bans the display of wild animals.
Chapel Hill	Bans the display of wild animals.
Orange County	Bans the display of wild animals.
Ohio	
Delaware	Bans wild animals in circuses.
Oklahoma	
El Reno	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Mustang	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.

Oregon	
Clatsop County	Bans the use of bullhooks, electric prods, whips or other devices that cause injury to elephants, felines, and primates.
Rhode Island	
Statewide	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
South Carolina	
Aiken County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Edgefield County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Spartanburg	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Tennessee	
Germantown	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Oliver Springs	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Texas	
Aransas Pass	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Austin	Bans the use of bullhooks on elephants.
Corpus Christi	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Denton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Killeen	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Marion	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Nolanville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Utah	
Helper	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Huntington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Layton City	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Vermont	
Burlington	Bans the display of wild animals.
Virginia	
Charlottesville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Fairfax	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
King George County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Manassas	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Manassas Park	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Prince William County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Richmond	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants (effective June 30, 2018).

Salem	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Spotsylvania County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.

Washington

Darrington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Redmond	Bans the display of wild animals.
Port Townsend	Bans the display of wild animals.
Snohomish	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Spokane	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.

Wisconsin

Dane County	Bans performing elephants at the Alliant Energy Center of Dane County (effective 2020).
Madison	Bans circuses and traveling shows from displaying cougars and bears.

Updated March 24, 2017



Dangerous Incidents

Circuses, Fairs,
Traveling Shows



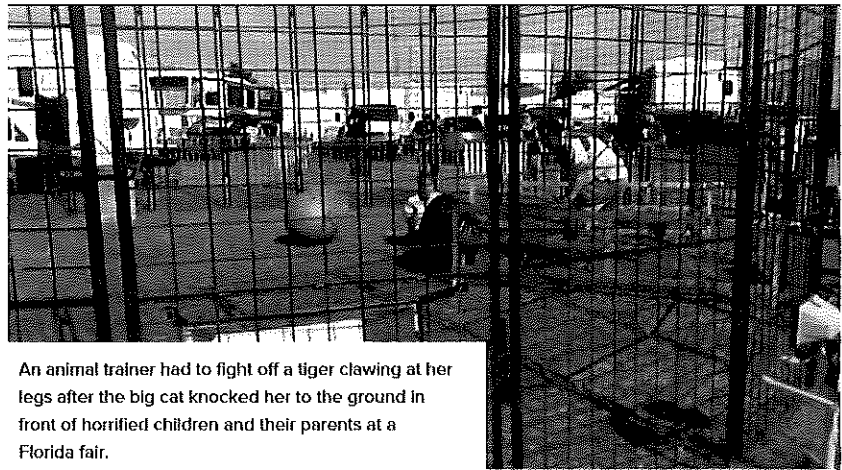
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Kids watch in horror as tiger attacks trainer

By Joshua Rhett Miller

NEW YORK POST

October 26, 2016 | 9:08am | Updated



An animal trainer had to fight off a tiger clawing at her legs after the big cat knocked her to the ground in front of horrified children and their parents at a Florida fair.

BAN WILD ANIMAL ACTS

Wild animals are dangerous and unpredictable and their use in traveling shows puts the public at risk

Since 1990, scores of people, including dozens of children, have been injured by bears, big cats, elephants, and primates used in circuses and other traveling shows. When a wild animal runs amok, it is typically local law enforcement authorities who are called on to protect public safety while attempting to recapture a dangerous, stressed animal. A growing number of communities are banning the use of wild animals in traveling shows out of concerns for the safety of the public and first responders as well as animal welfare.

October 25, 2016/Pensacola, Florida: A tiger attacked a trainer during a show at the Pensacola Interstate Fair. The tiger knocked the woman down, chewed on her leg, and dragged her across the cage as she screamed for help. Another trainer charged into the performance cage—leaving the door wide open—and started beating the tiger. Both trainers struck the tiger with sticks 30 times. Two tigers were in the cage at the time and could have easily bolted through the open door and confronted a group of 33 horrified children watching the incident. The trainer was rushed to a hospital and had to have surgery for her injuries.¹

October 9, 2015/Perry County, Georgia: A lemur escaped from a cage at a county fair when an employee at an exhibit provided by Eudora Farms petting zoo failed to secure a door. The lemur “creat[ed] mayhem,” and bit two bystanders.²

April 27, 2014/St. Louis, Missouri: A bear cub nipped eighteen students on the face and/or hands at Washington University. The cub was part of a traveling petting zoo that was brought onto campus by Cindy’s Zoo. A decision to kill the bear cub so the animal could be tested for rabies was ultimately reversed.^{3,4}

March 22, 2014/St. Charles, Missouri: Three elephants escaped from handlers with the Royal Hanneford Circus. The elephants (Kelly, Viola, and Isa) were spooked by noise in the performance arena, pushed through a door, and exited into the parking lot. Kelly ran between two trailers, resulting in abrasions and lacerations on her right side, Viola sustained lacerations on both sides of her body, and two cars were damaged. Hanneford was performing as the Moolah Shrine Circus and had leased the elephants from Carson & Barnes Circus.^{5,6}

April 20, 2013/Salina, Kansas: A woman attending the Shrine Circus came within two to three feet of an escaped tiger in the restroom. The tiger bolted at the end of a performance and ran into the concourse of the arena, which contained food stands and restrooms. The tiger then returned to the performance ring and walked around the perimeter of the arena—which was separated from the audience seating area only by short walls. Then she again ran to the concourse and entered the women’s restroom where she was ultimately cornered and recaptured.^{7,8}

February 16, 2013/Minneapolis, Minnesota: A lemur bit a 3-year-old boy at the Minnesota Convention Center. The lemur, exhibited by Barry De Voll's Blue Trunk Educational Series, was invited to climb up the boy's arm for a photo and bit the child on the hand when he lowered his arm. The bite appeared to be mildly infected and medical personnel were concerned that a small cyst between three bite wounds could indicate a Herpes B infection if the lemur had been housed with macaques (a species that commonly carries the Herpes B virus). Although the cyst later tested negative for the deadly virus, the boy was put on anti-viral medication and given rabies prevention shots. The animal handler falsely claimed the lemur only scratched the child.^{9,10}

January 15, 2013/Collier County, Florida: A 125-pound grizzly bear cub escaped from an enclosure through an improperly locked door and then off the property of Dexter and Megan Osborn's traveling zoo called A Grizzly Experience. The bear was on the loose for three days before being tranquilized and recaptured by The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The state agency spent more than \$5,800 searching for the escaped bear.^{11,12,13,14}

November 2012/Los Angeles, California: A squirrel monkey attacked Michele Kanan, the wife of *General Hospital* star Sean Kanan. The monkey, who had been brought as entertainment to her birthday party, leaped out of the handler's arms, jumped five feet, and bit Mrs. Kanan on the arm. The handler grabbed the monkey as the animal was about to bite her a second time.¹⁵

August 31, 2012/Pueblo, Colorado: Numerous animals exhibited at the Colorado State Fair ran loose, causing a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector to write, "The animals [exhibited by Tammy Thomson's Camp Junction] are at risk of injury, being lost or stolen, or of potentially injuring a member of the public [...]." Two unconfined 3-month-old lemurs were startled when a cage fell off a table, causing them to bolt and run loose for more than 20 minutes, approaching members of the public and the food vending area. Another lemur escaped when an employee opened an enclosure and was on the loose for at least ten minutes, and an approximately 28-day-old lemur passed through the mesh of an enclosure and into the public area at least twice.¹⁶

July 21, 2011/Warsaw, New York: Three tigers with the Kelly Miller Circus escaped from their transport enclosures inside the main transport vehicle. Two of the tigers crossed a barrier fence and bit a horse in the next trailer. It took approximately 30 minutes to safely contain the tigers.^{17,18}

April 27, 2010/Lynchburg, Virginia: An elephant named Viola escaped from the Cole Bros. Circus. She bolted from handlers

and ran directly past a line of people waiting to buy tickets, sending some running toward the parking lot. Viola slid in the mud and tumbled down a hill and into a ditch, resulting in a cracked toenail and an inflamed shoulder. She was on the loose for approximately 30 minutes before being recaptured. The circus claimed that the elephant had been spooked by a rabbit.^{19,20,21}

April 9, 2010/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania: An African elephant named Dumbo attacked and killed a handler between performances at the Irem Shrine Circus. The handler was kicked and thrown about 20 feet and died at the scene from multiple traumatic injuries. The elephant had been leased from Joe Frisco's Wonderful World of Animals.^{22,23,24}

April 2010/Winchester, Virginia: Isa, an elephant with Carson & Barnes Circus and traveling with Cole Bros. Circus, stepped on a trainer who sustained injuries that required a foot splint and crutches and kept him off work for a few days.²⁵

February 6, 2010/Columbia, South Carolina: Approximately 100 people were just feet away when a startled elephant broke through a door and rumbled around the performance area during a pre-show for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Colonial Life Arena, causing the pre-show to end early.²⁶

November 4, 2009/Enid, Oklahoma: A 4,500-pound African elephant named Kamba escaped from the Family Fun Circus and collided with an SUV on U.S. 81. Something reportedly startled the elephant as she was being loaded into a truck with another elephant and she ran off the fairgrounds and onto the highway. The passenger of the SUV hit the door when the driver swerved to avoid the elephant and suffered head, knee, and hip pain. The elephant's tusk pierced through the side of the vehicle. Kamba sustained a broken tusk, a fractured carpal bone, bruising to the trunk, and cuts and scrapes to her left front leg and body. Kamba was leased by the circus from exhibitor Doug Terranova and had escaped from another circus the previous year (see June 5, 2008/WaKeeney, Kansas).^{27,28,29,30,31}

July 30, 2009/Las Vegas, Nevada: A 400-pound tiger used in a magic act escaped while being walked on a leash outside of the Fercos Brothers' gated property. The tiger ran after a rabbit, causing Tony Fercos to fall and drop the leash. Police responded to reports from local residents about a tiger wandering the streets, and the animal was found in a resident's backyard. The owners cornered the tiger and returned him to his cage.^{32,33}

March 13, 2009/Fruitland Park, Florida: A spider monkey escaped from the Liebling Family Circus when the circus owner

failed to latch the animal's leash correctly. The monkey fled into nearby woods and was not recaptured until more than six weeks later.^{34,35}

March 7, 2009/Indianapolis, Indiana: At least a dozen children and one adult were injured when an elephant giving rides at the Murat Shrine Circus knocked over the scaffolding stairway leading to the ride. The elephant was either startled by something and stumbled into the stairway or was pushed into the scaffolding by another elephant. People standing on, under, and around the scaffolding were injured. Their injuries were treated on the scene. The Shriners had leased the elephant from exhibitor Will Davenport, d.b.a. Maximus Tons of Fun.^{36,37,38,39}

August 5, 2008/Richmond, Illinois: During a rehearsal for a circus performance, a tiger attacked a man at the Hawthorn Corporation circus training facility, knocking him to the ground, face down, and grabbing him by the neck. The man sustained deep puncture wounds and several scratches to his upper body, neck, and knee. Others present during the attack hit the animal with wooden poles in order to get him to release the victim. Paramedics transported the man to the hospital, where he stayed for five or six days. It was the second time the man had been attacked by a tiger at the facility.^{40,41}

June 5, 2008/WaKeeney, Kansas: Despite four days of National Weather Service warnings that severe tornados were expected in the area, the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus had two elephants, Kamba and Congo, outside to give rides to the public. When a tornado hit, winds lifted an inflatable slide off the ground and it fell on one of the elephants. A handler sustained broken teeth and ribs after one of the elephants threw him. The elephants bolted from the fairgrounds and ran through neighborhoods several blocks away, causing property damage and frightening residents, including a woman who was chased into her garage. Police, sheriff's officers, firefighters, and circus workers pursued the elephants. Congo was shot three times with a tranquilizer gun in an effort to slow her down. The elephants were on the loose for approximately three hours before they were recaptured and loaded onto trucks. The circus had leased the elephants from exhibitor Doug Terranova.^{42,43}

November 8, 2007/Columbia County, Georgia: A baboon bit a 17-month-old boy at the Columbia County Fair. The boy's father lifted him to feed the animal through the cage and the baboon, exhibited by Eudora Farms petting zoo, bit the child's hand.⁴⁴

March 6, 2007/Apache Junction, Arizona: An employee with Enterprising Elephants suffered several broken ribs and a dislocated jaw when an elephant "spooked" and ran over him

at the Arizona Renaissance Festival. The injured man was hospitalized for several days.⁴⁵

January 21, 2007/San Angelo, Texas: A woman was given a tetanus shot at a hospital emergency room after a 10-week-old African lion cub bit her right forearm and would not let go until a worker repeatedly hit the cub in the face. The cub, who was placed under quarantine, was being exhibited by GW Exotic Animal Foundation at a mall where patrons were allowed to pet and interact with the lion.⁴⁶

November 24, 2006/Evansville, Indiana: A tiger clawed animal trainer Wade Burck during a performance of the Hadi Shrine Circus. Burck received hospital treatment, including stitches, for wounds to his left forearm and leg.^{47,48}

November 18, 2006/Coral Gables, Florida: A 62-pound cougar mauled a 4-year-old girl at a children's birthday party. The cat took the child's head into her mouth, inflicting severe cuts to the girl's eyelid, cheek, and ear, and requiring surgical reattachment of part of her severed ear. The cougar had been provided by Wild Animal World and was killed to be tested for rabies. The proprietor of Wild Animal World had been cited at least twice previously for similar attacks.⁴⁹

July 18, 2006/Ballston Spa, New York: An adult tiger clawed a 4-year-old boy at the Saratoga County Fair. The child was sitting next to a cage while having his photo taken with a baby kangaroo when the tiger, displayed by the Ashville Game Farm, reached out and clawed him. The boy was treated at the hospital and received 14 stitches for a 1-inch gash on his head.^{50,51}

June 16, 2006/Kaufman County, Texas: A 300-pound tiger climbed out of an uncovered enclosure and chased and mauled a part-time employee of Zoo Dynamics, a traveling zoo owned by Marcus Cook. The tiger grabbed the man and threw him down, ripped off his ear, and left severe claw marks all over his body. The man spent the weekend in intensive care and received some 2,000 stitches. The employee in charge took the victim to the hospital without notifying local authorities that a tiger was still loose on the premises and recaptured the animal upon his return.^{52,53,54}

March 19, 2006/Gainesville, Florida: A tiger bit a 25-year-old employee of exhibitor Josip Marcan at the Putnam County Fair when he stuck his arm into the animal's cage. The man was treated at a hospital for severed tendons in his arm.^{55,56}

March 5, 2006/Marlborough, Massachusetts: An Asian elephant named Minnie at the Commerford Petting Zoo injured two employees while giving rides at a children's fair taking place at the Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center. As

children were being loaded onto her back, she became agitated and suddenly swung her head toward the two employees, shifting her weight and pinning them against the loading ramp. An eyewitness reported that one of the employees had provoked the elephant by striking her in the face. One man sustained a chest injury and the other a broken arm. Both were taken by ambulance to the hospital. Two bystanders sustained bruises. Minnie had been involved in at least three previous dangerous incidents (see August 27, 1998/Syracuse, New York, and August 28, 1989/Essex Junction, Vermont).^{57,58,59}

December 12, 2005/San Juan, Puerto Rico: Two elephants ran amok and sustained cuts and scrapes from arena seats after being startled by a barking dog after a Ringling Bros. performance.⁶⁰

August 29, 2005/Springdale, Ohio: A capuchin monkey belonging to trainer Phil Dolci (a.k.a. Hendricks d.b.a. Banana Derby) with the Hendricks Bros. Circus was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.^{61,62}

August 25, 2005/Mt. Pleasant Township, Pennsylvania: An Asian elephant named Jewel, owned by Cole. Bros. Circus and touring with Wambold's Circus Menagerie wrapped her trunk around a woman's wrist and yanked her as she reached out toward the elephant from a crowd of people feeding the animal at the county fair. The woman was treated at an emergency room for a sprain and possibly torn ligaments.^{63,64}

August 2005/Jefferson County, Missouri: A capuchin monkey used for photo ops with the public bit a child at a festival. The boy was treated on site by medics and later went to the hospital and underwent rabies prevention shots. Health officials were unable to quarantine the monkey because the owner took the primate to a different county a few days after the incident.⁶⁵

July 2005/Richmond, Illinois: One of 14 tigers circled a man during a photo shoot and then attacked his left leg at Hawthorn Corporation's circus-training facility. The man required immediate surgery, suffered nerve damage, and subsequently filed a lawsuit against Hawthorn and the tiger trainer seeking more than \$50,000 for medical bills and pain and suffering.⁶⁶

April 13, 2005/Polk City, Florida: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant handler David Mannes was airlifted to a medical center to treat a fractured pelvis and soft tissue wound to his arm after being knocked down and kicked by an Asian

elephant named Tova while feeding the elephants at Ringling's breeding compound.^{67,68}

