

Quest Reporter

Received answer

1. Organisation name

n/a

2. Title

Ms

3. Surname

Chisholm

4. Forename

Katherine

5. Postal Address

Roadmans Cottage
Abbey St Bathans
Duns

6. Postcode

TD11 3TY

7. Phone Number

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, name and address all available

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?

No

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)

Other

16. If 'Other' please specify

private individual

18. Comments

Yes.

Wild animals in circuses endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment and also exhibit psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression.

I have seen this firsthand and since I was a child I refused to go to any live animal show, including zoos.

In addition, they die prematurely. They are deprived of everything that is natural and important to them, are kept in cages or pens, have their spirits broken 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, which are clearly in direct conflict with promoting respect for animals.

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

Exposing children and young people to the abuse of animals in the circus industry teaches them that it's 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.

Obviously, these things are not acceptable, and such lessons in insensitivity are not what most parents would knowingly want to teach their children.

It's always down to education of children where large changes in society can be achieved.

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

No. There is simply no humane way to use animals in circuses.

In addition to being subjected to premature maternal separation, the constant threat of physical punishment and prolonged and unnatural confinement, these animals are deprived of the opportunity to satisfy virtually all their species-specific needs and instincts. The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent and cannot be corrected by any change in practice.

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

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

Elephants are highly intelligent, possess exceptional memory, are self-aware and express emotions such as joy, anger, grief, sympathy and playfulness.

Tigers 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.

In the wild, grazing animals such as zebras and camels spend a large part of their day eating.

Circuses cannot provide permanent outdoor paddocks for grazing, so these animals spend much of their time confined to indoor stalls or tied to transport vehicles.

In addition, in travelling circuses, social species, such as elephants, are often kept in isolation, while animals who are naturally solitary, such as tigers, are commonly kept in groups.

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

None. Please see the 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. Abuse begins at an early age for elephants in travelling shows.

In December 2009, PETA US released a declaration and photographs taken by a retired Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus employee, Sam Haddock, who was involved in training baby elephants for Ringling, the largest circus in the US, which also travels to Europe. The dozens of photographs that Haddock gave to PETA US reveal the forcible and also physically and psychologically abusive training methods that Ringling uses on baby elephants. According to Haddock, these cruel methods are the only way that an elephant can be trained to perform in circuses.

In the UK, Animal Defenders International (ADI) released undercover video footage in August 2009 documenting that elephants in a circus exhibited a pattern of disturbed, abnormal behaviour, such as rocking, swaying and head - bobbing. Animal behaviourists believe that these movements are signs that an animal is suffering and unable to cope with his or her situation. ADI's investigations reinforce that the suffering uncovered by PETA US' Ringling probe is not specific to the US but endemic in the industry.

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

How on earth can anyone think that this is "ethical".

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

There are no benefits to keeping animals incarcerated for human amusement. 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

Try treating humans in the same manner.

There is no compromise and money should not be made out of animal suffering. Spare me "the animals do it because they love it" excuses.

36. Number in last 5 years

2

37. Number in last 12 months

0

39. Comments

The frequency with which animals are abused, neglected and forced to perform in unnatural ways for human entertainment is of no consequence. 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 it would have a very meaningful and positive effect on 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

It would increase them. As has been demonstrated by the hugely popular Cirque du Soleil.

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

As any modern business knows, an enterprise needs to evolve with changing public opinion.

In order to comply with an existing ban in the US, the Cole Bros Circus was forced to present an animal-free version of its show and celebrated the resultant production as "just as dazzling and just as amazing" as the version that uses animals.

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.

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

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
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

- Positive impact
- Other

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

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

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

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?

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

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?
Yes

64. Consultation Question 23: Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?
No

65. Comments
Why is there so little media coverage for this, and other proposals. Why is this not on your facebook page?

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

67. Comments
see above

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