



Stress Behind the Glitz and Glitter...



Comité de **Vigilance** et d'action pour le bien être **Animal**



Code Animal is member of the European network to END the keeping of wild animals in CAPtivity





« There are simple steps each of us can take to eliminate the exploitation of other beings. One is to refuse to go to any circus that uses animals. When I look at animals held captive by circuses, I think of slavery. Animals in circuses represent the domination and oppression we have fought against for so long. They wear the same chains and shackles.»

(Dick Grégory is a civil rights activist)

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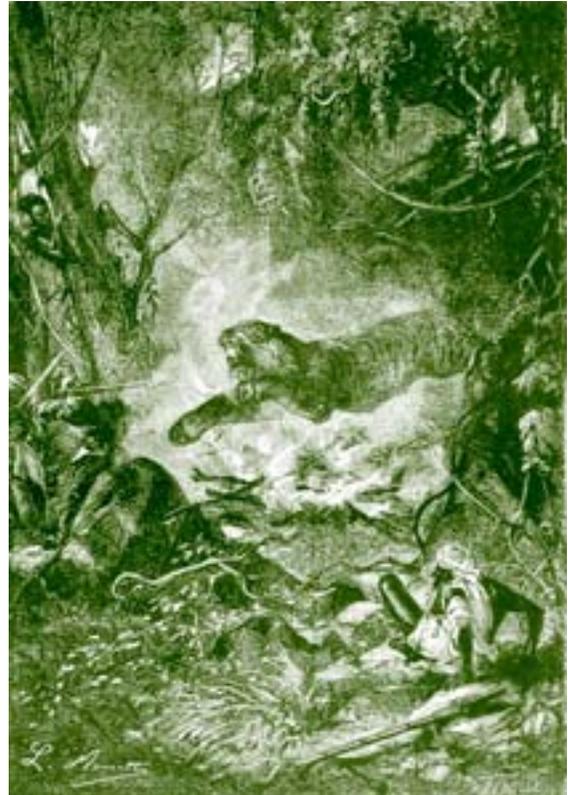
Ours brun - Poliakov - 2006 - Faune Explo

History

Having disembarked in European ports at the same time as the indigenous peoples captured in the colonies, the addition of wild animals to menageries gradually became commonplace by the 1830s. But it wasn't until around 1880, with the creation of the Hagenbeck brothers' "central cage" nearly a century after Phil Astley created the traditional circus, that wild beasts entered the scene.

The use of wild animals is therefore not in keeping with the tradition of the circus, but rather was designed to add an "exotic" feel that ties in directly with colonialism.

Stating that the circus would be nothing without the use of wild animals takes away from the other circus arts such as balancing acts, acrobatics, aerial numbers, clowning, juggling, contortionism, and more.



3 types of circuses...

At first glance there seems to be only two types of circuses: the traditional, touring sort which use all kinds of wild animals, and the more "contemporary" sort which excludes the use of wild animals in acts.

But it is actually a little more complex than that. The traditional circus branches off into two parts: nationally syndicated circuses and family-run events often referred to by the former as the "Attilas" of the circus.¹

Most circus companies (Pinder, Amar, Médrano, Grüss, etc.) have corporate headquarters that oversee the travel of convoys and tents throughout the year.

¹ Statement by Syndicat National du Cirque representatives during a meeting on February 19, 2008, at Association des Maires de France.

They are not necessarily managed by the direct descendants of a circus family (with the exception of Grüss). A number of acts are rented out by the season.

Examples:

Cirque Médrano – Manager: Raoul Gibault – Corporate Headquarters in Toulouse

Cirque Pinder – Manager: Gilbert Edelstein – Corporate Headquarters in Brie

Cirque Amar – Manager: John Falck – Corporate Headquarters in Saint Juéry, Albi

Family-run circuses are more often characterized by a shorter run, are family managed, and use animals directly linked to the establishment.

A number of these establishments use names aimed at attracting the public (Zavatta, Fratellini, Roger Lanzac, etc.), though they are thoroughly misleading, as many believe they will see the real Zavatta!

Cirque A. Zavatta fils – Manager: Arsène Cagniac

Cirque Zavatta fils – Manager: Falck

Cirque Luigi Zavatta – Manager: Dassonneville

An inventory (2006 - 2008)

Nobody in France knows exactly how many traditional circuses travel the country, primarily due to the illegal operations of some, and the changing of name and/or management of others.

