

Circus madness / Animal Defenders.

Contributors

Animal Defenders (Campaigns)

Publication/Creation

London : Animal Defenders, 1997.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wpdwtvab>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANIMAL DEFENDERS

The purpose of the Animal Defenders is to educate, create awareness, and promote the interest of humanity in the cause of justice, and the suppression of all forms of cruelty to animals; wherever possible, to alleviate suffering, and to conserve and protect animals and their environment.



Investigate and expose

We investigate reports of animal suffering and abuse both in the UK and abroad. We expose situations where no regulations have been made to protect animals, and situations where abusers are breaking the law.

We have investigated animal suffering in circuses, research laboratories, and fur farms.

Rescue

We have rescued abandoned, starving circus animals in Africa, taking them across national borders to hospital facilities, and finally finding them good new homes.

Practical Projects

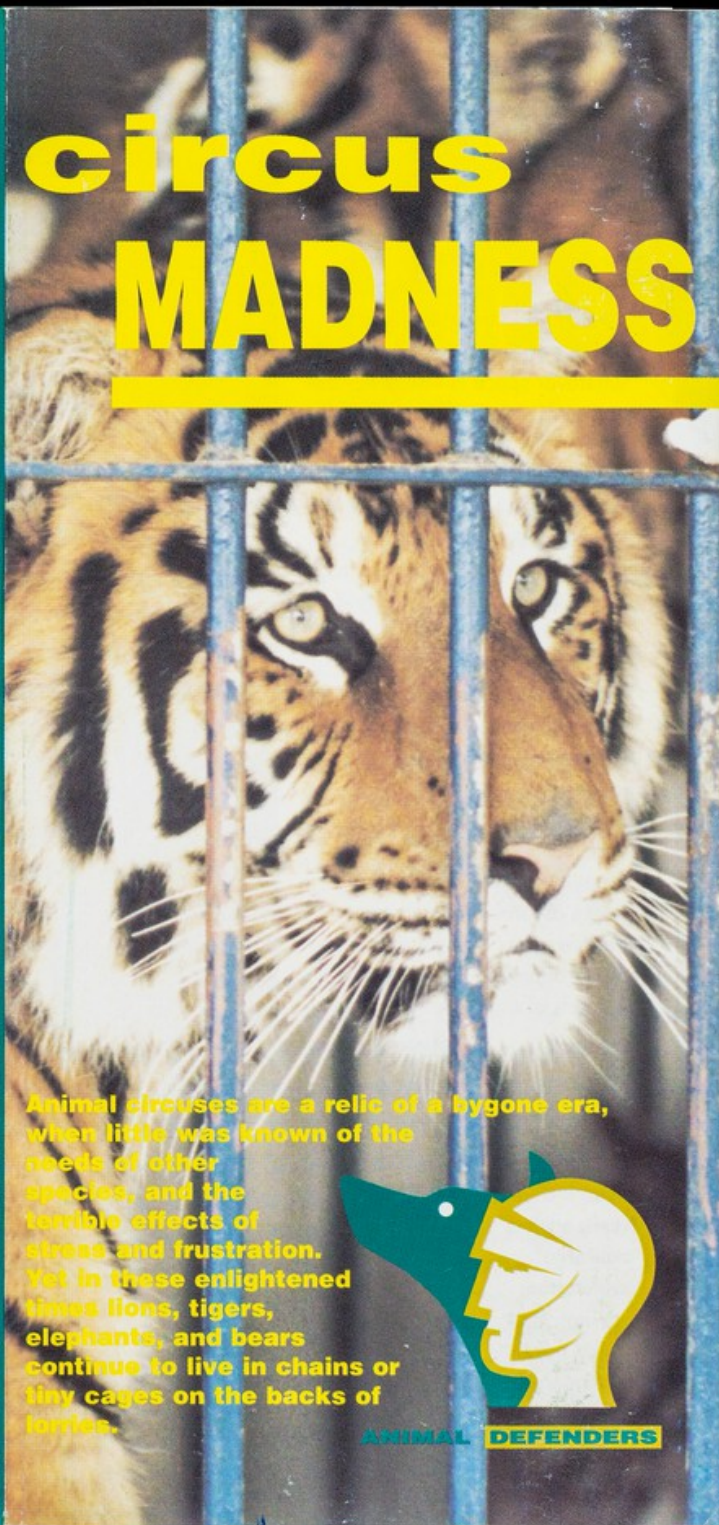
We support practical projects to help animals, such as funding a badger unit at a wildlife hospital.

Lobby, Educate

We provide parliament and the media with video and detailed reports providing evidence of animal suffering.

We make educational programmes, and publish literature to alert and educate the public about practices such as factory farming, often promoted as being in the public interest.

circus MADNESS



Animal circuses are a relic of a bygone era, when little was known of the needs of other species, and the terrible effects of stress and frustration. Yet in these enlightened times lions, tigers, elephants, and bears continue to live in chains or tiny cages on the backs of lorries.



ANIMAL DEFENDERS

On the road: Chained, caged, frustrated

Constantly moving from one makeshift encampment to another, it is impossible for circuses to adequately attend to the needs of their animals. Instead they must make do with whatever space is available - the corner of a field, or perhaps a car park.

Elephants in the wild may travel 20 miles a day, mudbathe, and live in family groups; in the circus they spend most of their time (60%) chained by a front and back leg, only able to stand up, lie down, or shuffle a few paces backwards or forwards. Naturally social, solitary elephants face terrible loneliness.

Lions and tigers are imprisoned almost continually (90% of the time) in small cages on the backs of lorries, known as beastwagons. Bears are shut in their containers for a similar amount of time. Sometimes exercise

areas, just a few metres across, are provided.

