

Wild animal acts are cruel, outdated and unsafe!



Circuses and traveling shows that feature wild animal acts may appear to be exciting, innocent fun, but behind that happy façade is a world of desolation and misery.

No Room To Move

Big cats, bears and other wild animals in the circus spend their lives in tiny, barren transport cages, called "beast wagons" that provide only a few square meters of living space.

The animals eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in these unfurnished rolling boxes, except for the few minutes each day when they are required to perform.

Elephants are nearly always chained or tethered by their legs in one spot, about the size of a single car parking space, or kept in tiny electric fenced enclosures, usually on hard surfaces. Standing on pavement or concrete for long periods of time can damage their sensitive feet.



Beast wagons allow no room to exercise

The frustration of not being able to move or behave normally is boring, frustrating, stressful and often leads to the development of bizarre, abnormal swaying, head-bobbing and rocking behaviours. Lack of exercise also makes many animals unfit and overweight.

Training methods for performing animals can often be abusive and cruel. Elephants and other animals may be trained using restraint, intimidation and/or physical punishment. Striking or beating animals to establish dominance and control is not uncommon in North American circuses and traveling shows.

Too Close For Comfort

Even though circus animals tend to be large, potentially dangerous species, their housing nearly always lacks the basic safety features found in professional zoo cages. As well, the animals often perform without adequate safety barriers separating them from members of the public.

Since circus animals are regularly being moved, opportunities for animals to escape and attack handlers, audience members and bystanders are greatly increased.

Legal Protection Lacking

Canada's existing anti-cruelty laws are not able to effectively protect performing animals. In fact, in most areas of Canada, there are no laws that specifically protect wild animals in circuses and traveling shows or that set out standards of housing and care for performing animals.

No Educational Value

Performing animal acts are not educational. There is nothing about the natural behaviours of animals, such as food gathering, predator evasion, intelligence and problem solving, or the role they play in natural ecosystems that can be learned by watching them perform. In fact, children may be learning that it is acceptable to treat animals as objects of amusement that can be exploited and ridiculed for frivolous purposes.



Trying to contact the outside world

The use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows has no value in this day and age. In just a few years time, we will all look back and see it as cruel, outdated and unsafe.

How to Help Performing Wild Animals

1. Do not attend circuses or traveling shows that feature wild animal acts.
2. Contact your mayor and members of city council and urge them to consider enacting a bylaw prohibiting wild animal acts in your municipality.
3. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper explaining why performing animal acts are cruel, outdated and unsafe.
4. Do not support charities that fundraise with circuses that use wild animals.
5. Attend all-human circuses that do not use animal acts.
6. Support Zoocheck Canada and other animal protection organizations that campaign to end the exploitation and suffering of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.

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unsafe!***

Yes, I want to help performing animals!!

Here is my tax-deductible gift of:
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Please count me in as a member of Zoocheck's ***Dedicated Animal Protector Program***. I authorize Zoocheck to deduct my **monthly** gift of:

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