Listed below are the animal circuses we have been able to identify since 2006.

Name	Manager	Species
Albaron	Hart	Lions
Amar	Falck	Elephants, baboons, tigers, lions, camelids, etc.
Androny		Tigers, lions
Apollo	Dumas	Ostriches, llamas, camelids...
Bostok	Dumas	Lions , monkeys
Buffalo Circus	Loberot	Ratites
Cancy	Cancy	Baboons, llamas
Carnaval cirque		Camelids, ratites, llamas...
Charly Circus	Couget	Llamas, bovines

Cirque de Madrid	Gontelle	
Joseph Bouglione	Bouglione	Tigers, camelids, bovines
Caprani - cirque de France		Baboons, tigers
Carnaval cirque		Camelids, ostriches, llamas
Cirque de Bercy	Prein	Wild cats, zebras, camelids, bovines
Cirque de la famille Piedon	Piedon	
Cirque européen	Goujeon	
Cirque de France		Tigers, lions , bovines
Cirque de Madrid	Gontelle	
Cirque de Paris	Goujeon	Lions, crocodiles
Cirque de Rome	Dumas	Lions, rhesus monkeys
Dumas Alexandra		Tigers, rhesus monkeys, camelids
Dubois William	Dumas	Monkeys, other exotic animals
Européen cirque	Goujeon	
Festival de cannes cirque		Llamas
Français cirque	Bourguignon	
Franco Italien	Beautour	Lions
Francky	Fleury - Goujeon	
Franky		Equines, caprines
Fratellini A		Lions, camelids, llamas
Fratellini A. (Piste aux étoiles)		Elephants, camelids
Fratellini Gilles		
Fratellini Jeanne		rhesus monkeys, llamas,
Fratellini John	Hart	Lions, bison, camelids
Fratellini Sabrina		
Favrini (petit cirque)		
Festival de cannes		Llamas
Franco Italien	Beautour	Lions, camelids
Gervais	Klissing	
Gontelle cirque	Gontelle	Camelids
Grand cirque royal	Landri	Hippopotamus, bison, lions, tigers, ratites
Grüss Alexis	Grüss	Elephant , camelides

Grüss Arlette	Grüss	Elephants, tigers, lions, camelids
Idéal circus	Muller	Tigers, lions, rhesus monkeys, snakes
International cirque Europe	Aucante	Elephant, tigers, baboons, camelids
International zoo circus	Muller	Tigers, lions, rhesus monkeys
International belgium circus	Hart	
Jackson		Lions , camelids
Kinos	Rech	Elephant, bonobos, lions, tigers, wallabies, porcupines, reindeer, camelids..
Klissing		
Lanzac Roger	Mordon	Girafe, lions, camelids, bovines
Lanzac Roger	Mordon	Lions, rhesus monkeys, camelids
Lanzac Roger	Rinaldi	Camelids, bovines
Loyal		camelids
Loyal show	Loyal	Bovines, camelids
Maximum	Masson	Elephant, tigers
Médrano	Raoul Gibault	Elephants, tigers.
Mickaël circus		
Moreno Bormann	Moreno Bomann	Tigres, lions, panthers, zebras, camelids
Muller	Muller	Hippopotamus, lions, watussi, camelids
Nouveau cirque Triomphe	Goujeon	Lions, snakes, camelids
Olympia		Elephants, lions, hamadryas, camelids
Parade circus	Goujeon	Lions
Parade des clowns	Dumas	
Phocéén		Tigers, camelids
Pinder	Edelstein	Elephants, tigers, lions, zebras, yacht, camelids
Piste aux étoiles (Reitz)	Hart	Elephants, lions, camelidés
Reynier cirque		
Rozel	Rozel	Tigers, baboons, camelids, buffalo
Star		Camelids, snakes
Star circus	Cancy ?	Pumas, leopards, black panthers, hamadryas monkeys, camelids
Sten		Baboons, Ostriches, camelids
Ullman	Ullman	Hamadryas monkeys, pumas, léopard, lions, bovines.
Venise	Landri	Tigres, lions, panthers, baboons, ratites, bovides, bison, zebras
Vitalis	Mauger	Lions, baboons

