

2014.03.28 22:52:16

Received answer

2. Title

Miss

3. Surname

Baldwin

4. Forename

Janine

5. Postal Address

6.

7.

8.

9. Permissions - I am responding as

Individual

10. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (In Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Yes

12. Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response and name available but not my address

14. We will share your responses internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

15. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with the purpose of this consultation (please tick one)

Member of the general public

17. Consultation Question 1: Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses compromise respect for the animals concerned? Why?

Yes

18. Comments

They are deprived of everything that is natural and essential to their lives - confined in often cramped cages or pens, isolated, shackled, lonely, degraded and bored. How can imposing this kind of life be respectful to living creatures? Pacing, bar-biting, circling and self-mutilation are common among performing animals. It is now widely recognised that such neurotic behaviour is caused by captivity and an unnatural lifestyle, which are clearly in direct conflict with promoting respect for animals.

Wild animals in circuses endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment and also exhibit psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression (putting the handlers at risk too). In addition, they die prematurely.

This would be an unacceptable way to treat a human - an animal should be no different.

19. Consultation Question 2: Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses have an adverse impact on the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in children and young people? Why

Yes

20. Comments

Absolutely without a doubt. Circuses teach children that it is perfectly acceptable to dominate, whip, chain and beat other living, feeling beings who experience the pain of the whips and the stress of confinement to the same extent that we would. We should be teaching our children that NO living creature, animal or human, should have to endure a life like that.

Unfortunately parents often take their children without thinking about this underlying message, and the repercussions that visiting the circus will have on the child's ability to feel empathy for others (human and animal).

21. Consultation Question 3: Do you consider that concerns relating to respect for animals could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so how?

No

22. Comments

As the circus acts these animals are forced to perform are completely unnatural to them, the methods used are intrinsically cruel and disrespectful - whether the animal is wild or not. Often animals are separated from their mothers prematurely, are constantly threatened with physical abuse, forced to live in confined living spaces and have all their natural instincts and needs denied.

23. Consultation Question 4: Do you believe that the ability of none, some, or all wild animals to undertake natural behaviours are compromised within the travelling circus environment? Which species? Which needs? Why?

All

24. Comments

The simple fact is that circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any species of wild animal, or provide an environment that is well suited to their natural behaviour.

For example, elephants are highly intelligent animals, which possess exceptional memory, are self-aware and express emotions such as joy, anger, grief, sympathy and playfulness.

They are highly social animals yet are often kept in isolation in circuses. Put yourself in their place - would you want to be kept in isolation your whole life?

Another example would be tigers - they are apex predators with home ranges of hundreds of square miles in the wild, yet circuses force them to live most of their lives in transport cages that are barely bigger than their own bodies. I strongly feel this evidence speaks for itself and experts in animal behaviour consistently agree - the circus environment denies the natural instincts and needs of animals.

25. Consultation Question 5: Do you consider that it is possible to facilitate the natural behaviour of none, some, or all wild animals within the travelling circus environment? Which species? How?

None

26. Comments

Please see my above comments on Question 4

27. Consultation Question 6: Do you consider that the concerns raised surrounding the travelling environment could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses? How?

No

28. Comments

The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice. Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport - in combination with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods - inevitably compromise the welfare of these animals.

29. Consultation Question 7: Do you consider that there are any benefits to be gained from having wild animals in travelling circuses? What are they?

No

30. Comments

In 2010, 94.5 per cent of respondents to a Defra consultation voted in favour of an outright ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses. Clearly the vast majority of the public would like to see an end to it. A multitude of countries have already banned the exhibition of exotic animals altogether, or at the least have banned the use of cruel training tools, such as bullhooks, whips and electric prods in circuses. It is a well-established fact that suffering is inherent in the use of wild animals in circuses, which is why this archaic form of entertainment has no place in a civilised society.

There is nothing to be gained from forcing animals to perform in an unnatural environment.

31. Consultation Question 8: Do you believe that there are sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the wider well-being of wild animals kept in the travelling circus? Why?

No

32. Comments

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There are absolutely no benefits to keeping animals incarcerated for human amusement. The environment of isolation, abuse, pain, frustration, boredom, will never be beneficial to an animal. Without a complete ban on the use of all wild animals in travelling circuses, the animals' well-being, mental health and dignity will be completely compromised, which cannot be justified for any reason. As stated previously, there is no educational value in viewing exotic and endangered animals who have been forced to don costumes and perform unnatural tricks. No animal will voluntarily perform the physically gruelling and grossly exaggerated manoeuvres featured in a typical circus act.

33. Consultation Question 9: Do you consider that the potential conflict between compromising the well-being of wild animals and obtaining any benefit could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so how?

No

34. Comments

A ban is the only solution. An inherent part of travelling circuses is the prolonged confinement of animals. For example, elephants with Ringling in the US spend up to 100 hours at a time chained inside poorly ventilated boxcars as the circus travels from one city to the next. The only way to resolve this conflict and thereby protect the well-being of animals is to implement a total ban on their use in circuses, as the welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice.

36. Number in last 5 years

The number in the last five years is two.

37. Number in last 12 months

The number in the last 12 months is zero.

