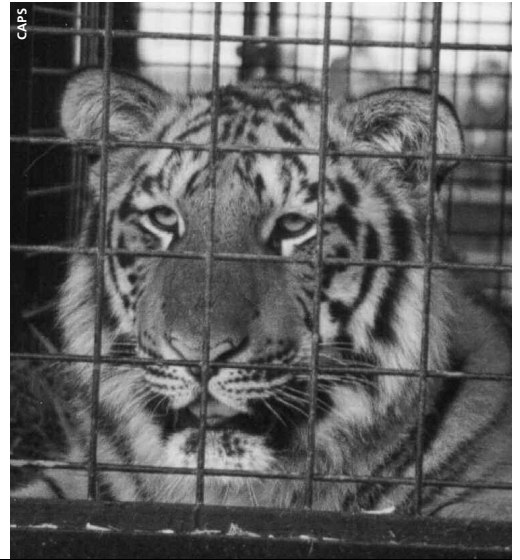


CIRCUSES

The image that many people have of the circus is of a spectacular and wondrous world full of colour, music, glitter, fun and excitement – one where trapeze artists, lion tamers and clowns perform amazing acts to delight the audience. Harmless family entertainment, you might say? However, there is another side to the world of the circus that you are not supposed to see.



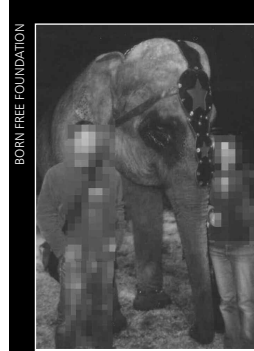
Most people who go to a circus with performing animals are unaware that, behind the scenes, there is a sad story of cruelty and suffering.

The circus is no place for animals

Fortunately, after years of campaigning in the UK, wild animals such as lions, tigers, elephants and bears are rarely used. However, the Great British Circus has performing elephants, lions, tigers and other animals, and there are other circuses in the UK that use animals (including zebras, camels, llamas, reindeer, dogs, horses and even budgerigars). The animals are often dressed up in ridiculous costumes whilst being forced to perform degrading tricks that are completely unnatural to them. What on earth is entertaining about that? Circus animals spend most of the year in transit from one location to another, confined to small wagons. When they are not performing in the ring, they are kept inside tiny cages or enclosures, or in the vehicles in which they are transported. Some animals spend more than 95% of their time confined or tethered.

Cruelty and ignorance

To make animals carry out acts that are totally unnatural to them (for example, horses being forced to walk on their hind legs, and lions jumping through hoops of fire), they are often trained by being beaten or frightened into submission, or by being deprived of food. This training takes place behind closed doors and, as with other industries that use animals, undercover investigations into the circus trade bring to light disturbing evidence of terrible cruelty. This includes trainers hitting the animals with sharp, pointed hooks and repeatedly shouting at them as they cower in terror.



Until The Great British Circus imported three elephants in 2009, Anne was the last UK circus elephant. She has been with the Bobby Roberts Super Circus since being taken from the forests of Sri Lanka at the age of five years. Until 2001 Anne at least had the company of other elephants,

but has been alone since her companions, Beverley and Janie, died. Her 'owner' refused to let her retire to a sanctuary, despite the fact that she is suffering from arthritis. At her grand age, Annie should not be transported all over the country just for people's entertainment. Annie has suffered a lifetime of captivity, with no freedom or companions, and will die miserable and alone.



In 1999, the owner of one of the most famous British circuses, Mary Chipperfield, was convicted on 12 counts of causing unnecessary suffering to an 18-month-old chimpanzee called Trudy. Chipperfield beat Trudy with a riding crop and forced her to spend up to 14 hours a day in a cage without toys or any other sort of entertainment or stimulation. Mary Chipperfield was fined £7,500, but was not banned from keeping animals.

No protection

The government announced in 2006 that the Animal Welfare Act would ban the use of some animals in circuses from 2008. However, the government backtracked and decided not to introduce a ban under the Animal Welfare Act when it came into force.

The Animal Welfare Act does nothing to change the conditions in which the animals have to travel or live. Circuses don't need to be licensed and there are no circus inspectors. Individual animal trainers need to be registered, but it's pointless; they basically fill in a form to say they train animals - no inspection or qualification is needed.

The great circus tradition...

Some people say that circuses are part of our traditional heritage and that 'real' circuses must have animals. The truth is that more and more people are realising that cruelty lurks behind the glitz and excitement. Visitor numbers to circuses with animals are dropping, whilst travelling shows, in which talented and daring human acrobats and other performers amaze and dazzle the crowd with their skill and bravery, are becoming increasingly popular.

UK-BASED CIRCUSES THAT USE ANIMALS

BOBBY ROBERTS CIRCUS

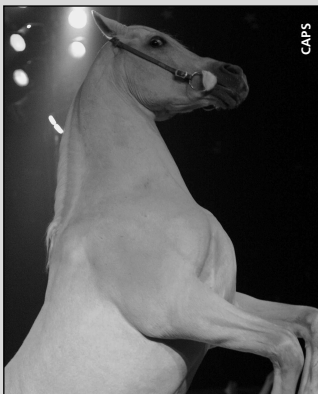
One elephant, horses, ponies, dogs, camel

GREAT BRITISH CIRCUS

Three elephants, lions, tigers, horses, ponies, zebras, camels, pygmy goats, reindeer, llamas

PETER JOLLY'S CIRCUS

Camels, zebra, donkeys, Ankole bull, ponies, horses, ponies, llamas, goats, geese, ducks, snakes, birds, red fox



CIRCUS MONDAO

Zebras, camels, llamas, dogs, horses, ponies, donkey, pygmy goats

CIRCUS TYANNA

Horses, ponies, dogs and ducks

ZIPPO'S CIRCUS

Horses, ponies, budgies



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Don't visit circuses that use animals, and encourage your friends, family and school to do the same.
- Please write to your MP and ask him or her to support the introduction of a ban on wild animals in circuses that was promised by the government in 2006. See the *Activist* section of our youth website, or call Animal Aid to find out your MP's name and address. See our website for points to include in your letter.
- Ask if you can have a display at school about circuses.
- Write to your local council asking them to ban animal circuses from their land.
- Join the Animal Aid Youth Group, and help campaign against animal circuses.
- If a circus with animals visits your area, here's a plan of what you can do:
 1. Write a letter to your local newspaper, asking people to boycott the circus and explain why.
 2. Ask local shops that have the circus posters on display to take them down.
 3. If the circus has been 'fly posting' or attaching notices to barriers at road crossings, complain to your local council.
 4. Ask the Captive Animals Protection Society (see details below) for some circus leaflets to hand out when the circus opens its gates.

For more information contact:

The Captive Animals' Protection Society,

PO Box 573, Preston PR1 9WW

Phone/fax: 0845 330 3911

Email: info@captiveanimals.org

www.captiveanimals.org