William's Francky		Lions
Zavatta Achille fils	Falck	Giraffe, elephants, tigers, panthers, lions, baboons, zebras, bison, bovines
Zavatta A fils	Cagniac	Elephant, tigers, zebras, bovidés, camelids
Zavatta Alfonso	Fricheteau	Lions, camelids
Zavatta Anthony	Landri	Hippopotamus, lions, bison, bovines, camelids, llamas
Zavatta Céline	Caplot	Camelids, llamas
Zavatta Eric	Goujeon	Bovines, camelids
Zavatta Eric	Lamberty	Lions, camelids
Zavatta Fabio	Prein	Hippopotamus, tigers, lions, zebras, ostriches camelids, llamas
Zavatta Francesco	Bayard	Camelids, bovines
Zavatta Gino		Tigers, camelids, zebras
Zavatta Louis	Sénéca	Hippopotamus, lions, bison
Zavatta Luigi	Dassoneville	Lions, tigers, snakes
Zavatta Lydia	Zavatta	Tigers, lions, snakes, camelids, llamas
Zavatta Sébastien	Douchet	Lions, tigers, camelids, bovines
Zavatta Stephan	Klisson	Elephant, tigers, camelids, bovines, llamas
Zavatta Thierry	(Ritz)	Panthers, rhesus monkeys, lions, camelids, bovines
Zavatta Willie	Beautour	Giraffe, lions, camelids
Zavatta Willie fils	Caplot	Tigers, zebras
Zavatta		Tigers, bovines, camelids
Zavatony (Monsieur Loyal)		Tigers, bovines, llamas

Halley Nathalie		Tigers, leopards
Poliakov Sacha		Brown bears
Bauer Kid		Felines

Bovines : cows, yaks, watusi, buffalo, etc.

Camelids : dromedaries, camels

Ratites : ostriches, rheas, emus

Ethical questions

It is obvious that these animals are in peril. So obvious, in fact, that many children are naturally unsettled by seeing them. As such, it seems incredible that in the 21st century this debate is still raging on. How is it possible to foster love in animals when they are permanently confined to an enclosure just 32–43 square feet in size? And not allowed to engage in their most basic behaviors due to the unnatural postures imposed on them?

How can we speak of protection when these spectacles make the objectification of animals commonplace, and none will ever be set free? How can we claim to be educating our children when we show them animals that have been torn away from their natural environment and forced to engage in atypical behavior?



Violence

In the ring, animals are presented from the perspective of their submission to man. The felines face off with a tamer that cracks his whip to create a spectacle designed to show his mastery over the "savage" animals, while the elephant is made to docilely kneel to his command. Each act is intended to show man's supremacy over beast in the most ridiculous acts: bears on bicycles, elephants doing handstands, monkeys wearing tutus.



Tiger - Diana Moreno Bormann circus

Violence is used to coerce the animals into performing, and the ankus (elephant goad) and the whip used in training sessions are just brutal accessories. In order to cover up these coercive practices, circus workers increasingly use the term "educator" instead of "trainer."

Anthromorphism et anthropocentrism



4 brown bears in a jeep - Dietzel, 2005

The circus is the epitome of anthropomorphism: The animals are forced to take on human attributes (dresses, tutus, cigarettes, glasses, etc.), human positions (sitting, standing, etc.), and human actions (marching, clapping, etc.), all while being subjected to crushing human dominance.

This paradox shows just how much animals are objectified rather than allowed to show their true nature.

We do not introduce animals, but rather disguise, subjugate, and transform them into "circus animals," as if this were a special species!

Detention that ignores physiological needs

Every animal needs to develop the range of behaviors specific to its species, including social, antagonistic, maternal, feeding, sexual, locomotor, and territorial behaviors.

The behaviors of a given species indicate its level of well-being, and its behaviors are dictated by whether or not its living conditions are appropriate to that species. "Animals exhibit well-being by behaving in accordance with their species' behavior. Conversely, ill-being can be observed through the absence of these behaviors."²

Their activities (and the time allowed for these activities), such as grooming, social interaction, territorial marking, movement (running, jumping), exploring, scratching the ground, rolling in the dirt and dust, resting, etc. are key indications of an animal's well-being.

² SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, Dr. BUCHLKRAMMERSTATTER, Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses, Vienna 1996.

Man-made enclosures such as are used in circuses inhibit animals from manifesting their innate behaviors. Forming social groupings is often the most difficult because of the absence of fellow species, lack of space, physical restraints, and stress.



Lions – Roger Lanzaac circus

The transitory nature of circuses, i.e., their continual movement from place to place, can also have "extremely harmful consequences"³:

- Stress can be caused by fear, especially during transport and unloading.
- Perpetually relocating animals does not allow them to establish a "hunting ground," which leaves them with a sense of uncertainty.

The surroundings constantly change, notably the climate, temperature, smells, and all other environmental parameters.

July 29, 2007 – Brittany: Indra the elephant falls 33 feet (10 meters) off the RN12

Around 9:00 a.m. on the Brest–Rennes highway, a 38 ton truck and an 11 ton semi-trailer, with Indra inside, went off the road and fell 33 feet (10 meters).



We can easily imagine the panic and violent impact suffered by the pachyderm, who was not secured with a safety harness. The driver of the vehicle was taken to the hospital, while Indra was lifted through the roof of the truck, then transferred to another truck in order to rush her to Plouaret, where the circus was being held.

³ Ibid.



July 24, 2007 – Saint-Quay-Portrieux, Côte d'Armor – Truck flips with wildcats inside

After having problems with an axle, a Pinder Circus truck flipped with two lionesses (Zully and Ruffy) and one lion (Patcha) on board. According to Le Télégramme, a Brittany newspaper, the three cats could no longer appear in public due to their age.

Wild animals are far less adaptable than domestic animals because of the ever-changing environmental factors (physical, biological, and social). "Depriving animals of certain environmental elements triggers a state of suffering."⁴

The detention systems used generally deprive animals of stimulation and ultimately lead to physical apathy (depression, passivity, and submission) as well as abnormal and even neurotic behavior.⁵

Stereotypies, or "repetition of the same acts over and over, with little variation and without any apparent reason or purpose,"⁶ are one manifestation of these abnormal behaviors.

Stereotypies are aimed at compensating for

- * The absence of outside stimuli (rare in captivity)
- * The inability to establish a flight distance when facing outside threats (constantly changing environment, sights, smells, sounds, vibrations, etc.)
- * The inability to stalk, attack, and capture prey
- * The inability to respond with fight or flight

The inability to access an area, an object, an individual of the same species

⁴ VAN ROOJEN, "Impoverished environments and welfare" in Applied Animal Behaviour Science 12, 1984, p.3-13.

⁵ SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, Dr. BUCHLKRAMMERSTATTER, Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses, Vienna 1996.

⁶ ZECCHINI Alain, "Les animaux sauvages peuvent-ils rester 'naturels' ?" in Le Courrier de l'environnement, No. 46, INRA. June 2002.



Lioness - Anthony Zavatta circus

Stereotypies, whether they are ambulatory (primarily in cats) or characterized by constant swaying of the head (elephants, bears, etc.), are "manifestations of the failure to successfully adapt to an environment, but can help set new standards for adequate long-term dwelling environments for the animal."⁷ They are "indications of chronic ill-being"⁸ and even "glaring signs of an animal's chronic suffering and failing health."⁹

Other behavioral problems such as excessive licking (primates), mothers rejecting offspring after giving birth (cats), and self-mutilation are also observed.



In order to address these abnormal behaviors, zoos have developed the concept of environmental enhancement with the goal of "improving the animal's physical, social, and psychological environment"¹⁰ Enhancements include improving enclosures and cages, modifying available space in a way that fosters the animal's curiosity, stimulating the search for food, etc.

Macaque chained up and toothless - Jeanne Fratellini Circus (photo Vpsj)

⁷ McBRIDE, GLEN & CRAIG, J.V., "Environmental design and its evaluation for intensively housed animals" in Bresard, B., 1985.

⁸ HANNIER, I., in *Le point vétérinaire*, Vol. 26, No.165, February 1995.

⁹ WEMELSFELDER, F., "The concept of animal boredom and its relationship to stereotyped behaviour" in Lawrence, A.B., & Rushen, J. (Eds). *Stereotypic Animal Behaviour. Fundamentals and Applications to Welfare*. CAB International, U.K.,1993.