February 12, 2005/Oldsmar, Florida: A tiger cub bit a woman on the hand. The tiger cub was provided by Zoo Dynamics for public photo sessions at an automobile dealership.⁶⁹

January 31, 2005/Fort Wayne, Indiana: An elephant trainer with Tarzan Zerbini Circus was trampled to death by one or more of three Asian elephants as the animals were being loaded into a trailer following performances at the Mizpah Shrine Circus.⁷⁰

January 20, 2005/Baraboo, Wisconsin: An 80-pound, 7-month-old lion cub bit an 8-year-old girl on the chest during a promotional event at Creature Features Pet Store. The girl had to undergo rabies prevention shots.^{71,72}

December 9, 2004/Detroit, Michigan: A capuchin monkey bit a student at a wildlife show-and-tell at Wayne State University. The monkey was part of a menagerie brought by the Chicago-based Bill Hoffman's Animal Rentals.⁷³

December 5, 2004/Laredo, Texas: A circus worker was rushed to the hospital after she was badly bitten on the hand by a caged tiger at Great Circus of China.⁷⁴

November 26, 2004/Evansville, Indiana: An ambulance was called to the Hadi Shrine Circus at Roberts Stadium after a chimpanzee bit a circus-goer on the cheek while posing for pictures. The chimpanzee belonged to Zoppe-Rosaire Chimpanzees. The patron was treated at the hospital for a puncture wound.⁷⁵

November 20, 2004/St. Augustine, Florida: A 350-pound tiger attacked a 14-year-old boy and his handler as the big cat was being walked on a leash to a cage at the St. Johns County Fair. The tiger, displayed by The Catty Shack Ranch, jumped on the boy's back, knocked him to the ground, scratched him, and then turned on the handler, inflicting puncture wounds to the man's head. Police used stun guns to stop the attack.⁷⁶

November 2004/McHenry County, Illinois: An elephant injured two employees at the Hawthorn Corporation's circus-training facility. One employee was hospitalized and then moved to a convalescent home and the other was unable to work for four days.⁷⁷

October 16, 2004/Tuscaloosa, Alabama: A participant in a fraternity-house event broke his hand when an elephant, apparently startled when a band started playing, swung her head and knocked him to the ground with her trunk. The elephants were provided by Frisco's Elephants.⁷⁸

August 29, 2004/El Paso, Texas: An elephant with the George Carden Circus attacked an arena worker following a performance at the El Maida Shrine Circus. The elephant knocked the man down, threw him into a wall, and pinned him against a fence. He sustained a dislocated shoulder, a torn rotator cuff, and nerve injury, which required surgery for repair and reconstruction and resulted in more than \$16,000 in medical bills.^{79,80,81}

August 1, 2004/Grayslake, Illinois: A 2-month-old lion cub bit a man at the Lake County Fair. The man was having his photo taken with the cub, who he described as "feisty," when the cub climbed up to his shoulder and bit him, breaking the skin and leaving teeth marks. The cub, exhibited by Perry's Wilderness Ranch and Zoo, was quarantined for one month.⁸²

July 31, 2004/New York, New York: A 450-pound white tiger belonging to Adriatic Animal Attractions bolted from the New Cole Bros. Circus while being transferred from one cage to another near the Forest Park band shell in Queens. Dozens of police officers with machine guns and tranquilizer darts pursued the tiger for 30 minutes as he prowled for a mile through a park crowded with picnickers, scattering screaming people and causing two traffic accidents. The trainer recaptured him. Two women filed a \$60 million lawsuit after suffering spinal fractures and other injuries in the multicar pileup on the Jackie Robinson Parkway.^{83,84}

July 17, 2004/Detroit Lakes, Minnesota: A tiger bit a worker with the Arcangel Wildlife Farm while on display at a local festival. The leashed tiger lunged at the man and bit him on the arm when the man attempted to move him.⁸⁵

July 6, 2004/St. Charles, Minnesota: A capuchin monkey escaped and bit two people while exhibited by Staples Safari Zoo at the Winona County fairgrounds. The monkey was quarantined for 28 days while both victims agreed to undergo a series of rabies prevention shots.⁸⁶

July 4, 2004/Clinton, Iowa: An African elephant named Nosey, with the Liebel Family Circus, attacked a circus worker who was tending to a water dish. The elephant hit the worker with her tusk, lifting him off his feet and propelling him down an incline. The man was rushed to the hospital and received stitches for a head injury.⁸⁷

June 2, 2004/Landover Hills, Maryland: After fighting with another tiger, a tiger belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson escaped from the UniverSoul Circus and attacked an elephant, biting her on the hip. During the escape, there were children from several elementary schools walking under the tent in the shopping mall parking lot where the tiger escaped.^{88,89}

2004/Queensbury, New York: A bear cub being exhibited at a AAA office by the Ashville Game Farm and Exotic Zoo bit a person in the face.⁹⁰

October 30, 2003/Savannah, Georgia: The U.S. Department of Agriculture cited exhibitor Brian Staples for the escape of a spider monkey at the Georgia Coastal Fair. The monkey ran through the fair's public midway before being recaptured.⁹¹

July 3, 2003/La Crosse, Wisconsin: A tiger mauled circus trainer Bruno Blaszak in front of 400 people during his show at a festival. The tiger charged at Blaszak, knocked him down, and clawed him. His right leg required 30 to 40 stitches.⁹²

July 2, 2003/New Haven, Connecticut: A tiger briefly got loose on the back lot where UniverSoul Circus was performing.⁹³

June 14, 2003/Dodge City, Kansas: An adult tiger swiped at a young boy, tearing his pants at the Village Square Mall. The tiger, exhibited by G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation, was being used for photo ops with the public.⁹⁴

February 28, 2003/Muskegon, Michigan: Sheba, a 9,000-pound African elephant performing with Jordan World Circus for the Shrine Circus, escaped from a tent shortly before a performance and was recaptured 15 minutes later in a busy downtown area.⁹⁵

February 4, 2003/Jacksonville, Florida: A 450-pound tiger, belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson, escaped from the UniverSoul Circus while the cage was being cleaned. The tiger climbed over a car, jumped over a fence, headed down an alley, frightened employees at a nearby restaurant, and was recaptured 10 minutes later.^{96,97}

September 20, 2002/Scotts Valley, California: A declawed 150-pound tiger, who was being walked on a leash by Zoo to You at an assembly with 150 children at the Baymonte Christian School, suddenly lunged at a 6-year-old boy and grabbed the child by the head with her jaws. The boy was wrestled away from the tiger by the principal and airlifted to a medical center where he received 55 stitches for two cuts to his scalp. A psychologist gave counseling to the terrified children who witnessed the attack.⁹⁸

August 4, 2002/Davenport, Iowa: A monkey performing at the Mississippi Valley Fair went berserk and jumped on a woman, hitting her head and biting her as she posed for a photograph. The woman had to undergo tests for herpes, HIV, hepatitis, and rabies. The woman filed a \$5,000 lawsuit against the fair and Texas-based Gerald Eppel's Monkey Business.⁹⁹

June 17, 2002/Menomonee, Wisconsin: Two elephants performing with the Mehara Shrine Circus at a county park bolted out of a circus tent during a show, scattering crowds. One hiked two miles through town before being recaptured at the University of Wisconsin–Stout campus when trucks blocked her escape. A child was injured, and the elephants damaged a door at the park and caused \$600 in damage to a city truck. The Shriners had contracted with George Carden Circus for the event.^{100,101}

March 13, 2002/Easley, South Carolina: An African elephant named Tonya, belonging to Robert Childress and used in various circuses, escaped the control of her handlers while she was being loaded into a truck, and walked about two miles before heading into nearby woods. It took police, firefighters, sheriff's deputies, and her handlers approximately 30 minutes to recapture her. This was the fourth time that Tonya has run amok (see June 21, 2000/Washington, Pennsylvania; February 16, 1998/Mentor, Ohio; and August 28, 1997/York, Maine).^{102,103}

2002/Washington: A 2-year-old male macaque monkey bit a child and a high school student while at the home of an animal caretaker working for traveling zoo operator Brian Staples. According to a USDA inspector, "The licensee was informed as early as March of 1998 about the risk of macaques carrying the Herpes B virus [...] He was instructed not to allow public contact with the macaques and agreed to do so [...] yet the problem persists."¹⁰⁴

October 27, 2001/Charlotte, North Carolina: Debbie and Judy, two Asian elephants leased by Hawthorn Corporation to Circus Vazquez, rampaged through a church. Two church members were nearly trampled, and children had to be quickly ushered to safety. The elephants crashed into the church through a glass window, broke and buckled walls and door frames, and knocked a car 15 feet. The church estimated \$75,000 in damages. The elephants suffered cuts and bruises. Debbie had rampaged twice before (see July 10, 1995/Queens, New York, and May 18, 1995/Hanover, Pennsylvania).¹⁰⁵

June 10, 2001/Denver, Colorado: Have Trunk Will Travel, a California-based elephant exhibitor that takes animals to fairs, festivals, special events, and film projects, leased two elephants to the Denver Zoo to perform daily shows during the summer. When a trainer dropped a barrel during a bathing demonstration, a 6,700-pound Asian elephant named Hope became startled and went into a rampage. She threw the trainer against a wall, stepped over a 3-foot barrier, and took off at a run. Crowds of zoo-goers screamed and scattered. The elephant knocked over a mother as well as her 3-year-old daughter who fell out of her stroller and slid in front of the elephant's foot. The girl was treated at a hospital for a bump

on the head, the trainer suffered cuts and bruises, a man sprained his ankle, and a woman had an asthma attack while running away from the elephant. It took three hours to return Hope to her pen. She was sedated and needed help to back out of the bushes and trees where she had gotten stuck.^{106,107}

April 2001/Omaha, Nebraska: Animal handler Bryan Franzen required stitches after a tiger clawed him during a performance at the Tangier Shrine Circus.¹⁰⁸

January 30, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada: A 1-year-old female chimpanzee named C.J., belonging to Monica Riddell's Xotic Stars of Las Vegas, bit a person on the finger during public exhibition.¹⁰⁹

September 10, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico: A 16-week old, 30-pound tiger cub exhibited by Craig Perry bit a man on the arm during a photo op at the New Mexico State Fair.^{110,111}

June 21, 2000/Washington, Pennsylvania: An African elephant named Tonya traveling with Circus Hope became frightened when children approached her with toy horns. Tonya escaped the control of the handlers and walked across a mall parking lot through the rain and dark. Police officers, security personnel, and trainers later led Tonya back to the circus tent.¹¹²

April 20, 2000/Yucca Valley, California: Barbara and Connie, two African elephants with the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, escaped following an evening performance. Connie wandered for three blocks, prompting a flood of emergency calls to the sheriff's office before she was recaptured. A circus worker who tried to get Barbara under control was trampled by the elephant and treated at a medical center for hip and thigh pain.¹¹³

April 9, 2000/Franklin, Tennessee: A chimpanzee named Angel, brought by Sid Yost (also known as Ranger Rick Kelly) to Blockbuster Video for photo ops and to promote a Critter Gitter movie, fiercely bit a 9-year-old girl on the hand after posing for a photograph. The girl's hand swelled and required stitches. Yost left the state before the chimpanzee could be quarantined and was issued a citation for violating Tennessee's exotic animal law. Yost failed to show up in court and never paid the fine. The girl's parents filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against Yost, Critter Gitters, and Blockbuster, claiming that the defendants should have been aware of the danger inherent in subjecting Angel to a crowded area with so many children. None of the parties named in the lawsuit offered to pay for medical expenses.^{114,115}

April 2, 2000/Metairie, Louisiana: A 9-year-old, 400-pound Syrian brown bear fell from a Sterling & Reid Circus trailer

while the circus was driving on a freeway through New Orleans, La., at night. The trailer hit the bear and motorists found him on the road dazed and bleeding from his mouth. Traffic was halted for three hours while the bear was tranquilized and transported to the Audubon Zoo for treatment. The circus did not notice that the bear was gone until they stopped for fuel 20 miles down the road. The bear was returned to the circus the next day.¹¹⁶

January 26, 2000/Riverview, Florida: A female African elephant named Kenya attacked and killed a trainer at the Ramos Family Circus winter compound. Kenya knocked the trainer to the ground and stepped on her. When the woman stood up, the elephant went after her again and crushed her chest. Kenya was used in the Ramos' traveling shows and to give rides to the public.^{117,118}

October 4, 1999/Dallas, Texas: An evening parade was cancelled after an African elephant named Kamba walked out of the ring where she was performing at the Texas State Fair and into an intersection filled with spectators. More than a dozen police officers worked to keep people away from the scene during the two hours it took handlers to coax the elephant back to the arena.¹¹⁹

May 12, 1999/Bethune, South Carolina: Flora, an African elephant with Circus Flora, grabbed a woman with her trunk as she was dismounting from a ride and threw her against a tree three times. The woman was in a body brace for three months with many broken bones and received \$468,000 as settlement of a lawsuit.^{120,121}

April 24, 1999/Duluth, Minnesota: An animal handler with the Tarzan Zerbini Circus (also doing business as Circus Maximus) which was performing as the Shrine Circus was injured by an elephant and hospitalized in serious condition with injuries to his leg, pelvis, and one side of his face.¹²²

February 21, 1999/Poughkeepsie, New York: Luna, an African elephant with the Royal Hanneford Circus, escaped from the center ring during a performance and charged toward the audience, coming within inches of some people. Luna ran through several rows of chairs, stepped onto the front of the bleachers, and sideswiped a man in a wheelchair. Circus-goers panicked and ran for safety and a few suffered minor injuries as they tried to get out of the elephant's path.^{123,124}

November 21, 1998/Chicago, Illinois: A Ringling Bros. circus employee was seriously mauled by a tiger used in the circus when three tigers escaped from their cage in a Chicago parking lot. The tiger clawed the handler on his neck and side. This was the second attack by tigers used by Ringling in one year. (see January 7, 1998/St. Petersburg, Florida).¹²⁵

November 13, 1998/Newberry, Florida: The same tiger who killed his trainer on October 8, 1998, attacked and killed his owner. The woman was leading the tiger to a pen when he lunged and bit her neck, killing her instantly. Authorities shot and killed the tiger. The tiger had been featured in circuses, fairs, and other public venues.¹²⁶

October 8, 1998/Newberry, Florida: A nearly 400-pound tiger grabbed a trainer by the throat, killing him, while being moved between pens at Holiday's Cat Dancer facility. The tiger had been used in the operation's traveling animal show and featured in circuses, fairs, and other public venues.¹²⁷

August 27, 1998/Syracuse, New York: While carrying children on her back at a state fair, Minnie, an elephant with the Commerford & Sons petting zoo panicked, knocking down and then stepping on the trainer. A 3-year-old girl was also injured after falling off the elephant. A local hospital treated both of the injured people. Minnie had been involved in at least two previous incidents (see August 28, 1989).^{128,129}

July 30, 1998/Minot, North Dakota: A 5-year-old boy suffered facial cuts requiring plastic surgery after being attacked by a 4-month-old tiger cub at a Bridgeport Nature Center photo booth at the state fair.¹³⁰

May 1998/Wichita, Kansas: A macaque monkey from Safari Zoological Park bit a teen-age girl at a store's promotional event.^{131,132}

February 21, 1998/Indio, California: An elephant being ridden in a festival show became spooked, reared back, and bolted back to the pen, taking the "queen of the festival" with her.¹³³

February 15, 1998/Mentor, Ohio: While waiting to enter a high school gymnasium for a circus performance, an African elephant named Tonya was startled in the hallway by a clown and bolted. The two-ton animal ambled through the hallways of the school, knocked a trainer to the ground, then opened a door and ran outside. She ran off for a quarter of a mile with police officers in squad cars and on foot chasing her and was finally caught outside a discount store. She had been spooked in the same hallway the previous day.¹³⁴

February 10, 1998/Lincolnton, North Carolina: A 150-pound leopard nearly killed his trainer after attacking her at a Royal Palace Circus performance in North Carolina. The trainer suffered injuries requiring reconstructive surgery and hospitalization for a week.¹³⁵

January 7, 1998/St. Petersburg, Florida: A trainer with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus suffered severe head wounds after a tiger grabbed him by the head during a training session in preparation for a publicity shoot. Richard

Chipperfield was hospitalized in critical condition and required extensive surgery. The trainer's brother shot the tiger five times with a 12-gauge shotgun after the animal had been returned to a transport cage, killing him.¹³⁶

1998/Harris County, Texas: A tiger mauled a 4-year-old girl during photo ops at a county fair. The girl required stitches and \$17,000 in plastic surgery to her leg. The girl's family filed a lawsuit against tiger exhibitor Bridgeport Nature Center.¹³⁷

October 6, 1997/South Barrington, Illinois: A baboon at a petting zoo bit a 4-year-old girl.¹³⁸

