



Letter to Mayor and Members of Council

[Date]

[Mayor and Members of Council]
[City Hall Address]

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing to you about performing wild animals in circuses and traveling shows. I hope you will seriously consider the points I raise in my letter and in the additional information I have enclosed [Attach Zoocheck information to your letter]. I believe it is time for our community to enact a by-law that would prohibit wild animal acts for animal welfare and human safety reasons.

While circuses and traveling shows featuring wild animal acts may seem innocent enough, it has become apparent over the past decade that wild animal acts are inherently cruel. Most circuses and traveling shows that use wild animals keep them for months on end in cramped transport cages, sometimes hardly larger than they are, with only brief periods outside to perform. The animals have no opportunity to move or behave in a natural way. That's why veterinarians, animal behaviourists, biologists and animal welfare organizations around the world, including Dr. Jane Goodall and many of the world's leading elephant experts, have all condemned traveling wild animal acts. They are cruel, outdated and unnecessary.

Circuses and traveling shows with wild animals also pose a risk to human safety. Numerous circus employees have been seriously injured or killed by performing animals and circus audience members have been injured when handlers have lost control of their animals. Many performing animals are large, potentially dangerous species that even zoos don't like to handle. But when they perform in circuses and traveling shows, they often do so without adequate protection for staff and audience members.

We now know that performing animals suffer in circuses and traveling shows and that wild animal acts pose a danger to human safety. Hundreds of jurisdictions around the world, including entire countries, have recognized this and prohibited wild animal acts. It is time for [Name of your City] to do the same.

Our community should not condone cruelty to animals by allowing performing animal acts to visit, nor should we wait for someone to be injured or killed before we decide to act in the interest of human safety. [Name of your City] should consider a prohibition on wild animal acts as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[Your Name & Address]