¹⁰ ZECCHINI, Alain, "Les animaux sauvages peuvent-ils rester 'naturels' ?" in *Le Courrier de l'environnement*, No. 46, INRA. June 2002.

Despite these efforts, improving the physical aspects of confinement areas does not compensate for the artificial nature of the space. Therefore, "the significant improvement of the bears' enclosure and food at the Zurich Zoo, in particular, has had no effect on their behavior."¹¹

Such modifications are impossible for circus animals because of the nature of the circus (moving from place to place, limited space, changing environment, etc.). Zoologists at the Vienna Zoo have concluded frankly that "circuses cannot provide the specific environments required by each animal species"¹²

Coercive training that goes against nature

While we cannot affirm that acts of violence are systematically perpetrated on animals in circuses during training, we can nevertheless affirm that the methods used are coercive and contrary to animal welfare.



The ankus --a sharp, pointed hook--is used in circuses to force elephants to assume the positions desired by the trainer. The spike is generally covered with ribbons to keep the audience from seeing the implement hidden beneath them. In a public performance of the Alexis Grüss Circus, the trainer Firmin Grüss could be seen striking the elephant Syndha behind the ear and feet for failing her balancing act.

For wild cats and primates, whips and clubs replace the ankus and are used to constantly pressure the animals into submission and remind them that they may be corrected if they refuse to perform. Testimonials by trainers only confirm the sad reality behind circus lover Pierre Robert Levy's statement that "*it would be hypocritical to think training could occur without restraint and some degree of violence*"¹³.

¹¹ FISCHBACHER, M., SCHMID, H., 1999. "Feeding Enrichment and Stereotypic Behavior in Spectacled Bears." *Zoo Biology* , 18, 363-371.

¹² SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, Dr. BUCHLKRAMMERSTATTER, Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses , Vienna 1996.

¹³ LEVY, Pierre Robert, *Les animaux du cirque* , Syros Alternative, 1992.



The elephant Samba of Circus Europe International
(Franck Schrafstetter / One Voice)

"You have probably noticed that during shows, the elephant trainers are holding a leather crop decorated with a flower at the tip. The trainer approaches the animal, gestures gracefully with his hand, and the elephant--as though obeying the flower--goes docilely to the spot indicated. But none of the spectators know that the beautiful rose actually hides a steel hook that would be thrust into the elephant's ear at the smallest sign of disobedience. It is like this in circuses around the world.¹⁴"

(Vladimir Deriabkine, Trainer)

"I stood firm, waiting for them, whip in hand (...). They understood full well that the clash between us, without witnesses, would be turbulent¹⁵. " (Jean-Richard, Trainer)

"(...) and make them understand the law of the club, where a blow to the nose should be enough to eliminate any further inclination toward aggression¹⁶." (Jean Richard, Trainer)

"Docile animals that have become aware of their superiority are the most dangerous of all the wild cats. If they have never been corrected they do not fear humans, and nothing can curb their wild instinct¹⁷." (Alfred Court, Trainer)

"Many trainers beat their animals¹⁸. " (Maxime Sénéca, Trainer)

¹⁴ DERIABKINE, Vladimir, *Courrier International* , No. 641, February 13, 2003.

¹⁵ RICHARD, Jean, *Mes bêtes à moi* , Éd. Fernand Nathan, 1966.

¹⁶ RICHARD, Jean, *Envoyez les lions !! ou le métier de dompteur* , Éd. Fernand Nathan, 1971.

¹⁷ COURT, Alfred, *La cage aux fauves* , Éd. de Paris, 1937.

¹⁸ *Dordogne Libre* , March 18, 2000.

Exclusive testimony by Jacques Dangles, a former French trainer in the biggest circuses

"At night when we passed by this truck, the chimpanzees were screaming inside. I had the tactlessness to look and saw that he had put rings in the truck and was chaining them and striking them in the face. One day I said to him, 'You're crazy! But you have to do that with chimpanzees; otherwise they'll get the upper hand.'

"When I was with Grüss it was the same thing. They had a little elephant they would beat. When you see those guys in the ring, smiling from ear to ear, you think, wow, they're brave. You have to see what goes on behind the scenes, even with the horses. He had a horse, a fantastic horse! Behind the curtains, he hit this horse on the knee to make it kneel, and right after that they went into the ring. When you see that behind the scenes you think it can't be true; the show is awful!