August 17, 1997/Marshfield, Massachusetts: A 13-year-old girl was rushed to the emergency room after a tiger bit her hand during a photo session at the Marshfield Fair. The exhibitor, Bridgeport Nature Center, left the state before authorities could quarantine the tiger. The girl had to undergo painful rabies treatment. The Marshfield Mass. Animal Control Department reported "several" other bites associated with this photo booth.¹³⁹

August 15, 1997/Elburn, Illinois: A baboon with a traveling zoo scratched a 15-year-old girl's leg during a parade.¹⁴⁰

June 29, 1997/Bourbonnais, Illinois: A vervet monkey with a traveling zoo bit a 3-year-old girl in the face at a festival.¹⁴¹

June 28, 1997/Seagoville, Texas: An elephant attacked a 65-year-old man when he entered an area described as "a storage yard for circus animals," causing a broken arm and dislocated shoulder.¹⁴²

May 7, 1997/Carrollton, Pennsylvania: A 400-pound tiger killed 50-year-old Wayne Franzen in front of 200 horrified schoolchildren at the Franzen Bros. Circus. The tiger pounced on him when he turned his back, grabbed him by the neck, and dragged him around the circus ring.¹⁴³

March 17, 1997/Grand Rapids, Michigan: A muzzled and caged bear with Tarzan Zerbini Circus performing for Shriners bit off the tip of a 2-year-old child's finger. The child had to undergo surgery to repair her finger. There were no safety barriers around the bear cages, and 30 other children had been petting the bear.¹⁴⁴

December 21, 1996/Brooklyn Park, Minnesota: A 7-month-old tiger bit or scratched three pet-supply store workers. The tiger had been brought to the store to have his picture taken. The three workers agreed to receive rabies prevention shots.¹⁴⁵

September 28, 1996/Los Angeles, California: Actor Elizabeth Hurley reeled back in shock when she was bitten on the ear by a chimpanzee while appearing on Jay Leno's Tonight Show.¹⁴⁶

July 18, 1996/Middletown, New York: A white tiger from Hawthorn Corporation bit the hand of a carnival worker while performing at the Orange County Fair.¹⁴⁷

June 14, 1996/Casper, Wyoming: An Asian elephant named Sue charged, knocked down, and repeatedly kicked a trainer who required hospital treatment. At the time of the incident, the elephant was giving rides and had 5 or 6 children on her back. One child fell off the elephant. The elephant, owned by Hawthorn Corporation, was performing with the Jordan World Circus, sponsored by the Casper Shrine Club, at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds. Sue had injured two other trainers two years previously (see April 4, 1994/Salt Lake City, Utah).¹⁴⁸

March 5, 1996/Comfort, Texas: A high school principal suffered two broken ribs as well as arm and wrist injuries and was nearly trampled when he fell off an elephant with King Royal Circus. He had been preparing to ride the elephant in a race when the animal became upset and shook him off.^{149,150}

February 1996/Bridgton, Maine: A squirrel monkey bit a child during a school demonstration.¹⁵¹

1996/Pomona, California: A lion displayed by Safari Wildlife got loose and roamed around the Los Angeles County fairgrounds before being recaptured.¹⁵²

November 2, 1995/Washington, D.C.: House Speaker Newt Gingrich was bitten on the chin by a baby cougar he was holding and who had been brought to the Capitol by Jack Hanna.¹⁵³

September 30, 1995/Indianapolis, Indiana: A lion with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit off the index finger of a woman who put her hand in the cage that was in a staging area.¹⁵⁴

July 10, 1995/Queens, New York: Two Asian elephants with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus ran amok in the middle of a performance, triggering a panic among hundreds of spectators that left 12 people injured. Six spectators were hospitalized after Debbie and Frieda bolted from the circus tent and crashed into a parked car before being brought under control by a trainer. It was the second incident in three months involving the two elephants (see May 18, 1995/Hanover, Pennsylvania).^{155,156}

May 28, 1995/Novi, Michigan: Three lions and four tigers toppled onto a freeway when the 6-foot by 12-foot trailer they were in came unhitched. An 11-month old tiger bolted into a wooded area, leading police on a four-hour chase that included a helicopter search and foot patrols. The animals were en route to a Home Depot store for photo ops with the public.^{157,158}

May 18, 1995/Hanover, Pennsylvania: Debbie and Frieda, two Asian elephants with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, rampaged at the North Hanover Mall as they were being led to the circus tent for a show. The two elephants pushed and shoved their way around the parking lot, damaging cars and crashing through the plate glass windows of a car dealership before escaping into nearby woods. The elephants caused \$20,000 in damages and one sustained a deep gash under her eye. On July 6, 1985, Frieda killed a woman by grabbing the woman with her trunk and throwing her down to the ground in a parking lot of the New London Mall in Connecticut.^{159,160}

February 6, 1995/Fort Wayne, Indiana: As an employee with Tarzan Zerbini Circus was loading equipment onto a trailer, an Asian elephant named Roxie knocked him down with her trunk and stomped on him twice. He suffered a crushed pelvis and was in critical condition. The elephant was performing for the Mizpah Shrine Circus.¹⁶¹

February 1, 1995/Hugo, Oklahoma: A tiger with Carson & Barnes Circus escaped by squeezing through an opening in a cage. The Choctaw County Sheriff Department, Hugo Police Department, Game Department, and a helicopter from the National Guard searched for the tiger for 10 days before she was finally recaptured.^{162,163}

November 8, 1994/Riley County, Kansas: Mickey, a 15-month-old Asian elephant at the King Royal Circus wrapped his trunk around the neck of a 3-year-old girl and attempted to pull her into the arena while she was feeding him grass. The girl was treated for injuries at a local hospital.^{164,165}

August 20, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii: An African elephant named Tyke killed a trainer and stomped and injured a circus groom shortly before a performance with Circus International at the Blaisdell Arena. Tyke then ran amok, breaking out of the arena and leading police on a chase down several city blocks until they shot her to death with almost 100 bullets. Ambulance officials described a scene of "total panic" as circus-goers fled from the arena, pushing and trampling each other. Ambulances transported fourteen people to the hospital and others drove themselves. Multiple lawsuits were filed. This was the second elephant incident at the circus in as many weeks (see August 15, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii.) Tyke, who had rampaged twice before (see July 23, 1993/Minot, North Dakota and April 21, 1993/Altoona, Pennsylvania), was owned by Hawthorn Corporation.^{166,167,168}

August 15, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii: An elephant with Circus International rammed a fence that separated the first row of spectators from the circus rings, knocking a nearly 300-pound man into the next row and pinning his wife and their eight children under the fence. The man and his 15-year-old

daughter suffered injuries. They filed suit against the Hawthorn Corporation (owner of the elephant), as well as Roy Yempuku, the circus promoter.^{169,170,171}

July 18, 1994/New York, New York: An African elephant named Flora with the Great Moscow Circus attacked a Russian translator backstage at ABC's Live With Regis and Kathie Lee television show. The elephant repeatedly smashed her head into the woman, pinning her to a wall and leaving her with a fractured skull, broken ribs, a punctured lung and two broken wrists. The victim filed a \$5 million lawsuit against the circus, the booking agent and ABC, and ultimately accepted a \$1.65 million settlement.^{172,173}

April 4, 1994/Salt Lake City, Utah: While giving rides to two children, an Asian elephant named Sue picked up, tossed, and stepped on an animal trainer with the Jordan Circus, breaking his arm and ribs and causing internal organ damage. The elephant also kicked another trainer and broke her finger. A third trainer gained control of the elephant and removed the children from her back.¹⁷⁴

March 5, 1994/Muskegon, Michigan: A Tarzan Zerbini Circus elephant giving rides at a Shrine-sponsored circus caused injuries to three children when she fell into the passenger loading platform, spilling the riders and bending the platform.^{175,176}

September 14, 1993/Joplin, Missouri: A circus employee lost part of her arm after an attack by a tiger on the circus' animal farm. Doctors had to amputate her arm below the elbow.¹⁷⁷

July 28, 1993/Patterson, New York: A 23-year-old declawed and defanged Himalayan black bear used in circuses escaped from an enclosure and disappeared into nearby woods.¹⁷⁸

July 23, 1993/Minot, North Dakota: An African elephant named Tyke escaped from a trainer while at the North Dakota State Fair, charged, kicked, and trampled an elephant show worker, breaking three of his ribs, then led sheriff's deputies and circus workers on a 25-minute chase as she ran through a campground and into a maintenance building. Tyke, who the trainer described as dangerous, difficult, and high-strung, was later shot and killed when she rampaged during a circus performance in Hawaii (see August 20, 1994/Honolulu, Hawaii).^{179,180}

June 5, 1993/Fishkill, New York: An Asian elephant crushed a man to death by pinning him against a trailer in the elephant area of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus grounds at the Fishkill Mall.¹⁸¹

May 6, 1993/Las Vegas, Nevada: A keeper feeding a trio of lions in a residential backyard was hospitalized after one of the

cats attacked her. The victim, a member of the Fercos performing family, suffered five gouges to her leg. During an April performance, another employee was bitten by a lion.¹⁸²

May 5, 1993/Williston, Florida: Famed animal trainer Alex Gautier died of internal injuries after an Asian elephant named Reba knocked him down and stomped on his chest at a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant farm.^{183,184,185,186}

April 21, 1993/Altoona, Pennsylvania: An African elephant named Tyke charged through an arena entryway during a performance with the Great American Circus. She ripped away part of a wall at the Jaffa Mosque, causing \$10,000 in damage. Tyke ran out onto an upstairs balcony and was later coaxed back by trainers. More than 3,000 children were in the audience. One young girl suffered injuries.^{187,188}

April 17, 1993/Little Rock, Arkansas: A tiger performing with the Shrine Circus at the Barton Coliseum escaped, ran into the audience, and bit a 13-year-old girl. The tiger was owned and trained by Jordan Circus.¹⁸⁹

February 24, 1993/Norfolk, Virginia: Graham Chipperfield, a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus big cat trainer, was mauled by a lion while breaking up a fight between two other lions.¹⁹⁰

October 14, 1992/Bloomington, Minnesota: A handler was hospitalized for a leg injury that required ten stitches when an Asian elephant named Bunny slipped and fell, gouging the man with her tusk, while she was giving rides to several children at a Shrine circus. A child also suffered a minor leg injury.¹⁹¹

July 15, 1992/Lafayette, Indiana: Nine people were injured when elephants who were being led around the ring at the Tarzan Zerbini International Circus collided and toppled a barricade which fell into a crowded area under the circus tent.¹⁹²

May 20, 1992/Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania: Two tigers with Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus escaped from an unlocked cage during a performance. One tiger roamed around the center ring, frightening 2,000 spectators before he was recaptured.¹⁹³

February 25, 1992/Dane County, Wisconsin: A man underwent surgery to repair torn tendons in his ankle after he was attacked by a bear while participating in a bear "wrestling" event sponsored by Junglewold Animal Rental Agency.¹⁹⁴

February 1, 1992/Palm Bay, Florida: Janet (aka Kelly), an Asian elephant with the Great American Circus, went on a

rampage while giving rides to five children and one adult. Janet knocked down a high-wire platform in the circus ring, ran out of the tent with the people still on her back, and rampaged through the circus grounds. She threw two circus workers about 20 feet into the air, rammed a tractor-trailer, and picked up a police officer who tried to rescue the riders, threw him, then picked him up again and tried to step on him. Hundreds of circus-goers panicked and fled screaming. Police fired 43 shots at the elephant, but were unable to kill her until they used armor-piercing bullets. Twelve people, including trainer Tim Frisco, were treated at a hospital for injuries. In 1983, Janet had attacked the previous owner of the circus, who suffered a broken back and hips and was hospitalized for nearly four months.^{195,196,197,198}

August 17, 1991/Fresno, California: A lion with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit a man who tried to pet the caged lion.¹⁹⁹

April 18, 1991/Wilkesboro, North Carolina: A 3-year-old girl required stitches after she was attacked by a leopard traveling with the Great American Circus.²⁰⁰

August 9, 1990/Sturgis, South Dakota: A 5-year-old girl was mauled by a 175-pound leopard who was restrained by a small chain on a box in Engessor's Endangered Species traveling zoo. She was treated at a hospital for puncture wounds to her arm and back and claw marks on her back. The girl's mother sued for \$100,000 in damages.²⁰¹

July 7, 1990/Southeast Portland, Oregon: Two leashed and collared chimpanzees went out of control during a Circus Gatti performance. They dragged the trainer into the stands and pulled a child from her seat and onto the arena floor, then mauled her.²⁰²

June 20, 1990/Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: An Asian elephant named Carol with the Hanneford Family Circus kicked and stepped on or sat on a handler after being startled by a passing car, crushing the man to death.^{203,204,205}

June 18, 1990/Sidney, Montana: A leopard bit a 7-year-old boy when the owner of the traveling zoo removed the animal from a cage so members of the public could pet her.²⁰⁶

June 6, 1990/Reading, Pennsylvania: During a Great American Circus show, an elephant attacked a trainer and went on a rampage, panicking the crowd and injuring one man.²⁰⁷

April 7, 1990/Oakdale, California: An African elephant threw three passengers from her back while giving rides at a private party. The elephant, provided by Marine World Africa USA in Vallejo, began spinning and bumping into cars before she was

brought under control. One woman who fell bruised her back on a car and another sustained a bruised arm. The third woman was dragged 40 feet before she was freed and required five stitches.²⁰⁸

August 28, 1989/Essex Junction, Vermont: An elephant named Minnie with the Commerford & Sons petting zoo attacked and seriously injured a handler after he struck her with a stick at the Champlain Valley Fair. Minnie picked up the handler with her trunk and threw him against a trailer, breaking his shoulder and jaw. Two children were riding on the elephant's back at the time. According to a witness, "Blood was gushing everywhere. The kids were left stranded. The attendants were afraid to get the kids off the elephant." Commerford continued using Minnie for rides at the fair despite a public outcry that the elephant was too dangerous. Years earlier, Minnie had attacked a worker and broken his arm.^{209, 210}

Updated March 31, 2017

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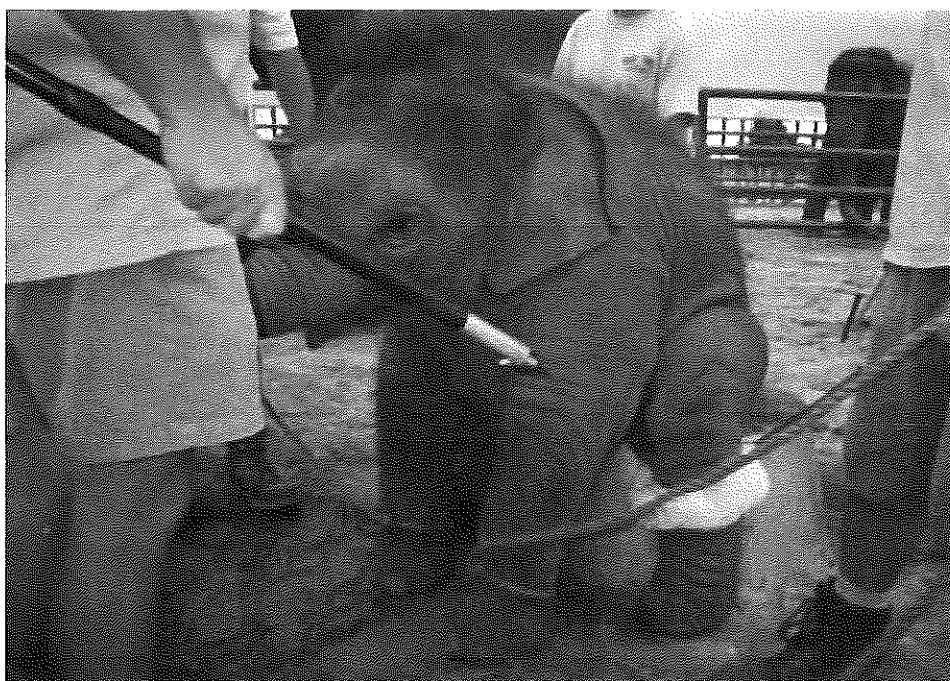
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- ²⁰⁵ U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Accident Investigation Summary, Report ID: 0418800, Hanneford Family Circus.
- ²⁰⁶ "Leopard showings continue," Associated Press, July 25, 1990.
- ²⁰⁷ Andrew P. Hoppes and Steven D. Sachetta, "Angry elephant tosses trainer, scatters crowd in Berks," *Reading Eagle*, June 8, 1990.
- ²⁰⁸ Jim McClung, "Elephant dumps passengers at Oakdale party," *Sacramento Bee*, April 10, 1990.
- ²⁰⁹ "Elephant gives ride after attack," *Burlington Free Press*, August 30, 1989.
- ²¹⁰ Mike Donoghue, "Elephant attack raises concerns," *Burlington Free Press*, August 31, 1989.

The Truth Behind the Big Top



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



BAN WILD ANIMAL ACTS



"[T]he big cats in Ringling Bros. ... are managed through fear, coercion, and punishment."