Even if these were always available, which they are not, they could not be considered appropriate.

with all that we know of the needs of both wild and domestic animals, how can we allow them to be shunted around the country in travelling menageries?



Herd animals like zebras, llamas or camels are often isolated from their own species, kept in tiny pens, or tethered.

Few who visit the circus and see the horses tethered in their stalls realise that what you see is what they get, all too often receiving little or no exercise apart from their brief spells in the ring. Some dogs may live with their trainers but many are caged or tied up.

Every few days, the animals are packed up and moved on, confined to their transporters for up to ten to twelve hours.

Off the road: Chained, caged, frustrated

It would be hoped that life would improve for the two or three months that these animals are not on the road, but for some it may get even worse, with the animals effectively warehoused waiting for use.

The Animal Defenders have filmed elephants shackled with bare chains on their legs in a barn at their winterquarters.

At another establishment over twenty lions and tigers spend over 90% of their time in beastwagons - as if they were still touring. A dimly lit circus ring in a barn was described by the owner as an exercise area. Following exposure by the Animal Defenders, he built an outdoor enclosure. But this is small and contains nothing to stimulate the lions and tigers which still remain in their beastwagons or similar cages for over 90% of the time.

Circus Madness

It is little wonder that some of these animals go out of their minds: severely confined, their natural instincts frustrated; alone.

One study found evidence of abnormal behaviour brought about by stressful conditions in ALL the species studied; for example, a third of the bears' time was spent in pointless pacing to and fro.

Elephants, in particular, display disturbed, repetitive or stereotypic behaviour often in the form of swaying, pacing or repeatedly bobbing their heads.



Coloured tassels conceal a metal hook and spike

Training

Trainers claim that animals would not do tricks if training were cruel, claiming that all is achieved by kindness. Few accept this rosy and simplistic picture, knowing that training is a combination of punishment and reward.

Some tricks may be loosely based upon natural behaviour,

but others are far from natural and require a greater degree of coercion. Sticks, goads with spikes, whips and beatings are among the methods of persuasion.

A study revealed that big cats did not like to go into the ring to perform, so almost half of the time they had to be forced in with broom handles.



Conservation and Education

Animal circuses claim they are traditional, play a role in conservation, and are educational.

- Clearly tradition cannot justify such misery. Indeed such a defence could once have applied to bear baiting.

- Circuses play no role in conservation. A study of circus animals found that of 36 Indian and African elephants in circuses travelling in the UK, 34 had been caught in the wild.

- Circuses maintain a market for exotic animals and allow their movement between countries.

- Turning to education, circuses are actually teaching the very worst attitude to animals.

At its 1981 conference, the National Association of Head Teachers recommended that: "children should be discouraged from attending any exhibition or performance which involved animals in undignified displays, where they were housed in unsatisfactory quarters, or subjected to suspect training methods."

The Law

The law relating to circuses in the UK is the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. This requires those who exhibit or train performing animals must to be registered with their local authority, but DOES NOT lay down standards of animal care or welfare. Thus any inspection of these facilities is virtually meaningless. The Protection of Animals Act 1911 protects against physical abuse such as beatings, starvation, neglect and so on, but again does not specify housing standards or cover suffering caused by confinement or isolation. The Zoo Licensing Act does lay down standards of animal welfare in zoos and safari parks, but, circuses are exempt from this, as well as from the Dangerous Wild Animals Act.

YES!

**I would like to
HELP the
ANIMAL DEFENDERS**

- I enclose a donation to help the work of the Animal Defenders
 £15 £20 £50 £..... Other
- I would like to join the Animal Defenders (ADs):
- £17 Adult Annual membership
 - £6 Youth (under 16) Annual membership
 - £9.50 Unwaged Annual membership
 - £24 Joint Annual membership both ADs & National Anti-Vivisection Society (saves £10)
 - £165 Life membership

Please make cheques or POs, payable to Animal Defenders.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

**REGULAR SUPPORTERS:
Banker's Standing Order**

Name of your Bank: _____

Address of your Bank: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Please pay to the Co-operative Bank Ltd., 14 New Broadway, Ealing, London, W5 2XL on behalf of the ADs, Account number 70273171 (Sort Code 08 90 80), the sum of £ _____ on the _____ day of _____ 199 _____ and a like amount on the same day in each succeeding month until further notice.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Animal Defenders
261 Goldhawk Road, London, W12 9PE
Tel: 0181 846 9777 Fax: 0181 846 9712
E-mail: navs@cygnet.co.uk Web: <http://www.cygnet.co.uk/navs>

We are sometimes asked by similar organisations if they may write to our supporters. We would allow this only if the organisation is reputable. This allows us to raise funds for our work. However, if you DO NOT wish your name to be included, please tick here.

AD3.6/97



**HOW YOU
CAN HELP**

- Don't go to circuses with animals. Enjoy yourself at a non-animal circus with exciting human acts instead.
- Send for Animal Defenders Circus Action Pack (£11.95), containing copies of this leaflet, information sheets, petition forms and our video Circus

Madness, filmed by Animal Defenders investigators and showing life for animals with the circus.

- Many local authorities have banned animals in circuses from their land. This action has support from all political persuasions. Can you sponsor our 'Circus Madness' video to be shown to your local council?
- Write to your MP. Use information from this leaflet and urge them to support the Animal Defenders campaign to get animals out of circuses. If they contact the Animal Defenders we will supply them with a free information pack, including video.
- Write to your local newspaper. Use information from this leaflet and urge people to boycott animal circuses.
- Send a donation. We can only continue this campaign to end this suffering with your support.
- Join the Animal Defenders and add your voice to those opposing the use of animals in circuses. You can also get involved in and be kept up-to-date with our other animal welfare and conservation campaigns



4/02