"When you know how they're transported... You arrive at a public square in the middle of the night; they're shut up inside these prisons. In the morning at feeding time, you open the cage and throw it in. Like for the chimpanzees, a cabbage leaf, a carrot. They're out in the cold...

"If I had any authority in the circuses, there would be no more wild animals. Domestic animals, maybe, and even then how they were treated would be monitored."

Filmed interview, 2007

Unnatural positions and behaviors



Central cage – Diana Moreno Bormann
Circus

Without restraint, animals cannot be made to do things against their nature. The presence of the large cats in the central cage poses a variety of problems and is a source of additional stress for the animals :

- Breakdown of social groups
- Difficulties with shared accommodation, particularly between species (lions, tigers, etc.)
- Lack of flight distance
- Presence of fire
- Unnatural positions (sitting, standing on hind legs, etc.)

"For 2002 I'm preparing an act like none other in the world with 10 lions and 8 tigers. It's not that easy because they don't always get along very well naturally. And some of them are quite a headache. I'll need four more months of work."
(Frédéric Edestein – Pinder Circus, 2001)

08/10/05 – Rennes – Another incident at Pinder Circus

The lion "act" turned into a free-for-all. Trainer Dick Chiperfield (substituting for Frédéric Edestein, who has a hand injury) was out of his depth. With the help of Gary Yhan (another trainer), as well as blows from stools and pitchforks, the ring was cleared in 15 minutes.

Forcing an elephant into an unnatural position such as headstands, standing on the hind legs, or kneeling can affect the animal's health, according to zoologists at the Vienna Zoo: "*These positions can cause joint and intervertebral disk injuries, as well as cracked toenails. Balancing exercises can lead to motor disorders in the elbow and knee joints*¹⁹."

According to circus elephant specialist A. Kuntze, a seated position, for example, can lead to "a serious condition and possibly death if prolapsed organs (intestines, bladder, uterus) become constricted and necrose²⁰." Many disorders are diagnosed after elephants are forced into unnatural behaviors that require constant pressure on or overexertion of part of the body.



*Sabbah & Dehli – cirque Pinder
(Franck Schrafstetter/Onevoice)*

The premature wear and tear of joints, tendons, and limbs is believed to be the result of exercises requiring animals to stand on one leg or form a pyramid.

¹⁹ SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, BUCHL-KRAMMERSTATTER, Dr. Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses , Vienna, 1996.

²⁰ KUNTZE, A. "Work-related illnesses: hernia perinealis, bursitis praepatellaris, and tyloma olecrani in female circus elephants," Verh.Ber.Erkrq.Zootiere , 1989.

Lindau²¹ confirms that these positions on the front or hind legs can lead to limping and are articulary dangerous for young elephants.

Death of the elephant Tatcha, a symptomatic example



Captured in Africa in the 1980s, the elephant Tatcha of Maximum Circus died in 2006 at age 23 (the average life expectancy of an elephant is 60 years).

Heart problems are the primary cause of mortality in adult elephants in captivity. The elephant Wurza of Arlette Grüss Circus suffered from heart failure in November 2003 at the age of only 25. These premature deaths are the result of an excessively rich diet, lack of exercise, and stress.

An RSPCA study also shows that many elephants in captivity have vitamin and mineral deficiencies (vitamin E, zinc, iron, etc.).

²¹ LINDAU, K-H, "Lameness in circus elephants - a result of training?" Verhandlungsberichte des Internationalen Symposiums über die Erkrankungen des Zootiere , 1970.

Comparative analysis of selected species

Giraffes :

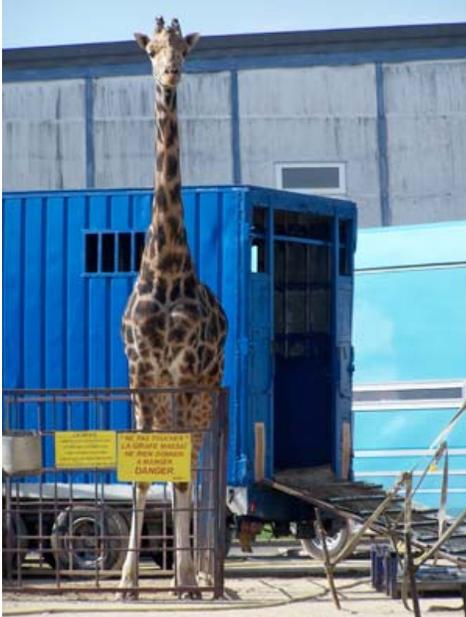


Roméo, Roger Lanzac circus

There are two giraffes currently featured in France. Their performances usually consist of parading around the ring.