Jay Pratte, B.S., M.A., Animal training, behavior, and welfare consultant

Four states and at least 125 other localities have passed legislation addressing the abuse of wild animals in circuses.

Updated January 9, 2017

Protect Captive Wildlife from Circus Abuse

Circuses have earned the reputation as the cruelest shows on earth due to the use of violent training methods, constant confinement, and neglect of animals. With growing public awareness about the miserable lives endured by animals used in traveling shows, animal-based circuses have been dwindling in popularity. Some circuses are eliminating elephant and other animal acts, while others have simply closed down.

Abusive Training

Wild animals don't perform confusing and often physically grueling circus tricks because they want to—they perform because they're afraid not to. Trainers use violent training methods, including beatings and electric shock, to force animals to perform difficult tricks on command. Tools of the trade include bullhooks—an outdated elephant training device that resembles a fireplace poker—as well as electric prods, sticks, whips, and chains.

Constant Confinement

Animals used in traveling shows spend most of the time in extreme confinement. Elephants are often chained or confined to small pens and big cats spend the majority of their time in cramped transport cages that, on average, measure approximately 4 feet

by 7 feet. Deprived of adequate exercise and appropriate social groupings and with no opportunities to express natural behaviors, wild animals often exhibit signs of severe and chronic stress. Life in an unhealthy environment on the road also means that sick animals may not have access to immediate and expert veterinary care.

Public Safety Concerns

Wild animals are dangerous and unpredictable and their use in circuses puts the public at risk. There have been countless instances of tigers escaping from cages, elephants rampaging, and even zebras bolting through traffic. And when an animal such as an elephant rebels against a trainer's physical dominance, trainers cannot protect themselves, let alone the general public.

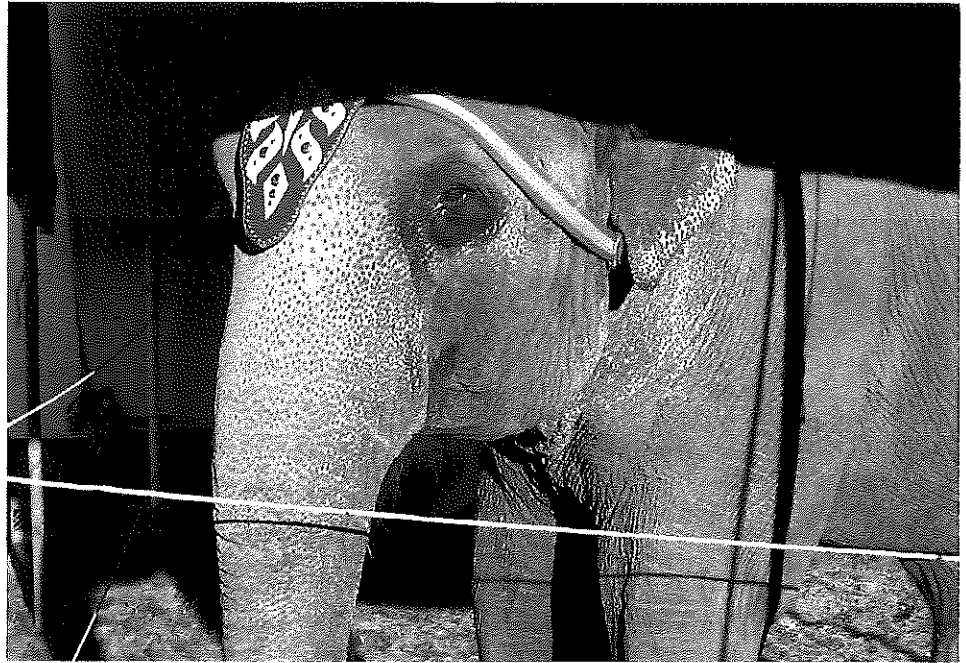
No Impact on Economy

Circuses do not generate new economic spending in a region—they only redistribute a family's discretionary spending. Most families have an entertainment budget that will be spent in the local economy, whether it's on miniature golf, a ball game, a movie, or a circus. Since circus owners and performers do not reside in the towns they perform in, when the show leaves, it takes its revenues out of the city.

Prohibit Elephant Acts Support LD 396



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



LIFE ON THE ROAD IS MISERY FOR ELEPHANTS

Protect Elephants Used in Traveling Shows

The use of elephants in circuses, for rides at fairs, and in other traveling shows subjects these highly intelligent, social animals to cruel treatment and a miserable life on the road where they are deprived of exercise and the ability to express natural behaviors. When chained and confined in small spaces, handled with electric prods and bullhooks and kept in socially deprived conditions, elephants become dysfunctional, unhealthy, depressed, and aggressive.

LD 396 will put an end to the use of elephants in travelling animal acts including in circuses and provides for reasonable penalties.

Citing in part a shift in public opinion, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus eliminated its elephant act in 2016.

Stronger Laws Needed

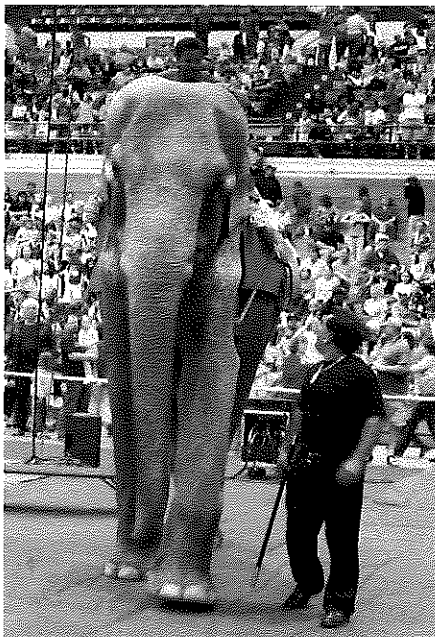
While circuses are regulated by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which is enforced by the USDA, no agency monitors training sessions where the most violent abuses occur. Further, because the AWA establishes only minimum guidelines and fails to incorporate modern husbandry practices, an exhibitor can be in compliance with the federal law, yet the animals can still be subjected to grossly inhumane

conditions. And due to inadequate resources, the weak standards of the AWA are poorly enforced.

To address deficiencies in the AWA, four states and at least 125 other localities have passed legislation addressing the use of wild animals in circuses. For example, California, Rhode Island, and more than a dozen cities and counties have banned the use of bullhooks, an outdated elephant training tool. And dozens of cities, including San Francisco, Calif., Boulder, Colo.; Quincy, Mass.; Missoula, Mont., and Jersey City, N.J., have banned the use of wild and exotic animals in performances.

Abusive Training

Circus tricks, such as headstands, hind-leg stands, and continuous lying down and sitting up, place a great deal of stress on an elephant's muscles and joints. No elephant would perform these grotesquely exaggerated maneuvers on command—over and over, hundreds of times a year—without the constant threat of punishment. Trainers use a purposely cruel and outdated tool called a bullhook to force elephants to perform. A bullhook resembles a fireplace poker and consists of a long rod with a sharp metal hook, and spiked tip at one end, and is used as a weapon to



This photo of an emaciated elephant named Ned was taken by photographer Jeff Kirlin at Bangor's Anah Shrine Circus in 2008. Ned was later confiscated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and transferred to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. Despite months of intensive care by a team of elephant experts, Ned died in May 2009. The sanctuary reports that he suffered from "extensive, irreversible ulcers and scarring throughout his intestinal tract—believed to have been caused by years of stress."



Chaining causes deadly foot problems and arthritis.

"[Hugo Liebel] held Nosey outdoors tethered by chains around the elephant's left front and right rear ankles that were so taut that ... the elephant was unable to lie down on her side, or to make any forward or backward movement, and could only move a few feet from side to side."

USDA, Complaint, Hugo Tommy Liebel, AWA Docket No. 12-0103, December 7, 2011

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Your neighborhood in print since July 13, 1822
News Record **PATRIOT** - About 150,000
C.M.D. media

'Nosey's Law' Approved By Senate Committee
By J. H. ... • September 13, 2016 • 11:15 AM

"This elephant [Nosey] is forced to give rides to the public while exhibiting symptoms of arthritis and degenerative joint disease. The pain and suffering inflicted on this or any animal should be ended."

New Jersey state Senator Raymond Lesniak who sponsored a bill to ban the use of elephants in traveling animal acts

69%

of Americans are very or somewhat concerned about the treatment of animals in circuses.

2015 Gallup poll

inflict pain and punishment on elephants.

Trainers use the hooked and pointed end to strike, jab, pull, prod, and hook sensitive spots on the elephant's body. The use of bullhooks results in trauma, suffering, lacerations, puncture wounds, and abscesses.

Elephants who fail to cooperate may be restrained and beaten into submission, often by several people. While the most abusive handling takes place behind the scenes, just the presence of a bullhook reminds elephants that they are never free from the threat of physical punishment.

Unhealthy Confinement

Elephants are confined to trailers, sometimes for days at a time, during nearly year-round transport. At venues, elephants are confined to small pens or are chained by two legs much of the time, restricting movement to a step forward or backward. Prolonged immobilization and standing in their own excrement results in problems such as degenerative joint disease and foot disorders—which are the leading causes of euthanasia in captive elephants—as well as urine burns, rotting and cracked foot pads, and cracked and infected nails. In addition, chaining is associated with neurotic behaviors, such as head-bobbing, rocking, and swaying, indicators of poor welfare commonly seen in elephants used in traveling shows.

Tuberculosis (TB)

While approximately 12.4 percent of captive elephants in the U.S. have tested positive for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (a human strain of TB), many more may actually be infected with this deadly bacterial lung disease since TB testing on elephants is unreliable. People have tested positive for exposure to TB after direct and indirect contact with infected elephants, suggesting that not only circus workers, but arena staff and circus goers could be at risk if a TB-positive elephant is on the road. In 2015, Dallas officials prohibited UniverSoul Circus from exhibiting two elephants during

their 2-week performance schedule after the county health department received information that the elephants had tested reactive for TB and warned city officials of potential transmission to members of the public.

Public Safety Concerns

Countless elephant rampages and attacks demonstrate the dangers of putting a stressed, wild, 8,000-pound animal in a traveling show. Elephants have trampled trainers before horrified spectators, bolted out of circus tents with frightened children clinging to their back, and run amok in city streets causing significant property damage.

About Shrine Circus Fundraisers

Consistent with growing trends, a number of Shrine chapters are experiencing declining interest in the annual circus and moving away from using wild animals in its circuses. According to forms filed with the IRS, more than three dozen chapters showed a decrease in net circus income for 2014 from the previous year.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a separate entity from the Shrine. Revenue from a \$9 billion endowment covers more than 90 percent of the hospitals' budgets. The *New York Times* reports that only 2 percent of the hospitals' operating expenses comes from money raised by Shrine temples and dues paid by members.

According to the Director of Temple Accounting at Shriners International, "It is natural to associate the fez with Shriners Hospitals for Children. Because of this, meticulous attention must be given to all fundraising activities, including circuses, to make certain [...] that a contributor is not led to believe that his money will be used for the Hospitals when all or a portion thereof will be used otherwise."

In other words, Shrine circuses are used as fundraisers to primarily benefit the local fraternal organizations where proceeds may be spent on liquor, parties, members' travel to Shrine events, and other activities.



**Testimony in support of an ordinance to prohibit the display of wild and exotic animals
Portland City Council – Health & Human Services Committee
July 11, 2017**

Good evening, Councilor Ray, Councilor Batson, and Councilor Mavodones. My name is Katie Hansberry. I'm a District 1 Portland resident and the Maine senior state director for The Humane Society of the United States. Thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight. On behalf of our supporters in Portland, I respectfully urge you to support the proposed ordinance that would prohibit the cruel and dangerous practice of having wild and exotic animals perform in traveling animal acts such as circuses.

With the wealth of information that is now available about the rich and varied lives that elephants, lions, tigers, bears and other wild animals naturally lead, it's become apparent that life in a traveling show is nothing but misery for them. Animals in circuses and other traveling displays are trained with pain and the fear of punishment, bullied to perform silly tricks, forced to endure extreme confinement while chained in trucks and trailers during months of grueling travel each year, and are routinely denied natural behaviors, proper veterinary care, and adequate exercise.

Experts agree that using wild animals in circuses requires inhumane training methods and fails to provide animals with an appropriate environment for their physical and psychological health. Ron L. Kagan, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Detroit Zoo, sums this up in his statement that, "By definition, traveling shows cannot provide the space, substrates, climate and social conditions necessary to meet even the basic needs of animals. It is extremely hard for even a modern zoo with great technical expertise and expansive space and resources to meet these needs. In addition to the constant stressful travel, the daily living conditions, often with prolonged restraint, aversive and cruel methods of physical training are very harmful."

Animal welfare concerns are well documented and many, if not most, exhibitors with wild animal acts have been repeatedly cited for serious violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). For example, Carson & Barnes Circus, which has supplied elephants to circuses that perform in Portland, has a long history of abysmal animal care for a variety of species and multiple instances of elephants escaping. A year ago, Carson & Barnes Circus was assessed a penalty of \$16,000 for multiple charges of failure to safely handle elephants and its most recent elephant escape occurred just last month. And Vincent Von Duke's big cat act, which also performed in Portland earlier this year, has been cited by the USDA for failure to provide minimum space and a proper diet to big cats, failure to promote the psychological well-being of

primates, and repeated failure to have a responsible adult available for the USDA to conduct an animal welfare inspection.

The use of wild animals in circuses also poses a threat to public safety. Animal handlers cannot protect themselves, let alone the public, when a wild animal rebels. Escaped tigers have roamed through performance arenas, frightened and injured circus goers, and injured and killed their trainers in front of horrified spectators. Chaos has ensued when elephants bolted through parking lots and downtown streets, crashed through arena doors and plate glass windows, and collided with traffic. In two instances, rampaging elephants – one who had been giving rides to children – were gunned down and killed by police. Earlier this year, the Anah Shrine Circus in Bangor leased elephants from RW Commerford and Sons to perform in the shows and provide rides. One of those elephants, Minnie, has been involved in three dangerous incidents while giving rides to children. While we're fortunate that such an incident has yet to happen in Maine, it is only a matter of time if such performances are allowed to continue.

Circuses easily get away with routine abuse because no government agency monitors training sessions (where the most violent abuses occur), existing laws do not provide enough protection for wild animals, and travelling circuses for the most part go virtually unchecked as they move quickly from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for anyone to monitor, report, or investigate abuses. While circuses are regulated by the federal Animal Welfare Act, which is enforced by the USDA, the AWA establishes only minimum guidelines, and due to inadequate resources, the weak standards of the AWA are poorly enforced. In addition to animals used in exhibition, the AWA regulates research labs, animal dealers, and breeders, such as puppy mills. There are only about 120 USDA inspectors responsible for inspecting more than 10,000 diverse facilities— clearly an insufficient number of inspectors to conduct regular inspections and follow-up. In addition, inspectors may not be knowledgeable about exotic species. Enforcement actions are rare and typically result in mere warnings, small fines, or short license suspensions. The USDA rarely revokes licenses or confiscates animals. It is common for USDA licensees to keep animals in grossly inhumane and unsafe conditions, yet still be in compliance with the AWA. While Maine did adopt rules for the care and treatment of elephants (Chapter 703), they are similarly minimal in nature. It is also important to note that although state and local animal cruelty statutes do apply to wild animals in circuses, violations of these laws can be challenging to prosecute due to the transitory nature of circuses and local law enforcement's unfamiliarity with these species.

The inadequacies of current law were exemplified in 2008 when an elephant named Ned performed at Bangor's Anah Shrine Circus while sick and emaciated – nearly 2,000 pounds underweight. It was only after Ned was long gone from Maine and some photographs from that

performance came to the attention of someone at the Oakland, California zoo that steps were taken to try and help him. Unfortunately, it was too late and Ned died less than a year later.

The proposed ordinance will not have an adverse impact on the local economy. Circuses do not generate new economic spending in a region – they only redistribute a family's discretionary spending. Families have a fixed amount of entertainment dollars that will be spent locally, whether it's on movies, museums, ball games, or a circus. Similarly, local jobs will not be affected because if circuses choose not to comply with the new law, the venues that previously hosted animal circuses will simply book other entertainment options. In a recent Portland Press Herald article concerning the recent circus performances in Portland, one of the families in attendance stated that they would continue to go to the circus even if it decided to no longer feature elephants, would support a ban on animal acts, and that "you could put on a great show without them." Indeed, many animal-free circuses are thriving such as Circus Smirkus and Circus Vargas. While another family interviewed in the Portland Press Herald article stated that his grandson's "favorite part of the show" was the elephant ride and that "it's important for the younger generation to see these great creatures of the wild," the reality is that animal exhibitions and performances have no education or conservation value. Having wild animals do tricks in traveling acts does nothing to educate the public about ecology, natural behaviors or lives. It doesn't teach our children empathy or to respect animals. In fact it send the wrong message – that it is acceptable to exploit animals for our amusement.

