

2014.04.12 20:25:53

Received answer

2. Title

Mrs

3. Surname

brooker

4. Forename

Judy

WAC 1597

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

Travelling circuses are not a suitable environment for these animals. There is much evidence of cruelty in the training methods and the performances themselves are demeaning for the animals. Unlike training dogs, for example, the required results are often achieved through punishment and not reward. Our children will not learn respect for animals when they see them in this unnatural state and performing crowd pleasing tricks. The animals should be living in an environment that is more natural to them and in families or herds, or alone, which they would choose if they were able.

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

When children see animals performing tricks and routines in a way that is unnatural to them they must come to believe that the animals are there solely to amuse them and to do our bidding. They should learn about these amazing creatures and how they live in the wild which is still possible if the animals were in parks or zoos that created an environment that matched their natural one.

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

The very ideal of a travelling circus means the animals are caged and living an unnatural lifestyle and on show to the public in the most intrusive way.

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 exotic animals ie. elephants, zebra, big cats are unable to exercise normal behaviours as they are never in a suitable sized area. Even zebras are denied grazing and are stabled. Big cats are caged and elephants are chained and often unable to interact with other elephants.

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

I cannot see any way in which elephants could spend time in family groups. Often elephants are solitary animals in a circus environment. Big cats have no space to roam and little interaction with each other as they would in large enclosures at a wildlife park for instance. Here they would live in large family groups and the public is not too intrusive.

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

Caged and chained animals that are moving from place to place can in no way be allowed the freedom they require to live as they should live. My children have never been to a circus but they have seen all these species in a more natural environment and not performing unnatural tricks. They have a greater idea of how these animals should live. A circus is not educational.

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

No benefits whatsoever for the animals and I cant think of any benefits to the spectators either unless you call a couple of hours of unnatural animal behaviour entertainment. Many circuses have evolved that use no animals whatsoever. Cirque du Soleil tours the globe and has no animals.

32. Comments

It is the most unnatural environment to wild animals and it is well documented that cruelty is often involved in the training.

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

We banned hunting much to the dismay of a large section of society and yet the sport continues in an alternative way. This would be just the same for travelling circuses. The animals could be retired to suitable and more natural homes and the circuses would develop fresh and new ideas.

38. Don't Know

Don't know

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?

No change

41. Comments

I don't believe people would stop visiting circuses because there are no animals. There are many aspects to a circus and the people involved are creative and inventive so I am sure they would create many more interesting acts to perform.

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

Circuses with wild animals are banned in many other countries. Panama has just announced a ban and a leading country like Scotland would herald the way to better

- animal welfare by doing the same.
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**  
Each country that implements a ban generates publicity for this very important change in the way we view the exploitation of wild animals. As more and more people become aware of the toll this type of captivity has on intelligent creatures I think they will welcome this change and look to teach the next generation to have greater respect for animals and their complex needs.
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?**  
Don't know
47. **Comments**  
As I don't know of any venues which have accepted circuses with wild animals I am not able to answer that. Where I live, no licenses have been issued for circuses with wild animals for many, many years yet we still have circuses visit.
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
49. **Comments**  
Computer generated scenes are widely used in all aspects of television and film nowadays.
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**  
A ban is already in place in Wales and England is ready to implement a ban in 2016.
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**  
Because a travelling circus is not a suitable environment for the animals.
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**  
Because a travelling circus is not a suitable environment for wild animals and they are unable to exhibit natural behaviours. Most circus animals exhibit signs of stress at their unnatural captivity and the training methods used.
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**  
Camels and other camelids are probably the only species that can adapt to a travelling circus lifestyle but the retention of any animal would be a shame in my view.
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?**  
Yes
59. **Comments**  
ALL big cats, elephants, zebras, monkeys especially find the environment and the training and performances stressful. Big cats, monkeys and elephants are often mistreated during training.
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**  
The whole of the UK should be leading the way to non captivity of wild animals for the purposes of performance or display. Our children should be learning how these animals live in their natural state and also appreciating that they are not ours to exploit and use as we see fit. We have led the way in other reforms of animal welfare and should continue to do so.
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?**  
Yes
67. **Comments**  
Mine is not a scientific response just a heartfelt plea to help end the exploitation of intelligent and complex animals who suffer ill treatment and psychological damage due to the stress of living such an unnatural life. Thankyou for giving us a voice for these animals.

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