

WAC 799.

Received answer

2. Title

Miss

3. Surname

Chaldes

4. Forename

Lucy

5. Postal Address

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

I believe that using animals for any form of entertainment is wrong but especially when being used in circuses. Thanks to proof provided by many undercover reveals it is clear that animals used by circuses are often: trained using cruel methods; not provided with adequate and natural nutrition; kept in cramped and dirty cages while travelling; are denied access to a natural environment; denied interaction with their own kind and for many species this is integral to mental wellbeing; placed in dangerous and stressful situations in front of a loud crowd.

I say without question in my mind that animals in circuses are not respected. If they were, they would not be forced to perform in the first place.

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

Having wild animals in circuses promotes the attitude that animals are ours to use as entertainment. Although it is a spectacular thing to see a wild animal in the flesh, we must remember that these animals are living and feeling beings. By continuing to allow circuses to use animals at all, the government are condoning how these animals were obtained, how they were trained and how they are kept.

However, by banning the use of wild animals in circuses the Scottish government will be encouraging a more respectful and compassionate attitude towards animals and thus helping to set an example for all people young and old alike.

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

Respect for animals can be promoted in many different ways but, until all forms of animal cruelty and exploitation are eradicated, no nation can truly claim to advocate animal respect.

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

All wild animals require specific and varying environments. All animals in travelling circuses are denied these natural environments. It is quite impossible for a travelling circus to provide adequate space for large animals such as elephants who migrate miles in a day. Nor can they provide the versatile surroundings that a tiger needs such as space to roam, trees to climb for the feeling of safety, water to bathe and cool off in.

Furthermore, the travelling circus environment cannot accommodate to animals' social needs. Lions and lionesses live naturally in a support group or pride but cannot be transported in this way due to the un natural cages and stressful environment they are kept in. Studies have proven that elephants develop psychological issues when deprived of vital social contact with their families.

Regardless of the species or their needs, the environment in the travelling circus is not their natural environment and therefore inhibits natural behaviour.

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?

Don't know

26. Comments

Although it may be possible to facilitate some natural behaviour in some individual animals, there will never be a substitute for an animal's natural habitat to encourage natural behaviour.

I do not believe that this at all feasible in reality because the provisions that would need to be made would take a lot of time and money that I doubt any circus company would be willing to sacrifice. Besides forcing a wild animal to perform and travel, regardless of enrichment provided, is unnatural.

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

Despite any efforts to improve the way in which circus animals are transported, it is still a stressful and cruel ordeal to put any wild animal through. Transport of wild animals in sanctuaries for health reasons etc are kept to a minimum and the animal is often sedated to reduce stress. Circus animals are forced to travel for long periods of time continuously through their lives. Sedation for each journey would be inhumane and dangerous as many wild animals cannot regulate their body temperature whilst sedated. Without sedation, the animal will undergo enormous stress and fear.

In addition, there are still many problems out with the way circus animals are transported so I do not believe that improving the travel environment would resolve the concerns surrounding animals in circuses at all.

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

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

Any compassionate person who is aware of the shocking truths behind the sad lives of circus animals will not be able to see an ethically justifiable reason to continue the use of wild animals in circuses.

The only ones who benefit are the circus owners themselves who make their living through the exploitation of animals.

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

I and many others around the world actively boycott circuses that use wild animals in their performances. However, many of these people would attend the same circuses

when and only when they stop using wild animals. This would create benefit due to higher demand and the money used for animal upkeep could be put into the other performances thus creating a more impressive show. The public are becoming more and more aware of animal welfare issues. Conclusively it is inevitable that more and more of the public will decide not to support circuses that use wild animals. Therefore, it is best for the government and circus companies to make changes now to show that they are moving with the times and in favour of supporting respect for animals.

36. Number in last 5 years

0

37. Number in last 12 months

0

39. Comments

I do not recall any circuses coming to Scotland with wild animals in recent years. Therefore, I do not believe that the ban will negatively impact Scotland financially.

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

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The public are becoming more and more aware of animal welfare issues. Conclusively it is inevitable that more and more of the public will decide not to support circuses that use wild animals. Therefore, it is best for the government and circus companies to make changes now to show that they are moving with the times and in favour of supporting respect for 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?

Don't know

43. Comments

Many people may still refuse to go to such circuses until they completely stop the use of wild animals. However, I believe that if Scotland join the many other countries brave enough to take the stand it will put more pressure on circuses to remove animals from their performances completely.

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?

Increase

45. Comments

There will be a higher demand for circus entertainment and therefore the revenue of other types of circuses may increase. People may wish to actively support such circuses for their decision to not be a travelling wild animal circus.

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?

No change

47. Comments

Many of these venues could subsidise this loss by renting out to other types of circuses.

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

49. Comments

These other media forms would be less likely to use animals themselves as many circus animals are used in film, TV etc due to their performance training. This would be a positive outcome for all as it would further reduce the use of animals in entertainment. With the computerised effects now available, other forms of media may be encouraged to opt for 3D graphics instead of live animals.

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

Scotland should show respect for wild animals by joining the many other countries that have banned the use of wild animals for performances in circuses. To use animals in such a way is immoral and wrong.

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

Scotland should show respect for wild animals by joining the many other countries that have banned the use of wild animals for exhibition in circuses. To use animals in such a way is immoral and wrong.

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

Yes

55. Comments

I believe that using any animal for entertainment is wrong and cruel, regardless of which species it belongs to.

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

I do not consider that it is acceptable to use some species and not others in travelling circuses. It is unfair to condemn any species to a life of captivity and forced performances.

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

Although it would be some comfort to know that at least some species may be spared thanks to the ban, I hope that the Scottish government make the right decision and support a blanket ban. Who could truly make the decision on which species should be protected by the ban and which species should not?

All wild animals deserve to be free of a life of ridicule and cruelty and I truly hope that the Scottish government decide to support this by calling for a blanket ban.

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?

No

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

No

63. Comments

The arguments were balanced however the paper was lacking in detail of findings of the cruel training methods used. I believe that if these facts were made known, many more would be in favour of the ban.

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?

Yes

Thank you to the government for asking to hear from the public in such an extensive way.

Reply to this respondent

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