In the wild, bears don't ride bicycles, tigers don't jump through fiery hoops, and elephants don't do handstands. Circuses present a distorted view of wildlife. There are many alternative forms of entertainment that are fun, exciting, and family-friendly that don't involve forcing abused animals to perform demeaning tricks.

Moreover, this ordinance will not prevent the Anah and Kora Shriners from continuing to help children in need of medical care. The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a separate entity and revenue from a \$9 billion endowment covers more than 90 percent of the hospitals' budgets. The New York Times reports that only 2 percent of the hospitals' operating expenses comes from money raised by Shrine temples and dues paid by members. According to the Director of Temple Accounting at Shriners International, "It is natural to associate the fez with Shriners Hospitals for Children. Because of this, meticulous attention must be given to all fundraising activities, including circuses, to make certain [...] that a contributor is not led to believe that his money will be used for the Hospitals when all or a portion thereof will be used otherwise."

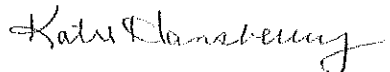
We're not saying that the organizations bringing circuses to Maine are intentionally condoning animal cruelty, but by relying on what they see during that very short period of time as the

basis of their statements that the animals are well-cared for they are turning a blind eye to the reality of the situation. The suffering wild animals endure in circuses is real and systemic. As stated in a recent op-ed by Delcianna Winders published in the Sun Journal, "Mounting evidence — including video footage, sworn eyewitness testimony, and government inspection reports — makes clear that the only way to force the Earth's largest land animals to perform is through the constant threat of physical punishment. Abuse is the rule, not the exception." It's time to ensure that fundraisers are humane, safe and appealing to today's audiences, as that will benefit everyone.

Attitudes have changed and it's important for laws to reflect public opinion. To date, four states and more than 125 other localities in 34 states have passed restrictions governing the use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in support of this ordinance. In doing so, you will be protecting wild animals from cruelty and Mainers from public safety risks while demonstrating that Portland will continue to lead the way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Hansberry".

Katie Hansberry

Maine Senior State Director

khansberry@humanesociety.org

207-999-2323



Carson & Barnes Circus

Carson & Barnes Circus (Hugo, Oklahoma, License 73-C-0001) has a long history of abysmal animal care and elephant rampages and has been repeatedly cited and fined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) including: using a bullhook with “excessive force” on an elephant; failure to provide veterinary care to numerous animals, including a thin elephant who had been losing weight for almost two years; failure to safely handle and supervise elephants in the presence of the public, including during elephant rides; failure to maintain control of elephants, resulting in at least two instances of elephants bolting from handlers; failure to provide animals with sufficient shelter and minimum space, and failure to maintain enclosures and transport vehicles in order to prevent injury to animals.

In 2016, the USDA assessed Carson & Barnes Circus a civil penalty of \$16,000 for multiple charges of failure to safely handle elephants and in 2012, the circus paid a penalty of \$3,714 in a settlement agreement with the USDA for AWA violations.

Carson & Barnes Circus’s animal care director, Tim Frisco, was videotaped viciously attacking elephants with a bullhook, shocking elephants with an electric prod, and instructing trainers to embed sharp, metal hooks into the elephants’ flesh until the elephants screamed in pain.

April 18, 2017: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for improper food storage. Two sacks of elephant feed were on the floor of a trailer that was damp from recent rain and a bottle of hand sanitizer was stored inside a bin for the food used for the goats, llamas and zebu.¹

March 8, 2017: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for housing a llama in a stall with a broken window. The inspector wrote that the edges of exposed glass were “at the height of the llama’s head and within easy reach of the animal. This is a potential injury risk to the llama.”²

July 2, 2016: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to an elephant named Bunny, who appeared to have a problem with her right front leg. The inspector wrote, “During the performance [Bunny] would sometimes not bend her right carpal joint in the same manner as she uses her left limb,” and that Bunny sometimes extended the leg “in a peg-like fashion”. The exhibitor had not noticed that Bunny appeared to be having trouble with her leg.³

May 25, 2016: The USDA assessed a civil penalty of \$16,000 against Carson & Barnes Circus to settle charges filed by the agency (see April 27, 2015) for two 2014 incidents that put both elephants and the public at risk.⁴

April 27, 2015: The USDA filed a complaint against Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to properly handle three elephants (Kelly, Viola, and Isa) when handlers lost control of the animals who subsequently ran into a parking lot, resulting in injuries to two of the elephants (see March 22, 2014), and for failure to properly handle elephants and provide sufficient distance and/or barriers between elephants and the public when three elephants (Kelly, Viola, and Isa) were given water in an area accessible to the public and a child and an adult were able to approach the elephants from behind and the adult photographed the child standing “at the back of and in direct proximity to the elephants.”^{5,6}

January 5, 2015: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to numerous animals including:⁷

- An elephant named Nina, who had been losing weight and was in thin body condition for almost two years and had lost 500 pounds, which was 8.7% of her body weight, in the previous 7-8 months;
- Two elephants, Rosie and Opal, who were being treated with acupuncture for stiffness and/or arthritis by a person who was not trained by a veterinarian or accredited to perform acupuncture for veterinary purposes;
- A pygmy hippo named Katie, who was noted to be losing weight and not doing well while traveling for exhibition in May 2014. Katie was returned to the home facility and seen by a veterinarian, but there was no documentation that she received medication prescribed for her and she subsequently died apparently without having received regular monitoring of her condition or her weight;
- A llama named Bandit who had excessively overgrown hooves, causing his toes to curve to the sides, a problem that no one had noticed despite the fact that he was being treated for an eye problem.

September 9, 2014/Hope, Maine: The co-founder of the facility Hope Elephants sustained multiple fractures and compression of the chest, and subsequently died, after being stepped on by an elephant when he fell inside the animal’s pen. The facility had two elephants, Rosie and Opal, who had been acquired two years previously from Carson & Barnes Circus. Following this incident, the elephants were returned to the circus.^{8,9}

April 14, 2014: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to properly handle three elephants (Kelly, Viola, and Isa) when the elephants were given water in an area accessible to the public and a child and an adult were able to approach the elephants from behind and the adult photographed the child standing “at the back of and in direct proximity to the elephants.” The circus was performing as the Zembo Shrine Circus in Altoona, Pennsylvania.^{10,11}

March 22, 2014: While leaving the performance arena, three elephants (Kelly, Viola, and Isa) who belonged to Carson & Barnes Circus were spooked by noise from the ongoing show and escaped from their handlers. The elephants pushed through a door and exited into the parking lot. Kelly ran between two trailers, resulting in abrasions and lacerations on her right side, Viola

sustained lacerations on both sides of her body, and two cars were damaged. The elephants were performing with the Royal Hanneford Circus in St. Charles, Missouri.^{12,13}

March 12, 2014: The USDA issued an official warning to Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a llama who was thin and had a worsening eye condition (see December 17, 2013.)¹⁴

December 17, 2013: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a llama who was thin, had a poor hair coat, and had discharge from both eyes. In addition, the llama's right eye, which a veterinarian thought may have been punctured, was cloudy and reddened and had significantly worsened since the animal was last seen by a veterinarian more than a month previously. The circus was also cited for two enclosures that posed a risk of injury to the animals in them, as well as failure to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to identify the llama's worsening eye condition and the potentially hazardous animal enclosures.¹⁵

August 7, 2013: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide documentation that an elephant named Nina, who was observed to be thin, with visible hip bones and shoulder blades, had been seen by a veterinarian. Nina and an elephant named Margaret were performing and giving rides to the public at Circus World in Baraboo, Wisconsin.¹⁶

January 9, 2013: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain facilities in good repair to protect the animals from injury. Enclosures housing goats, a zebu, and a zebra had loose and broken wires with sharp ends that protruded inward, a shelter for a zedonk and a donkey had a large hole in the concrete, and aluminum siding was pulled away from the wall of a shelter for two camels, creating a hole. All of these items posed a risk of injury to the animals.¹⁷

August 2, 2012: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide elephants with a safe transport trailer. Three of the drainage holes in the wooden floor of the trailer had become enlarged and worn to the point that it threatened the structural integrity of the floor. The circus was performing in Minerva, Ohio.¹⁸

July 26, 2012: Carson & Barnes Circus was assessed a penalty of \$3,714 in a settlement agreement with the USDA for numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act including:^{19,20,21,22}

- Failure to maintain control of an elephant who bolted from handlers and was subsequently injured (see April 27, 2010);
- Failure to provide three elephants with shelter from cold rain;
- Failure to provide adequate containment for three elephants, thereby risking the safety of the animals and the public;
- Failure to provide a barrier or sufficient distance between elephants and the public, including when a member of the public was able to grab one elephant's trunk;
- Repeated failure to have elephants under direct control and supervision while the

animals gave rides to the public;

- Failure to maintain an animal transport trailer that had a large hole in the floor at the entrance that could injure the animals as they walked over it;
- Failure to maintain the interior walls of the elephant barns in good repair and for sharp protruding edges of broken metal at the entryway to an elephant barn;
- A perimeter fence that had gaps as well as gates that did not close completely.

June 26, 2012: Carson & Barnes Circus received a Warning Notice from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture for failure to obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection for four elephants—Minnie, Nina, Libby, and Suzie—who were taken into the state.²³

June 2012: As of June 2012, Carson & Barnes Circus' elephant named Minnie had tested positive for tuberculosis and was prohibited from having contact with the public when she was at the Circus World Museum for the summer.²⁴

April 27, 2012: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for repeated failure to provide a sufficient perimeter fence because three gates were damaged or not properly fitted and numerous sections of the fence had large gaps. The circus was also cited for failure to maintain a barn where a shift area for an adult male elephant named Colonel had sharp protruding edges of broken metal, which posed a risk of injury to the elephant.²⁵

April 9, 2012: The City Council of Bellevue, Nebraska, voted to reject a permit for Carson & Barnes Circus to perform on the grounds of Bellevue University. Council members expressed concern about the circus's numerous Animal Welfare Act violations as well as the risk to the community.²⁶

December 20, 2011: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain a barn that housed six Asian elephants. One wall of the barn had insulation that was damaged and missing in several places.²⁷

October 7, 2011: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for "many instances" when elephants were not under direct control and supervision while the animals gave rides to the public. In one instance, a handler exchanged money with another employee while the elephant walked away with passengers on her back. In another, only one handler was present for two elephants giving rides and the inspector wrote, "One elephant would walk approximately 25 feet away with passengers on board, while the one handler would assist in loading passengers on the second elephant. The elephant with the passengers would stop and stand at the curtain exit with no physical barrier, other than the curtain, to stop it from leaving." The inspector wrote that such actions "allows for the risk of serious injury to members of the public." The circus was performing as the Kelly Miller Circus in Troy, Illinois.²⁸

August 22, 2011: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate shade from direct sunlight to two bull elephants. The circus was also cited for failure to provide a

sufficient perimeter fence because one gate was not properly fitted and was held closed with a rubber strap, another gate was open and unsecured, there were numerous gaps between the bottom of the fence and the ground, in at least one place a section of fence was not secured to any post, and one section of fence had broken barbed wire that was hanging loosely.²⁹

June 29, 2011: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus, whose elephants were performing with Cole Bros. Circus in Meriden, Connecticut, for:³⁰

- An elephant handler who was using a bullhook with “excessive force” on an elephant named Viola while she was giving rides to the public;
- Failure to provide a barrier or sufficient distance between the public and two elephants who were being bathed in a parking lot as well as two elephants in a ride area, where a member of the public grabbed ahold of one elephant’s trunk and one elephant placed her trunk close to the man’s feet and legs causing the inspector to write, “The safety of the elephant and the man were at risk in both of these situations;”
- Many instances when elephants who were giving rides to the public were not under the direct control and supervision of a handler, including when a handler answered his phone and walked away from an elephant who had an adult and six young children on her back;
- Failure to have a sufficient number of handlers when only one person was supervising two elephants.

June 17, 2011: A man and his son who stopped near a parking lot where Cole Bros. Circus was set up in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, witnessed a handler yelling at the elephants before striking one of them twice with “something that resembled a club,” producing a clearly audible “whack” sound. The handler swung the device as if it were a baseball bat. “This was not just an ‘attention getter,’” the father explained. “[This worker] reared back and swung the club with all his might, twice. You could hear the ‘whack’ as the club struck the elephant. My son and I were shocked.” The elephants involved in this incident belonged to Carson & Barnes Circus and were performing with Cole Bros. Circus.^{31,32,33}

2011: In early 2011, Carson & Barnes Circus’ elephant named Isla was determined to be infected with tuberculosis.³⁴

September 25, 2010: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide veterinary care to a pygmy hippo who had reddened and raw skin lesions that, the inspector wrote, could “easily become infected.” The circus was also cited for failure to provide any shade to goats, llamas, an alpaca, and a donkey when the temperature was more than 85 degrees; for feeding goats, llamas, alpacas, a zebra and a zebu by placing the animals’ hay on the ground, where it became contaminated with feces and the animals walked through it; and was cited again for failure to maintain a trailer that was used to transport a hippopotamus and numerous other animals which had an area where the vinyl liner had separated from the wall, exposing foam padding. The circus was performing in Colorado Springs, Colorado.³⁵

June 19, 2010: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain a trailer that was used to transport a hippopotamus, a zebra, camels, llamas, a zebu, an alpaca, and goats. The trailer had a hole that was at least 8 inches in diameter just inside the door through which the animals entered and exited. The inspector wrote, "This may lead to injury of the animals' feet or legs if they stepped through the hole." The circus was performing in Nashville, Tennessee.³⁶

May 12, 2010: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide shelter to three elephants - Lisa, Becky and Traci. The inspector wrote, "The weather was 50 degrees and drizzling rain for most of the day. The elephants were out in the cold rain with no protection from the inclement weather." The circus was also cited for failure to provide sufficient fencing to safely contain the three elephants as well as for insufficient security measures to prevent public access to the elephants. The inspector wrote, "Without adequate containment, the animals and the public are at risk of injury." The circus was performing in Roanoke, Indiana.³⁷

April 27, 2010: An elephant named Viola, who belonged to Carson & Barnes Circus, escaped while appearing with Cole Bros. Circus in Lynchburg, Virginia. She bolted from handlers and ran directly past a line of people waiting to buy tickets, sending some running toward the parking lot. Viola slid in the mud and tumbled down a hill and into a ditch, resulting in a cracked toenail and an inflamed shoulder. She was on the loose for approximately 30 minutes before being recaptured. The circus claimed that the elephant had been spooked by a rabbit.^{38,39,40,41}

April 2010: Isa, an elephant with Carson & Barnes Circus and traveling with Cole Bros. Circus, stepped on a trainer who sustained injuries that required a foot splint and crutches and kept him off work for a few days. The incident occurred while the circus was in Winchester, Virginia.⁴²

August 30, 2007: The USDA again cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to elephants when the results of tuberculosis testing on two of the three elephants were found to be invalid. The circus was also cited for failure to handle elephants in a manner that ensured minimal risk of harm to the animals and the public when the inspector observed that three elephants had been left unattended and there was a gap in the fence that surrounded the animals. The inspector wrote, "[I]t would have been very possible for a member of the public to enter the area and endanger both him- or herself and/or the animals." The circus was performing in Schaghticoke, New York.⁴³

July 12, 2007: Three elephants - Minnie, Susie, and Bunny - who were being leased from Carson & Barnes Circus and were performing with the Garden Bros. Circus in Newmarket, Canada, escaped from their enclosure in the middle of the night. Susie and Bunny roamed through downtown Newmarket, and Bunny was eventually found in a residential neighborhood.^{44,45}

June 6, 2007: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to three elephants who had not had foot care since February 2007. Becky had two cracked nails on each hind foot and a cracked nail on a front foot. Traci's nails were unevenly trimmed,

causing her to bear her weight unevenly. Lisa had a cracked nail on two feet. A 1.5-inch piece of fence wire was found in the hind foot of one of the elephants, and all three of them had rough cuticles.⁴⁶

June 5, 2007: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to have valid tuberculosis test results for three elephants. The inspector wrote, "Two of the three culture samples required for Isla and Opal were contaminated ... All three required culture samples for Isa were contaminated. These are not adequate to diagnose potential disease in these animals." The circus was performing in Aurora, Colorado.⁴⁷

October 2, 2006: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to properly construct and maintain a dog enclosure so that it securely contained the animals. A portable enclosure for three small dogs had large spaces between the bars and was only 3.5 feet tall. One dog escaped from the pen during the inspection. The circus was performing in Clarksville, Virginia.⁴⁸

June 16, 2006: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to two elephants who had not had foot care since March 2006. Both Beckie and Tracie had two cracked nails on each hind foot. The inspector wrote that the cracks "extend[ed] up the nail to [approximately] ¼ inch from the cuticle." According to *The Elephant's Foot: Prevention and Care of Foot Conditions in Captive Asian and African Elephants*, cracked nails can lead to foot disorders that may result in serious disability or death. The circus was performing in Landover, Maryland.⁴⁹