Giraffes are gregarious ungulates that live in groups of various sizes covering vast territories.

Giraffes currently in French circuses are being held in isolation in very small spaces, often restricted to the inside of a truck's container



Their large size makes transportation particularly difficult: "[*This animal*] is at risk of 'splitting' during transport²²." Following an accident on Highway A41 in 1999, the Arlette Grüss Circus' giraffe died from cardiac arrest.

"Because of its specific anatomical structure and considerable space requirements, this species is totally unsuitable for frequent transport. Therefore, it is completely unacceptable to keep giraffes in circuses²³."

Angie, a Masai giraffe in the Achille Zavatta Fils Circus

²² BORMANN, Rex, *Cirque Magazine* . October 2006.

²³ SCHWAMMER, Harald, PECHLANER, Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, and BUCHL-KRAMMERSTATTER, Dr. *Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses* . Vienna 1996.

Hippopotamuses



In circuses, these animals usually parade around the ring, or, like the one pictured at left, are ridden by circus performers.

One of the Muller circus' numbers consists of showing the animal in his cage-trailer (which is prohibited).

Pompom, a hippopotamus in the Grand Cirque Royal

Hippopotamuses are semi-aquatic animals :

The body of the hippopotamus is adapted for an amphibian lifestyle: it features palmate toes on its four feet and a large flattened head that helps keep its eyes, ears, and nostrils above the water. However, the only body of water available in their travel wagons is a basin at the bottom of a truck.



Tonga, a hippopotamus – Luigi Zavatta

Hippopotamuses need space :

Hippopotamuses go on land and travel to pastures sometimes over 10 km away from shore, especially at night. They spend most of the day in standing water. In circuses, their space is restricted to a few square meters in a trailer or a small container in front of a truck. At night these animals are restrained and left unable to move.



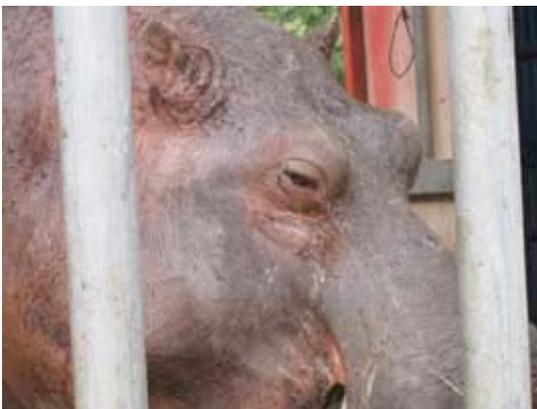
Hannibal - Fabio Zavatta circus



Aldo - cirque de Venise

A gregarious species :

Led by a dominant male, hippopotamuses live in groups of 10 to 100 animals. The half-dozen hippopotamuses held in French circuses are kept alone.



Anthony Zavatta circus



Muller circus

"Hippopotamuses are animals well-adapted to life in and around the water, which they must be able to access at all times. The body of water provided to hippopotamuses must be deep enough to enable them to completely immerse themselves. Keeping them in too-small or too-shallow basins will result in joint injuries. The conditions mentioned previously can only be guaranteed in non-mobile permanent enclosures.

In addition, hippopotamuses are gregarious animals that live in groups, as previously described. This is why keeping hippopotamuses in circuses is completely unacceptable!²⁴"

Hippopotamus tales

Thanks to the efforts of Fondation Assistance aux Animaux and funding from animal protection foundations (30 millions d'amis et Fondation Brigitte Bardot) Aldo and Tonga--two hippopotamuses illegally held in the Cirque de Venise and Luigi Zavatta circuses--were seized and released in 2007 in South Africa's SanWild sanctuary, an environment much better suited to their basic needs..



