



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**

There is nothing to be gained from forcing animals to perform in an unnatural environment. It is a well-established fact that suffering is inherent in the use of wild animals in circuses, which is why this obsolete form of entertainment has no place in a civilised society in the 21st century.

**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. 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.

**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**

In addition to enduring abusive training, animals in circuses are subjected to prolonged confinement, which is inherent in travelling shows. 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. A ban is the only solution.

**36. Number in last 5 years**

Two

**37. Number in last 12 months**

None

**39. Comments**

The frequency with which animals are abused, neglected and forced to perform in unnatural ways for human entertainment is irrelevant. 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**

As has been demonstrated by the hugely popular Cirque du Soleil, a complete ban on wild animals in circuses would likely benefit circuses that use archaic animal acts, as they would have an impetus to reinvent themselves. With growing public awareness 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, indicating, at the very least, that the use of wild animals is not essential to circuses. People know that animals are able to be trained in the harshest of ways to do whatever people want them to do and really is no 'trick' at all. As for humans, to be able to do acrobatics and death defying stunts really shows the amazing abilities of what people are actually capable of and are impressive. No animals need to be involved.

**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

**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, as mentioned in the comments for Question 1. 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 comments for Q.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

55. Comments

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 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 endure the same abuse no matter what species they are. Only a blanket ban on the use of wild animals in circuses can prevent such exploitation from taking place.

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

A complete ban on wild animals in circuses is the ONLY way to prevent abuse.

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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