July 18, 2005: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to have its program of veterinary care available for inspection and failure to provide documentation that employees were tested for tuberculosis. The USDA requires that handlers who have direct contact with elephants be tested for tuberculosis at least annually in order to prevent the spread of the disease. The circus was performing in Farmington, Maine.⁵⁰

June 21, 2005: A U.S. District Court judge who viewed videotape of Carson & Barnes Circus' animal care director Tim Frisco beating elephants with bullhooks and shocking them with electric prods (see December 27, 2002) described it as "troubling" and noted that it depicted conduct that violates the federal Animal Welfare Act.⁵¹

May 26, 2005: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate shelter for elephants. The vinyl awning that was meant to provide the elephants with shelter from the sun and inclement weather had multiple holes in it. The circus was performing in Landover, Maryland.⁵²

August 16, 2004: The USDA issued Carson & Barnes Circus a \$550 stipulation for an accident that occurred while transporting elephants and resulted in injuries to two elephants.^{53,54}

May 28, 2004: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failing to provide an adequate safety

barrier between the public and elephants. The circus was performing in Landover, Maryland.⁵⁵

April 12, 2004: Carson & Barnes Circus's 5-year-old endangered Asian elephant named Jennie died after contracting an elephant herpes virus carried by African elephants. Despite widely accepted industry recommendations that Asian and African elephants should not be caged together because of disease risks from this deadly virus, Carson & Barnes continued to commingle the two species. In addition, the stress from being sent on the road at just 16 months of age, apparently without her mother, and being subjected to forceful training sessions, demanding performances, and constant travel likely compromised Jennie's immune system and left her vulnerable to the infection.⁵⁶

June 27, 2003: Isla and Opal, two elephants with Carson & Barnes Circus, were injured when the semitrailer carrying them between shows in Minot and Beulah, North Dakota, overturned. The truck drifted off the highway and then tipped over. The fire department had to cut a large hole in the truck's roof to extricate the elephants. Both animals sustained cuts from the accident and a patrol investigator described the truck as a total loss.⁵⁷

March 11, 2003: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain a trailer used to transport a hippo and numerous other animals. Rubber siding had been torn away from the wall and the floor of the trailer, posing a risk of the animals chewing on the rubber and exposing the wood floor of the trailer to water and excreta.⁵⁸

February 5, 2003: During an inspection at Carson & Barnes Circus's home site, the USDA noted that elephants Becky and Susie had cracked toenails. According to *The Elephant's Foot: Prevention and Care of Foot Conditions in Captive Asian and African Elephants*, cracked nails can lead to foot disorders that may result in serious disability or death.⁵⁹

January 24, 2003: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to document that a veterinarian visited the facility on a regular basis.⁶⁰

December 27, 2002: The USDA assessed a \$400 civil penalty against Carson & Barnes Circus after viewing video of the circus's animal care director Tim Frisco viciously attacking terrified elephants with a bull hook and shocking them with an electric prod. Frisco instructed other trainers to hurt the elephants until they scream, to forcefully strike the elephants with bull hooks, and to sink a bull hook into their flesh and twist it. Frisco also cautioned that the beatings must be concealed from the public. The circus entered into a settlement agreement and paid the \$400 fine for mishandling elephants in order to avoid formal charges of violating the Animal Welfare Act.^{61,62}

August 9, 2002: A Carson & Barnes Circus truck carrying two African elephants, Paula and Kristi, crashed in Rhinebeck, New York. The 18-wheeler tipped onto its side after the driver veered onto the right shoulder, which had a 4-foot drop-off. The state police, county sheriff's office, state Department of Environmental Conservation, village police, and village fire department all

responded to the scene. The elephants were trapped in the overturned truck for approximately three hours while emergency workers used power tools to cut out a section of the roof in order to free them. The road was closed for five hours while crews cleared the wreckage and replaced a utility pole that was struck by the truck. Both elephants sustained abrasions and soreness. The driver was charged with having an uninspected trailer, an insufficient logbook, and failure to keep right. The accident occurred when the circus was en route from Rensselaer to Poughkeepsie, New York.^{63,64,65}

June 5, 2002: The USDA again cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to an African elephant named Paula who had several areas of skin that were dry and rough. The circus was in Chillicothe, Missouri.⁶⁶

May 14, 2002: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to an African elephant named Paula who had dead skin covering her back, ears, and face. The circus was in Emporia, Kansas.⁶⁷

January 10, 2002: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide a sufficient perimeter fence around seven enclosures for big cats and around an enclosure for 19 elephants. The inspector also noted that the condition of the African elephant Paula's skin was not improving.⁶⁸

May 22, 2001: While performing in Perry, Iowa, and Webster City, Iowa, Carson & Barnes Circus was cited by the USDA for:⁶⁹

- Failure to provide veterinary care to a zebu with overgrown hooves;
- Failure to have 15 elephants under the direct control and supervision of a knowledgeable handler while children, parents, and teachers were present;
- Overworking a camel used to provide rides to the public;
- Failure to provide shelter to a pygmy hippopotamus, a zebu, a water buffalo, three llamas, 25 goats, and four camels during gusty and rainy weather conditions;
- Failure to provide minimum space to two African elephants who were confined to a 25'x25' area and a travel trailer for the two days of the inspection and to two Asian elephants who were chained by two legs for the same duration except for 20 minutes when they were performing;
- Failure to provide minimum space to six big cats who, except for the 20 minutes when they were performing, were confined to their travel cages;
- Allowing a dog to run loose in the parking lot and onto the property of an adjacent school;
- Improper storage of meat for the big cats.

January 30, 2001: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain the structural strength of its animal transport trailers.⁷⁰

September 2000: Carson & Barnes Circus leased a single elephant to Roberts Bros. Circus and a

single elephant to Circus Vargas. Both elephants were kept in solitary confinement. The American Zoo and Aquarium Association's *Guide to Accreditation of Zoological Parks and Aquariums* states, "It is inappropriate to keep highly social female elephants singly."⁷¹

August 24, 2000: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to have elephant attendants, handlers, and grooms tested for tuberculosis.⁷²

July 22, 2000: Carson & Barnes Circus was forced to cancel two shows in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, after fire officials deemed the circus's tent unsafe and because the circus did not have a permit to erect a tent. The tent failed the inspectors' flame-spread test for fire safety. Inspectors also found problems with exit lightings and signs.⁷³

June 6, 2000: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for mishandling an elephant who was shackled with a leg chain that didn't have a protective covering.⁷⁴

October 13, 1999: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide sufficient space to two bears who were housed in enclosures that measured approximately 4½ feet by 4½ feet, as well as failure to store the bears' food and bedding in a manner that prevented contamination.⁷⁵

June 16, 1998: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain the transport trailer for big cats.⁷⁶

February 5, 1998: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes for failure to provide adequate housing for 12 dogs who were being kept outdoors; failure to maintain the elephant transport trailers which had holes in the roofs and loose metal on the walls; failure to maintain structurally sound fencing around exotic hoofed animals; and failure to provide adequate drainage in a muddy water buffalo enclosure.⁷⁷

October 28, 1997: The USDA again cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate ventilation in the elephant transport trailer. The circus was also cited for failure to provide veterinary care to elephants who had cracked nails and/or overgrown feet; failure to maintain transport trailers for tigers - who had water leaking into their trailer from a tank on top of the vehicle - a pygmy hippopotamus, llamas, goats, sheep, and other animals; failure to maintain records of acquisition for the elephants; and improper food storage.⁷⁸

July 1997: After an inspection of Carson & Barnes Circus in Colorado, a Marin Humane Society humane investigator stated that she found animals living in the "most appalling" conditions in her 14 years with the agency. The officer described elephants with boils the size of soccer balls, a hippopotamus without access to water, ponies and horses who were being ridden despite the fact that they had saddle sores, and snakes in extremely crowded cages.⁷⁹

May 28, 1997: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide adequate

ventilation in the elephant transport trailers.⁸⁰

March 31, 1997: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to make necessary repairs to a tiger transport trailer. The inspector wrote, "One board on exit ramp for tiger trailer is becoming splintered and needs to be replaced to prevent injury to animals' feet." The circus was also cited for confining two dogs on short tethers and failure to have an exercise plan and required identification for the dogs.⁸¹

October 15, 1996: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide veterinary care to elephants, more than half of who needed routine foot and nail care.⁸²

April 17, 1996: Carson & Barnes Circus received a letter from the USDA warning it to repair and/or replace the barrier fence in the area where elephants were chained and fed and which the circus had been cited for on two consecutive inspections (December 7, 1995 and March 4, 1996).⁸³

April 11, 1996: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain the elephant transport trailer which had a hole in the metal on an inside wall.⁸⁴

March 4, 1996: The USDA again cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to repair a barrier fence in the area where elephants were chained and fed. The circus was also cited for failure to maintain elephant transport trailers as well as enclosures for lions and camels, all of which had holes in the walls and ceilings, and failure to maintain fencing in a camel enclosure.⁸⁵

December 7, 1995: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain cages used for tigers and lions, which had rusted walls; failure to maintain the zebra-donkey building, and failure to maintain a barrier fence around the area where elephants are chained and fed.⁸⁶

September 28, 1995: The USDA again cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain a tiger cage that had peeling paint and excessive rust.⁸⁷

August 16, 1995: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide veterinary care to an elephant named Paula who had an excessive buildup of dead skin, as well as to a pot-bellied pig with overgrown hooves; failure to dispose of expired medication; failure to provide llamas with shade; failure to provide clean water to a giraffe and zebra whose water receptacles had a buildup of algae; failure to maintain a tiger cage that had peeling paint; excessive clutter; and failure to maintain records.⁸⁸

May 8, 1995: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide minimum space and adequate exercise to an African elephant named Paula; failure to provide adequate ventilation in the trailers used to transport the elephants and to house them at night and during cold weather (two trucks had no ventilation holes and three trucks had only small openings) as well as the trailer used to transport the pot belly pigs; failure to provide big cats with sanitary

drinking receptacles; failure to provide proper sanitation for a pygmy hippopotamus whose stall was being cleaned only three times per week; failure to update veterinary care records; failure to have the required identification for dogs; and improper food storage.⁸⁹

May 3, 1995: According to an affidavit given to a USDA investigator, a woman attending the circus with her daughter and a friend observed a Carson & Barnes Circus employee kick an elephant in the face and strike or stab two elephants with a pocket knife as the elephants tried to reach for hay, causing one elephant to scream and squeal.⁹⁰

February 23, 1995: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain cages and transport trailers for tigers, lions, ligers, and hoof stock.⁹¹

February 1, 1995: A tiger escaped by squeezing through an opening in the cage she was in at the Carson & Barnes Circus winter quarters in Hugo, Oklahoma. The Choctaw County Sheriff Department, Hugo Police Department, Game Department, and a helicopter from the National Guard searched for the tiger for 10 days before she was finally recaptured.^{92,93}

October 26, 1994: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide a sufficient number of handlers and adequate security to ensure the safety of animals and the public when children were able to run toward and touch an elephant who was being taken from the circus tent.⁹⁴

October 21, 1994: An elephant named Kay with the Carson & Barnes Circus “keeled over” and died while the circus was performing in Taylorville, Illinois. Kay had refused to eat or drink for several days. The 60-year-old elephant had not been retired even though she had a history of health problems and had had a kidney infection for approximately a year.⁹⁵

August 17, 1994: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for an incomplete program of veterinary care.⁹⁶

June 24, 1994: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to have an adequate veterinary care program; failure to have a safety barrier between the public and large animals including elephants, giraffes, and camels; failure to maintain a elephant transport trailer that had sharp and jagged edges and rusty holes; failure to have an exercise plan and the required identification for a dog; and improper food storage.⁹⁷

June 23, 1994: During Carson & Barnes Circus’s appearance in Kearney, Nebraska, two reporters observed an animal handler kick and curse at a pygmy hippopotamus as the animal was being moved into a transport truck, and saw another worker hit an elephant across the eye with a bullhook.⁹⁸

March 9, 1993: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to maintain the elephant barn, the roof of which was rusted and full of holes, for inadequate drainage in the giraffe pen,

and for a filthy zebra pen.⁹⁹

October 7, 1992: The USDA cited Carson & Barnes Circus for failure to provide sufficient space to a pygmy hippopotamus, as well as a liger and tiger who were housed together, who were in enclosures so narrow that the animals were unable to turn around freely; failure to provide shelter from the elements to zebus, sheep, llamas, and zebra; inadequate pest control for the pygmy hippopotamus, who was plagued by swarms of flies; and failure to record veterinary treatment for a wounded rhinoceros.¹⁰⁰

1990: A giraffe with Carson & Barnes Circus died from a possible neck injury.¹⁰¹

1989: A giraffe with Carson & Barnes Circus died of hypothermia.¹⁰²

Updated: July 12, 2016

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, April 18, 2017.

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, March 8, 2017.

³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, July 2, 2016.

⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Consent Decision and Order, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondent, Docket No. 15-0103, May 25, 2016.

⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015.

⁶ Leah Thorsen, "Moolah Circus organizers taking steps so elephants don't get loose again," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 19, 2015.

⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, January 5, 2015.

⁸ Eric Russell, "Co-founder of Maine sanctuary for elephants, killed in pen, apparently fell and was stepped on," Press Herald, September 9, 2014.

⁹ Leslie Bridgers, "Two elephants to leave Maine after tragic death of caregiver," Press Herald, September 10, 2014.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, April 14, 2014.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015.

¹² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015.

¹³ Leah Thorsen, "Moolah Circus organizers taking steps so elephants don't get loose again," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 19, 2015.

¹⁴ Official Warning, Violation of Federal Regulations, Violator: Carson & Barnes Circus, 73-C-0001, March 12, 2014.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, December 17, 2013.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 7, 2013.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, January 9, 2013.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 2, 2012.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Settlement Agreement, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Carson & Barnes Circus Co., Inc., July 26, 2012.

²⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 12, 2010.

²¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 19, 2010.

²² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 29, 2011.

²³ State of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health, Case Number: 26829, August 14, 2012.

²⁴ State of Wisconsin, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health, Case Number: 26829, August 14, 2012.

²⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, April 27, 2012.

²⁶ "City rejects permit for Carson And Barnes Circus," KETV, April 10, 2012.

²⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, December 20, 2011.

²⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 7, 2011.

²⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 22, 2011.

³⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 29, 2011.

³¹ Witness declaration, June 23, 2011.

³² Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jln82TqSP2M>

³³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Animal Care, Animal Welfare Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus, Complaint No. E11-182, June 24, 2011.

³⁴ Letter from Ray Flynn, DVM, Assistant Regional Director, Western Region, USDA APHIS AC, to Carson & Barnes Circus, March 11, 2011.

³⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, September 25, 2010.

³⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 19, 2010.

³⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 12, 2010.

³⁸ Jason Snyder, "Circus elephant captured after escape," The News & Advance, April 27, 2010.

³⁹ "No title," WSET, April 27, 2010.

⁴⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, April 28, 2010.

⁴¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Settlement Agreement, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Carson & Barnes Circus Co., Inc., July 26, 2012.

⁴² U.S. Department of Agriculture memo from Gloria S. McFadden, VMO, to Ellen J. Magid, SACS, May 26, 2010.

⁴³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 30, 2007.

