

For Immediate Release

May 9th, 2015

Contact: Tessa Vanderkop

604-789-8886

elephanaticinfo@gmail.com

The Circus Is Coming to Your Town – Find out why a growing number of countries, cities and provinces have banned Wild Animal Circuses

Increasingly, countries, provinces and cities all over the world are banning the use of animals, both domestic and wild, for entertainment purposes such as circuses. Bolivia deserves a round of applause for being the first country to implement such a ban. Other countries following suite include Australia, Austria, Peru, Greece, Cyprus, Paraguay, Columbia, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Hawaii who has state bills proposed to ban wild life animal circuses as well.

The following Canadian provinces and cities have also banned circuses with wild animal performances: multiple cities in British Columbia, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and one or two cities each in Ontario and Quebec. Find a complete listing here.

http://www.zoocheck.com/campaigns_circuses_lawslist.html

- While there are still some communities that still welcome these live animal shows the truth behind animal entertainment is extremely distressing.

For instance, a performing elephant is broken as a baby after being torn from its family. To "break" an elephant, it is tied, beaten and starved for weeks until it becomes fearful and submissive of humans. Once it is broken, its continued submission is ensured through the ever present bull hook and stun guns.

The circus coming to your town, owned and run by Tarzan Zerbini has a lengthy list of USDA (US Department of Agriculture) violations. Please find this list here.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/100017629/zerbini-usda-one-333111526110058>

Elephants live the same life span as humans and are known to be one of

the most intelligent and emotionally complex animals in the world. They share important family bonds, grieve and are playful. They are very much like humans except they're elephants.

Travel for long periods of time in extremely small quarters and forcing wild animals to perform even under the best of conditions is inherently cruel. Cirque du Soleil is an example of a 21st century circus that entertains without abuse and the enslavement of wild animals.

Even without these violations, the life of performing wild animals is based on terror and submission and includes social isolation, forcing animals to perform unnatural tricks which it's body is not designed to do (elephants have no need to ride bicycles in the wild) which results in frequent and chronic injury.

Many performing animals are now retired to sanctuaries such as [PAWS](#) where the Toronto Zoo elephants were sent or [The Elephant Sanctuary](#) in Tennessee.

When this circus or any other circus with wild performing animals comes to your town, please tell the "other" story behind the circus and follow the lead of other cities and countries and ban wild animal performances in your city.

Resources:

SPCA <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/welfare/campaign-issues/circuses.html>

ZooCheck <http://www.zoocheck.com/>

What you can do:

1. Call your **City or Municipal Hall** and find out if Council is considering a by-law to ban circuses that have performing wild or exotic animals.
2. Fax a **letter to the mayor** expressing your concern about the community supporting acts that abuse animals. Copy your letter to the SPCA or local humane group.
3. Write a similar letter to the media. Don't hesitate to send your letter to the editor of both daily and community papers expressing your point of view.

4. Join or start a committee, perhaps working with the SPCA or local humane group, whose goal is to implement a campaign to convince Council to adopt a by-law against the use of wild/exotic animals in performing venues.
5. Don't attend a circus with performing animals - only attend animal-free circuses.