39. Comments

The fact that animals are abused, neglected and forced to perform in unnatural ways for human entertainment at all is the heart of the matter here. The frequency with which it happens is not important. Abuse should be prevented before it occurs, which can be done only by implementing a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. Nonetheless, as no circus using wild animals has come to Scotland in the last 12 months - and only a small number have done so in the past five years - it is clear that the necessary ban on wild animals in circuses would actually have very little impact on businesses operating in Scotland, although the ban would be a huge landmark in terms of animal welfare in the country.

40. Consultation Question 11: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals would have on the revenue of such circuses? Why?

Increase

41. Comments

With growing public awareness (especially through powerful channels such as social media) of the cruelty inherent in animal circuses, interest is declining in circuses that continue to use animals. Circuses that do not use wild animals remain profitable - a very good example of this is Cirque du Soleil, a very popular show. This indicates that the use of wild animals is certainly not essential to circuses. I know many people who would like to visit the circus with their families but refuse to support animal abuse, and from a profit perspective, that is money lost for circuses which continue to use wild animals.

42. Consultation Question 12: If a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals was imposed, do you think that such circuses would still visit Scotland without the wild animals? Why?

Yes

43. Comments

Successful businesses need to evolve due to demand. A ban on wild animals in circuses would reflect a change in societal attitudes towards archaic and cruel practices - people now realise the inherent cruelty to animals in circuses and would welcome an animal-free show.

44. Consultation Question 13: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of other types of circuses (e.g. static or those travelling without wild animals)? Why?

No Change

45. Comments

Banning the use of wild animals in circuses would bring Scotland and the circus companies more in line with public sentiment, meaning that the circus industry's reputation would be improved. In addition, as mentioned in our response to Question 10, as no wild animals have been used in circuses in Scotland in the past 12 months and very few have been used in the past five years, implementing a total ban would have no negative effect on either travelling or static circuses. Instead, the ban would cement Scotland's commitment to improving and supporting animal welfare and this would also have a positive effect on its tourism industry as a whole.

46. Consultation Question 14: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of circus venues? Why?

Increase

47. Comments

A 2006 study in Massachusetts by Harvard-educated economist Jennifer Fearing found that where travelling circuses are not an available entertainment option - which need not be the case here, as many circuses are successful without wild animals - there is, if anything, a positive impact on the economy because consumers spend the same amount on entertainment, regardless of their options. As of the publication of Fearing's study, 28 municipalities in Massachusetts had enacted bans on the use of exotic animals in circuses, and none of those municipalities reported any economic losses as a result.

48. Consultation Question 15: Do you consider that a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses could have an impact on other industries? If so, which industries, what would be the effect and why?

Film

- Positive impact

TV - drama

- Positive impact

TV - documentary

- Positive impact

TV - childrens

- Positive impact

Advertising - TV

- Positive impact

Advertising - other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

49. Comments

No industry which profits from severely compromising the welfare of wild animals can be justified ethically, and any potential negative effects on such industries must be considered in that context. Any similar industry will be sent a strong message that the public and government will no longer tolerate the abuse of wild animals and that the public considers the physical, psychological and social needs of captive wildlife a priority.

50. Consultation Question 16: Do you agree that the use of wild animals for performance in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes

51. Comments

Wild animals in circuses, whether for the purpose of performance or exhibition, endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment, and are isolated, shackled, lonely, degraded and bored. Pacing, bar-biting, circling and self-mutilation are common among performing animals. It is now recognised that such neurotic behaviour is caused by captivity and an unnatural lifestyle. They also experience psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression, and die prematurely. Many countries - including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore - have now recognised that travelling circuses are unable to address the welfare needs of wild animals adequately and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and Sweden prohibits the use of bears, big cats, monkeys, hippos, giraffes and rhinos in circus acts.

52. Consultation Question 17: Do you agree that the use of wild animals for exhibition in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes

53. Comments

Please see the above comments for Question 16

54. Consultation Question 18: Do you consider that any ban should be a blanket ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses? Why?

Yes

There is simply no humane way to use wild animals in circuses. The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems that the animals experience are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice. Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport – in combination with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods – inevitably compromise the welfare of the animals. Similarly, a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses should apply to all species. Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any wild animals.

56. Consultation Question 19: Do you consider that any specific species of animal not commonly domesticated in the British Islands should be permitted to be used in travelling circuses in Scotland? If so, which species and why?

No

57. Comments

Circuses are not natural environments for any wild animal - they cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any wild animal. Many countries – including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore – have now recognised this fact and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and England will follow suit in 2015.

58. Consultation Question 20: Do you consider that there are key species that should be covered by a ban in the event that a blanket ban could not be achieved? If so, which species and why?

No

59. Comments

ALL animals deserve to live without physical and psychological torment, abuse, confinement and neglect. A blanket ban on the use of wild animals in circuses is the only way to prevent all animals from enduring this kind of life

60. Consultation Question 21: Do you have any other comments on whether/how the use of wild animals in travelling circuses should be banned from Scotland?

Yes

61. Comments

Please consider the irrefutable evidence which shows that only a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses can prevent the abuse and neglect of animals

62. Consultation Question 22: Do you consider that the consultation paper explained the key issues sufficiently for you to properly consider your responses?

Yes

64. Consultation Question 23: Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

Yes

66. Consultation Question 24: Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

No

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