- ⁴⁵ Omar El Akkad, "Elephants on the loose cause a circus in Ontario," *The Globe and Mail*, July 12, 2007.
- ⁴⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 6, 2007.
- ⁴⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 5, 2007.
- ⁴⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 2, 2006.
- ⁴⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 16, 2006.
- ⁵⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, July 18, 2005.
- ⁵¹ Transcript of Temporary Restraining Order Ruling Before the Honorable Paul L. Friedman, United States District Judge, Debra Lynn Leahy, et al, v. United States Department of Agriculture, et al, Docket No. CA 05-1135 (PLF), June 21, 2005.
- ⁵² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 26, 2005.
- ⁵³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Complaint, Carson & Barnes Circus Company, Respondents, Docket No. 15-0103, April 27, 2015, page 2.
- ⁵⁴ Email from Jim D. Rogers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, to Nicole Meyer, PETA, April 12, 2005.
- ⁵⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 28, 2004.
- ⁵⁶ Carson & Barnes Circus Press Release, April 2004.
- ⁵⁷ "Elephants suffer minor injuries in highway accident," Associated Press, June 28, 2003.
- ⁵⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, March 11, 2003.
- ⁵⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, February 5, 2003.
- ⁶⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, January 24, 2003.
- ⁶¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Investigative and Enforcement Services, Settlement Agreement, Carson and Barnes Circus, Inc., Case Number OK02012-AC, December 27, 2002.
- ⁶² <http://www.peta.org/videos/carson-barnes-circus-cruelty/>
- ⁶³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 9, 2002.
- ⁶⁴ Hallie Arnold, "Circus comes to town – by accident," *Freeman*, August 10, 2002.
- ⁶⁵ Erikah Haavie, "Elephant trailer tips over," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, August 10, 2002.
- ⁶⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 5, 2002.
- ⁶⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 14, 2002.
- ⁶⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, January 10, 2002.
- ⁶⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 22, 2001.
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- ⁷¹ "For 3 generations, the Frisco family has been 'taking care of business.'" *White Tops*, September/October 2000, page 19.
- ⁷² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 24, 2000.
- ⁷³ Michelle Besso, "Officials cancel circus; shows to resume today," *The Capital*, July 22, 2000.
- ⁷⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 6, 2000.
- ⁷⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 13, 1999.
- ⁷⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, July 27, 1998.
- ⁷⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, February 5, 1998.
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- ⁸⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 28, 1997.
- ⁸¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, March 31, 1997.
- ⁸² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 15, 1996.
- ⁸³ Letter from Dr. Bruce R. Mammeli, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, USDA, to Carson & Barnes Circus, April 17, 1996.
- ⁸⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, April 11, 1996.
- ⁸⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, March 4, 1996.
- ⁸⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, December 7, 1995.
- ⁸⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, September 28, 1995.
- ⁸⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 16, 1995.
- ⁸⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, May 8, 1995.
- ⁹⁰ Affidavit of Tammy Cabral to Lupe Aguilar, Investigator, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 26, 1995.
- ⁹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, February 23, 1995.
- ⁹² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, February 23, 1995.
- ⁹³ "Capture of Shawana was a joint effort," *Choctaw County News*, February 16, 1995.
- ⁹⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 26, 1994.
- ⁹⁵ "Circus elephant dies at Taylorville," *Mt. Vernon Register-News*, October 26, 1994.
- ⁹⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, August 17, 1994.
- ⁹⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, June 24, 1994.
- ⁹⁸ "Care of circus animals disputed," *Kearney Hub*, June 23, 1994.
- ⁹⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, March 9, 1993.
- ¹⁰⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, 73-C-0001, October 7, 1992.
- ¹⁰¹ USDA telephone conversation record of Dr. Hardy, April 26, 1991.
- ¹⁰² "Care of circus animals disputed," *Kearney Hub*, June 23, 1994.



handout
#5

July 11, 2017

Health & Human Services Committee
City Hall
389 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

RE: SUPPORT of Proposed Ordinance - Prohibition of the Display of Wild and Exotic Animals

Dear Chair Ray and Committee Members,

Maine Animal Coalition wholeheartedly supports the proposed ordinance regarding the *Prohibition of the Display of Wild and Exotic Animals*.

Maine Animal Coalition is located in the City of Portland as are many of our members. We historically have opposed the use of wild and exotic animals in traveling acts and are thankful to Councilor Batson for sponsoring this very important ordinance.

The extreme cruelty these animals endure and the risks they pose to public safety are significantly documented and have been occurring for many, many years. The documentation demonstrates that this abuse is not confined to one or two isolated incidents. It is prevalent across the industry and continues year after year despite cited violations. Protection for these animals is insufficient as are penalties for violations.

There is no circumstance that justifies the bullying, intimidation and physical abuse these animals suffer to perform senseless, unnatural tricks for entertainment. There is no circumstance that justifies taking them out of their natural environment and subjecting them to long, dark, isolated hours of travel in cages, box cars and trucks going from performance to performance in terrible conditions preventing them with the basic ability to move.

We are hopeful that the City of Portland will be added to the many communities across the United States that no longer allow these practices as we all encourage treating these animals with the kindness, respect and dignity they deserve.

We respectfully encourage the committee to vote "Yes" to move the ordinance forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Giguere
Maine Animal Coalition

Dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy and example.

P.O. Box 6683, Portland, Maine 04103 • 207-773-2215 • www.maineanimalcoalition.org



handout
#6

July 11, 2017

Good evening Chairwoman Ray, Councilor Mavodones, and Councilor Batson:

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed Wild and Exotic Animal ordinance, and for accepting the testimony of Animal Rights Maine and our thousands of members across the state in support of the effort to ban circus acts that use animals in the City of Portland.

Animal Rights Maine is a community organization founded in 2009 to protect and promote the rights of all animals in Maine. We are 100% volunteer powered and work to effect positive changes for animals in Maine by engaging in conservation, advocacy, research and education.

Animal Rights Maine has been the lead organization working to end the exploitation of animals in circus acts in Maine for nearly a decade. Our volunteers have witnessed many concerning issues relevant to public health and safety while protesting circuses: from animal caregivers and costumed circus performers smoking cigarettes in closed quarters with small children and confined exotic animals to circus staff banging loudly with pitchforks on trucks housing caged animals and screaming "shut up" repeatedly to allowing the public to directly interface with caged exotic animals, including riding on highly stressed and often pained elephants, who could be carriers of Tuberculosis.

While most infectious diseases are not easily passed between species, tuberculosis is an exception. The bacteria can be transmitted by close contact or by droplets containing bacteria that float through the air after a sneeze or cough.

Tuberculosis is common in captive elephants. A study conducted in 2011 regarding the then 450 captive elephants in the United States demonstrated that



55 of them tested positive for TB (just over 12%). In 2000, at the Los Angeles Zoo, 55 zookeepers tested positive for TB after handling the same infected elephant. In 2012, an elephant traveling with the Piccadilly Circus was barred entrance to the state of Maine after a chance test for tuberculosis turned up positive. That was a close call, given that even a sneeze, let alone a ride on an infected elephant's back, is enough to contract this top-10 killer disease.

Tuberculosis is thought to have killed more people than any other disease—more than the plague, leprosy, cancer, or HIV, and the W.H.O. estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the bacteria. The disease still kills 1.5 million people every year.

USDA guidelines now dictate that once a year, elephants in the United States should have their trunks washed out with saline to get a sample to be analyzed and blood antibody tests are also performed. But even these monitoring measures have flaws; the procedure itself is challenging to conduct properly, and the culturing of the bacteria from these specimens has proven unreliable. We cannot leave the health of the public in flux and up to chance with something as deadly as TB, and because our monitoring and testing is not effective, there is no means other than a ban on captive elephants to ensure public safety.

Additionally, accidents and escapes of exotic animals happen during performances. Circus workers and members of the public, including children, have been killed and maimed by circus animals during routine performances. Just two of the many incidents include when:

1. In March 2014, three circus elephants escaped from Shrine Circus performance Missouri where they were being used for elephant rides; they rampaged through the parking lot, damaging property and causing injuries and terror; and



2. In February 2013, a tiger attacked & killed her trainer during a performance in Mexico.

And, it's no surprise that exotic animals try to escape or "break" and lash out. These animals who are exploited in traveling animal acts often spend days chained up in cramped train trucks or stalls, on concrete floors, and in piles of their own excrement and urine without proper air ventilation. These animals are also exposed to extreme temperatures that they'd never experience in their natural habitats, all while being forced into solitude without adequate exercise, to be released temporarily to perform tricks that cause them immense pain, often in front of crowds of screaming people and loud music. These conditions are unacceptable.

Exotic animals need to be "broken" in order to be docile enough to perform. Breaking an animal involves intensive and prolonged emotional and physical abuse, until the animal no longer exhibits a normal level of natural tendencies of flight or fight. This abuse is perpetuated for sheer minutes of lowbrow "entertainment," teaching children that taking animals out of their natural habitats and abusing them are acceptable and fun behaviors.

Additionally, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department's bureau of Maine Warden Service has purview over monitoring Exotic Animal Import permits, yet our wardens have little to no training in exotic animal care to actually ensure the health and wellbeing of exotic animals imported to Maine. Wardens have noted that their only objective in checking on exotic animals brought into the State is to ensure that the animal that is permitted is the same species of the animal that is caged being brought in. There are neither trainings to notice psychological distress nor avenues for remedy if physical stress or signs of abuse are obvious. The Warden Service employs experts in Maine's native wildlife, not experts in



exotic animal care. The fact that the governing authority for exotic animals traveling to our state rests with officials who have inadequate understanding of those animals is cause for grave concern regarding the health and safety of public health, as well as the wellbeing and rights of the animals being exploited for entertainment.

Maine does not have the resources to provide for adequate supervision of and care for exotic animals in our State, and we have no business importing them for entertainment or any other purpose.

Additionally, it's clear that a vast majority of Mainers do not want this practice of exploiting exotic animals for entertainment to continue. Indeed, in the nine years that Animal Rights Maine volunteers have protested the use of animals in circus acts across the State, we have seen a dramatic decrease in attendance at traveling animal acts, particularly here in Portland, where after a 2010 incident involving an inebriated circus performer cussing and making lewd gestures at our peaceful protesters outside of the Civic Center in front of families with small children, we were able to apply enough pressure that when combined with dwindling circus attendance, resulted in Ringling never coming to Maine again.

It is time for Portland to take a stand for exotic animals, for true conservation efforts, and for the public safety and wellbeing of our community and lead the way in Maine by prohibiting all traveling exotic animal acts.

We thank Councilor Batson for championing this important issue, which is synergistically in alignment with this committee's work in developing policy recommendations that will improve and enhance the quality of life, health, and safety of all Portland residents and visitors; Animal Rights Maine urges the Committee to pass this ordinance forward to the council with full support.



Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Gates
Founding Director
Animal Rights Maine

Search



maps_bar

Follow

maps_bar Portland is NOT where you go to see Elephants . Shame on the @cross_arena for booking this "event "

stickysweetmaine Absolutely horrible

jmwingenfield Not cool!

ashleydow123 VERY upsetting

@cross_arena

eatingportlandalive

danners_k Thank you for posting

@maps_bar!! I'll be protesting in front of the entrance at 6:30 today, tomorrow and Wednesday if anyone wants to join me!!

laur_brookie Shame indeed @cross_arena

bymyprettyfloral thanks, @maps_bar

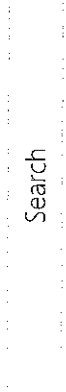
k-setzer These poor What a shame!

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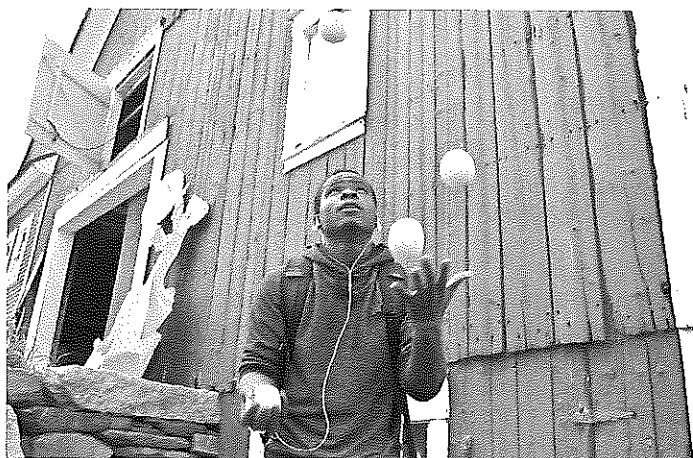


In uncertain times for circuses, Smirkus thrives

Rutland Herald | July 01, 2017

By **STEPHEN MILLS**

STAFF WRITER



Patrick Chikoloma, 18, of Zambia, who is a member of Circus Smirkus' current traveling troupe of performers, demonstrates his juggling on the Greensboro campus of the 30-year-old Vermont youth circus. **DAVID W. SMITH / STAFF PHOTO**

GREENSBORO — Ringling Bros. Circus may be gone, but for many in Vermont's homegrown Circus Smirkus, the circus is still the greatest show on earth.

The year 2017 marks some important milestones in circus history, both nationally and locally. This year marks Smirkus' 30th anniversary, and also when its longtime executive director, Ed LeClair, will step down.

"It's very much like the politicians say, 'I'm going to spend more time with my family,'" said LeClair, who has overseen 15 annual seasons of the Greensboro traveling troupe. "I've spent my career making stars and now I get to sit back and watch the stars."

Not quite, it seems. LeClair revealed that there will be a second act in the circus world for him.

LeClair said he would be part of a new organization that will try to "unify the circus" in an attempt to spur a comeback for the industry nationally. "Right now, it's referring to itself as 'Circus Umbrella,'" LeClair said. "With the demise of Ringling Bros., and Big Apple Circus, the whole youth circus movement is really growing, yet the professional area is really diffused."

A number of circus industry leaders are getting together to help find common ground, LeClair said.

LeClair was also sanguine about his time with Smirkus and his departure.

"I'm really filled with pride because this year we have three alumni come back to coach, and I get to see the love that they have for this place and the excitement they feel to be able to give back to the kids now," said LeClair.

Speaking on Tuesday while travelling to the Smithsonian Institute Folk Festival in Washington, D.C., with a Smirkus troupe he selected to perform, company founder Robert Mermin echoed LeClair's optimism. "I never expected to reach this landmark. It's extremely gratifying to watch the older Smirkus generation, now experienced professionals, return as top-notch coaches. What a joy."

That boomerang effect that is not uncommon for Smirkus. Many former students return year after year to join the staff or work during summer camps with circus students. There are camps for children and adults, and school residencies are also offered.

Abby Suskin, of East Montpelier, was still a student at U-32 in East Montpelier when she started at circus camp in 2000 and was a trouper each summer until 2006, when she graduated from high school and joined Smirkus as part of its full-time summer staff.

“My mom let me ‘run away’ and join the circus when I was 12 years old,” she said. “I fell in love with performing, that feeling that circus is a special art form when you’re within inches of your audience. You can see the live impact you’re having on kids and their parents and everyone who’s there to see the show, and that energy is infectious.”

As a coach, Abbey Jermyn said she sees the same drive and ambition in other young hopefuls just joining as campers or graduating to troupe potential.

“They love the challenge, they rise to it and they like to be pushed,” she said.

Also returning to the student camp this year are Abbey’s twin sister, Lucy Jermyn, of Montpelier, and their brother, Ivan, who has been on the circus circuit as an acrobat and clown while studying physical theater in college.

Smirkus is also known to be something of a family affair, both literally and figuratively. Members of the cast and crew include relatives as well as seasoned professionals and performers from other circuses like Ringling Bros. They include Troy Wunderle, artistic director for 20 years, his wife, Sara, the assistant director, and their 13-year-old daughter,



Twin sisters Lucy and Abbey Jermyn, of East Montpelier, have progressed from campers to staff at Circus Smirkus, along with other members of their family. PHOTO BY MICHAEL JERMYN
Ariana, who is in the traveling troupe this year.

When Abbey Jermyn’s mother, Alice Day, the school nurse at Twinfield Union School in Plainfield, first signed her kids up online for the Smirkus camp, she answered a circus ad for a nurse and was accepted. She’s still there 11 years later.

“It’s a joy to be here, just knowing that we’re making a huge difference in the lives of these kids, doing a good thing,” she said. “For a lot of the kids, this is their favorite place to be all year. There’s always magic here.”

Many students return each year to compete for one of just 30 coveted spots in the traveling troupe that will tour the region for what has become a calendar highlight for many communities.

The theme of this year’s show is “Midnight at the Museum.” Without giving too much away, Creative Director Mark Lonergan said he got the idea for this season’s show from visits with his 3-year-old son to the American Museum of Natural History, with numerous exhibits that inspired the characters, costumes and capers of this year’s cast.

“What’s really striking is how museums — created centuries ago as displays of exotic items from private collections — can be a source of wonder and magic in 2017,” Lonergan writes in the circus playbill. “With all our high-tech distractions, a place of real objects, some hundreds of years old, can still capture our imaginations in a profound way. What better way to celebrate 30 years of Smirkus than with a show that looks backwards and forwards simultaneously.”

It was business as usual this week in Greensboro, with dozens of students buzzing around Smirkus’s two campuses.

The Circus Barn, Inc., about three miles from the center of Greensboro, is where the nonprofit was founded by Mermin in 1987. It is also where the annual Smirkus season premieres its show on Sunday before the road tour that will make 17 stops, with 69 shows in five states: Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts and Maine.

The current student camp, a short drive out of the center of Greensboro, is a site purchased and opened in 2015, and includes comfortable camp-style dormitories and shared living spaces. The camp serves 84 campers every session — and a total of 600 young and adult students each season — with 39 staff. The high student/staff ratio includes both circus coaches and camp counselors who attend to students' social and emotional needs.

There are onsite training tents for aerials, acrobatics, juggling, clowning, balance and other skills.

Joining the camp again this year are the Carlson sisters — Estherline, 11; and Anya, 10, of Montpelier, who said they are excited to be at the camp and learning new skills every day.

"The tightrope walking looks easy — we have a slack line (to practice) at home — but it's really hard," Anya said.

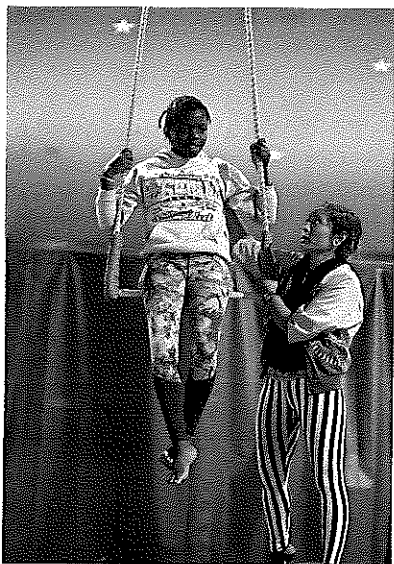
"You think you can't do it, but when you keep doing it, it becomes easier," Estherline said.

Asked what makes a good circus experience, Anya replied: "Teamwork."

"Doing fun activities," Estherline added: "At other camps, they want to talk too much but here they want to get to the fun part."

Asked if they missed their parents, Estherline said: "No, not really. We have so much to do that you don't really have much time to think about them, which is good."

Lending credence to Smirkus' claim to be an "international" troupe is Patrick Chikoloma, 18, of the African nation of Zambia, where he performs for residents of a poor neighborhood in the country's capital, Lusaka. A founding member of Circus Zambia, he visited



Estherline Carlson, 11, of Montpelier, gets instruction from Trapeze Coach Alyssa Luna at Circus Smirkus Camp. PHOTO BY AMIRA SILVERMAN
the U.S. on a circus theater cultural exchange last year. After seeing Circus Smirkus in Vermont, he applied to join the troupe for a season, auditioned and was accepted. A princess of the Council of Chiefs in Zambia will travel to Vermont to see Chikoloma perform this year.

"I found my happiness in circus and being on stage, and back home, I use circus as a way to help people in Chibolya (a district of Lusaka) because everything about it is bad," Chikoloma said. "It was good news that I made it to Smirkus."

For all the razzle and dazzle that audiences have come to expect from classic circus capers, there is a backdrop of sometimes backbreaking work and big business operations to make the show seamless and successful.

Tent Boss Nat Brown has the responsibility for coordinating the transportation and safe erection of a variety of tents used at the camp and barn practice and rehearsal spaces, and when the troupe is on tour. The tour includes 80 people — crew, musicians, performers and coaches. It takes eight hours to set up the big top and backstage and concession tents, and to prep 200 costume pieces, 100 props, 70 spotlights and a mile of electrical cable.

Brown said tent technology has come a long way from older designs that required multiple bosses and crews for a variety of steps involved in circus operations.

"My job kind of falls under the category of catch-all, responsible for everything that's on the lot," Brown said. "When I put up the lot, I have to consider the grade of the lot, how the ground is going to hold, what happens if it rains."

Brown said he became involved 15 years ago after his brother attended the camp.

"I kind of stepped into it because they were shorthanded one year and I helped out. I was doing construction before, and there's an immediate satisfaction coming into an empty lot and within a few hours you have this," Brown said, waving at several nearby tents.

On the business front, Judy Gaeth, the director of circus operations for the past 15 years, has had to manage tough times, and more than once referred to "putting out fires" when it came to managing the nonprofit's \$2.4 million budget.

"I don't call it a fire unless it's really a fire," she remarked. "We have a lot of assets and we're at the mercy of hitting every facet of the budget."

At the end of the day, she said, it was still about the company's bottom line.

"Butts in seats is incredibly important," she said with a laugh. "If we can grab sponsors, that's great, but filling the tent is very important."

While there are many pieces to the puzzle when it comes to running the company, Ed LeClair summed up the company's prime objective and the key to its success: "The function of Smirkus is to astound and amaze."

For more information, call 533- 7443, email info@smirkus.org or visit www.smirkus.org.

stephen.mills@timesargus.com

CIRCUS SMIRKUS IN VERMONT

— The Circus Barn, Circus Road, Greensboro, Sunday, July 2, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. — Kenyon's Field, Waitsfield, July 5 and 6, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. — ChamplainValley Expo, Essex Junction, July 8 and 9, noon and 5 p.m. — Green Mountain Mall, St. Johnsbury, July 14 and 15, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. — Montpelier High School, Montpelier, Aug. 16, 17 and 18, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. — The Circus Barn, Circus Road, Greensboro, Aug. 20, 1 and 6 p.m. For more information, call 533- 7443, email info@smirkus.org or visit smirkus.org.

Return of circuses to Maine revives controversy over treatment of elephants

The Kora Shriners, Maine legislators, protesters and families join the debate over using elephants and other wild animals for entertainment.

BY DENNIS HOEY STAFF WRITER AND KELLEY BOUCHARD STAFF WRITER



Armando Loyal, the elephant trainer, uses voice command to guide Lisa and a group of riders before the show. **Staff photo by Derek Davis**

The Kora Shrine Circus is back in town, bringing with it the national controversy over the treatment of elephants and other performance animals that led to the demise of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The 64th annual Kora Shrine Circus, which raises money for the Lewiston-based fraternal organization, wrapped up three days at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland on Wednesday before heading to the Augusta Civic Center for several shows Friday and Saturday.

Animal rights protesters have been present at this year's shows, which fall amid the final days of the famed Ringling Bros. circus. The 146-year-old touring company, which will hold its last show May 21 in Uniondale, New York, blamed its closure on rising operating costs and declining attendance, especially after public pressure forced it to eliminate elephant acts last year.

Dan Gove, chairman of the Kora Shrine Circus, said he sees no end in sight for the springtime tradition in Maine, even as the Legislature debates a bill that would prohibit the use of elephants as entertainment in Maine.

"Because our animals aren't mistreated," Gove said. "It's unfortunate that that's the angle that gets sensationalized each year. We're glad we're still able to put on fine family entertainment."

Gove, a Kora Shrine member who has worked on the circus for 30 years, described the show as a "first-class act" that has been produced by Hamid Circus Inc. of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, for the past 10 years.

Gove said the company emphasizes the safety of performers and animals, including elephants, lions and tigers. He has witnessed a "natural affection" between animals and handlers, he said, and he noticed that the animals are trained to respond to voice commands rather than whips or other training tools.

"I pay attention to the animal care because I've done this for so many years," Gove said. "The animals are very well cared for. If I observed anything inappropriate, I'd go right to the trainers. They are sometimes better taken care of than children."

Not everyone would agree with Gove's assessment of how the elephants are treated.



Jessica Yandell of South Portland was one of about 10 people who protested using animals for entertainment. *Staff photo by Shawn Patrick Ouellette*

About 10 protesters stood Wednesday evening outside the Cross Insurance Arena. They held signs with pictures of tigers and elephants on them and handed out fliers that said “Circuses are mean to animals, wild animals belong in the wild not in tiny cages or in performance rings in front of screaming crowds.”

PROTESTERS: CIRCUSES ABUSE ANIMALS

Melissa Gates, founding director of Animal Rights Maine, organized the protest. She held a sign with the message “Elephants have families too” – a reference to the fact that elephants in the wild are herd animals that live in groups.

Gates said the crowd’s reaction to protesters was mixed. Many parents shunned the protesters, but children seemed interested in reading the flier, she said.

A 2015 Gallup poll found that 69 percent of Americans were either very or somewhat concerned about the treatment of circus animals.

Gates said her organization urges the public not to buy tickets to a circus performance that uses animals in its acts.

Gates accused the Kora Shrine Circus of abusing elephants by forcing them to perform tricks that are potentially painful, such as standing on their hind legs. This year’s show features Asian elephants Lisa, 33, and Traci, 37, said trainer Armando Loyal. While Asian elephants can live to be 60 years old in the wild, those in captivity have shorter lifespans, according to the National Geographic website.

“There’s no question that circuses constitute animal abuse, and there is no place for animal abuse in Maine,” Gates said in a message posted on her organization’s Facebook page.

“All we are trying to do is convince the Kora Shrine Circus to discontinue its animal acts,” Gates said Wednesday.

Supporters of L.D. 396, an Act to Prohibit the Importation of Elephants to Maine, also disagree with Gove’s characterization of how the elephants are treated.

“It’s just not natural,” said Rep. Kim Monaghan, D-Cape Elizabeth, the bill’s sponsor. “I think we live in a somewhat different world today, where forcing wild, exotic animals to do tricks is no longer considered good old-fashioned entertainment, even by children.”

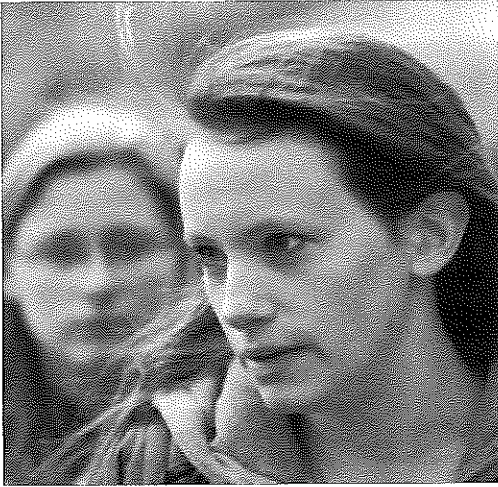
Monaghan said that even when circus elephants are treated relatively well, they are often chained, kept in cages, transported in box cars and not allowed to roam free in their natural habitat. And while some circus animals may eventually respond to voice commands, trainers initially must use techniques that promote fear so elephants will stand on their hind legs and do other tricks, she said.

Monaghan sponsored the bill on behalf of the The Humane Society of the United States – Maine. The amended bill would restrict people from importing or possessing an elephant in Maine unless it would be kept in a protective environment where it could behave as naturally as possible. Elephants would be banned from any public show, ride, parade, race or other event intended for the entertainment or benefit of an audience.

The amended bill would delay the impact of the ban on groups such as the Kora Shrine for more than two years. A traveling circus with elephants could operate legally in Maine through Jan. 1, 2020, if it’s raising money for a charity.

FAMILY FEELS SORRY FOR ELEPHANTS

Kristen Cobb and Joshua Stone of Westbrook brought their three children, ages 10, 3 and 1, to see the circus Wednesday afternoon, a tradition that Cobb says her family has had for years.



Kristen Cobb of Westbrook talks about the elephants. *Staff photo by Shawn Patrick Ouellette*

Although Cobb said she would still bring her family to the circus even if it decided to no longer feature elephants, she said this year's performance was different and it touched her in a way that it never had before.

"The elephants looked miserable," Cobb said. "I think they looked very sad. They'd probably be a lot happier if they were in the wild."

She said the elephants' handler gave rides to circus-goers – a new feature of this year's circus – before the show and during intermission. The elephants seemed uncomfortable, carrying five or six children as well as one or two adults at a time, she said.

Cobb said she would support a ban on animal acts "for the sake of the elephants."

"I never really thought about it until I saw them giving rides to people," she said.

"They looked wicked sad," said Lily Stone, Cobb's 10-year-old stepdaughter. "I think the elephants are cool, but they looked really sad."

"They had sad eyes," Joshua Stone said. "It's a sad thing, but at the end of the day, when you think about it, the elephants aren't necessary. You could put on a great show without them."

Bruce Arseneault of Yarmouth brought his two grandsons to the circus Wednesday. His oldest grandson, who is 8 years old, paid \$10 to ride the elephant. "He told me it was his favorite part of the show," Arseneault said.

He said he doesn't see anything wrong with having animal acts in the circus – Wednesday's show featured elephants, lions, tigers and dogs – provided the animals are well cared for, and he saw no evidence that the animals in the Kora Shrine Circus were being abused.

Arseneault said it's important for the younger generation to see these great creatures of the wild, especially if they are to be protected from poachers. "It could become a detriment to these animals if they are kept out of sight and out of mind," he said.

The Kora Shrine Circus is held each April to coincide with school vacation week. Volunteers present 17 shows in seven days, including five shows last Friday and Saturday at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston. The Anah Shriners will present their circus Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

The circus is a major fundraiser for the Kora Shriners, who use the money to maintain the Kora Shrine Center, a historic, Moorish-style building on Sabattus Street in Lewiston. Kora members also hold fundraisers to support 22 Shriners children's hospitals for burn victims and orthopedic care.

Gove wouldn't say how much the circus raises. It varies from show to show and year to year, depending on the weather, he said.

The Anah Shrine tried to generate opposition to the bill in the Legislature and support for its circus with a Facebook post Feb. 23.

"Shrine Circus supporters, we need your help," the post stated. "This bill, if passed, will stop all elephant acts (from) coming to Maine for the circus. It is a fact that the audience is substantially larger at our circus when the elephants come to perform. It is also our experience that circus-goers enjoy seeing the large animal acts. Stopping the elephants from coming to Maine will only harm the Shriners in Maine that depend on the circus to raise money to operate their philanthropy. As this loss trickles down, it could affect funding for the Shriners hospitals that treat children for FREE."

ON FACEBOOK, SOME OPPOSING VIEWS

On the Kora Shrine Circus Facebook page, animal rights activists from around the country have posted pleas to exclude animals from the shows, calling circuses "a dying breed."

"Love the cause (of) the Shriners and their purpose, but it's time for (a) change on using animals in this world," wrote Cathy Tardiff Stairs, who works in western Maine. "There could be other things added to the show."

"I urge you to please exclude animals from your shows." Briana Terwilliger wrote. "Circuses with animals are a dying breed. Circuses across the country are retiring or phasing out their animal acts. Entire countries are even banning this. People are waking up and realizing how cruel this is. Animals are not entertainment. These are wild animals who belong in their natural habitat."

Meanwhile, Trish Allen of Buxton defended the use of animals in the circus and praised the Kora Shriners for raising money for children's hospitals.

"Thank you for what you do!" she wrote.

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Dennis Hoey can be contacted at 791-6365 or at:

dhoey@pressherald.com

CORRECTION: This story was updated at 2:10 p.m. on April 20, 2017, to correct the reference to the group backing a bill to ban elephants from use as entertainment. The group is The Humane Society of the United States – Maine.

Maine should ban cruel elephant acts

By Delcianna Winders

Published on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 12:12 am | Last updated on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 12:12 am

The Kora Shrine Circus' recent stint at Androscoggin Bank Colisee serves as a stark reminder of the importance of LD 396 — a bill being considered by the Maine Legislature that would ban the use of elephants in traveling acts. The Hamid Circus — the notorious company that puts on the Kora Shrine Circus — exemplifies the need for this kind of legislation.

Hamid has partnered with an elephant exhibitor who racked up hundreds of animal welfare violations, including repeatedly chaining an elephant so tightly she could barely move. According to a whistleblower's report to the federal government, this trainer also "turned off the lights and beat" his elephant while she "was staked down by all four legs" and "directed others to take part in that by using other objects such as [a] sledge hammer and shovel handles." In another incident, a handler testified that this elephant struck him and threw him down a hill, sending him to the hospital with a head injury. Another elephant with Hamid Circus killed a handler between circus performances.

Other traveling elephant exhibitors that frequent Maine have similarly damning records. Royal Hanneford, which has performed in Bangor and Presque Isle, recently paid thousands of dollars to settle alleged Animal Welfare Act violations after three elephants escaped from a circus where they were being used to give children rides. They ran amok for nearly an hour.

The Garden Bros. Circus, also known as Piccadilly Circus, which has repeatedly hauled elephants into the state through the years, has a long, well-documented record of featuring elephant abusers. According to government records, a handler with Garden Bros./Piccadilly admitted to forcefully striking an elephant in the face with a bullhook — a weapon resembling a fireplace poker that is designed to inflict pain. And the head trainer for the outfit currently supplying Garden Bros.' elephant act was caught on video screaming at elephants while violently attacking them with electric prods and bullhooks and encouraging others to do the same.

The elephant handler now on the road with Garden Bros. was also caught on video using the sharp, pointed tip of a bullhook to force an elephant's head down while swearing at her. In another incident, the same handler was caught hooking an elephant when she attacked another elephant in a circus ring after he completely lost control of the animals. This was only one of many such perilous incidents. At least three elephants have escaped from Garden Bros., and the company supplying elephants for the circus has a long history of elephant escapes and recently paid a penalty for its chronic unsafe handling of these unpredictable animals.

Mounting evidence — including video footage, sworn eyewitness testimony, and government inspection reports — makes clear that the only way to force the Earth's largest land animals to perform is through the constant threat of physical punishment. Abuse is the rule, not the exception. What's more, elephants are dangerous animals and the suffering abuse they endure in circuses only make it more likely that they will lash out. An elephant can easily kill a human with a single trunk swipe or foot stomp, and captive elephants kill about one person per year on average in America, while injuring many more.

Given the cruelty and serious safety risks inherent in elephant acts, the public is increasingly turning away from them.

Ringling Bros. will shutter next month after a decade of falling ticket sales, while animal-free circuses — such as Circus Vargas, which ended animal acts around the same time Ringling's ticket sales began to plummet — are thriving. Shrines across the continent have begun to move toward animal-free circuses and other humane fundraisers. As Shriner and Hamid Circus owner and producer James M. Hamid Jr., has himself recognized, "As we look into the future, we see all circuses moving to non-animal productions."

I urge Maine's legislators to do their part to ensure that this transition happens without further delay so that elephants are no longer harmed on their watch and their constituents are no longer put at risk.

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