Aldo in Cirque de Venise



Aldo & Tonga at the SanWild sanctuary

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In January 2004, in dire need of water, Mowgli--the hippopotamus from the former Pacific Circus--took an impromptu bath in the Escarpe (Pas de Calais). To our knowledge, this was the third time a hippopotamus made an escape.

²⁴ SCHWAMMER, Harald, PECHLANER, Helmut, GSANDTER, Hermann, and BUCHL-KRAMMERSTATTER, Dr. Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses . Vienna 1996.

Elephants

Currently, there are about 25 elephants (half of which are African elephants) in French circuses.

Elephants are gregarious animals :



Pachyderms enjoy a very organized social life. Herds travel in groups of several dozen members and are usually structured around a matriarch.

This highly gregarious life leads the animals to communicate with each other primarily through touch and smell..

Eléphants Tanzanie / Ph. De Almeida

In circus settings, elephants do not have the opportunity to recreate this social life, since they are kept alone, either chained to the ground or inside a truck.

Elephants held alone:



Maya (Achille Zavatta fils circus)



Samba (International Europe circus)



Indra (Stéphane Zavatta circus)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beybi (Bauer) - (Kinos circus) - Syndha (Alexis Grüss circus) - Betty (Maximum)
<p>?</p>	<p>Kenya (circus A Zavatta fils)</p>	

Elephants are nomadic :

These animals live in vast territories that can cover up to 1,500 km² . Their anatomy is particularly suited to a nomadic lifestyle and they travel an average of 17 km per day.

Their daily outings in the ring are not adequate to meet these giants' movement needs.



They are often tied up and completely immobilized. Elephants engage in "weaving" (stereotypical behaviors) to make up for their lack of movement, since, as biologist Henri Laborit observed, "the nervous system is built for action"²⁵."

Médrano circus

²⁵ LABORIT, Henri. The Major Mechanism of Stress, Methods and Achievements in Experimental Pathology . Basel, Karger, 1991.



Three elephants from the A. Fratellini Circus exhibiting significant behavioral problems

The European Association of Zoo and Aquaria (EAZA) recommends 400 m² for every three elephants in addition to the enclosed space. This recommended space, which falls far short of the reality in circuses, is still 60 to 100 times too small, according to experts in the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford²⁶.

Grooming and recreation :

Whether in Africa or Asia, elephants are in contact with water as often as possible. They drink it often and in copious amounts (about 80 to 160 liters per day). Water also plays an important role in their social lives and their grooming. They may bathe for over two hours every day. In addition, mud and dust baths protect them from parasites and also provide an effective shield against the sun.

In traveling settings, a common saying is that "an elephant that drinks is an elephant that pisses." Circus workers do not want to take the chance of having the ring soaked and therefore the animals are given water only very early in the morning and late in the evening after the last show. There is no access to baths. This component of their social and physiological well-being is completely ignored.

Amar Circus



²⁶ CLUBB, Ros, and MASON, Georgia. A Review of the Welfare of Zoo Elephants in Europe . University of Oxford/RSCPA, 2002



The Kenya Affair

Already convicted for operating illegally since 1992, the A. Zavatta Fils Circus is still holding Kenya, a female African elephant captured from her natural environment. Following a new conviction by Tribunal correctionnel de Troyes in July 2007, Fondation Assistance aux Animaux worked jointly with over 40 Ain police officers to organize the elephant's seizure.

Despite being sentenced to six months of imprisonment, the director refused to surrender the animal to the authorities and deliberately organized a disturbance of the peace by releasing the elephant right in the middle of a traffic circle.

Since no one was able to put Kenya in the truck, and to prevent accidents, the mayor ordered that the elephant return to the circus, in full violation of the law.



Syndha, old friend...

The elephant Syndha, an old friend ²⁷ of the family, should remind us of the tragic story of animals in circuses. This elephant carries within her the trauma of all other "circus animals." She arrived at the Alexis Grüss Circus in 1983. Like all other captive circus elephants, she was taken away from her natural environment. She was also deprived of any contact with her brethren and given a mere semblance of freedom. In December 1999, locked up alone, Syndha was profoundly affected by a storm that had broken over Paris. Unable to escape, she was powerless to react to the force of the wind rushing through the circus tent. After that, Syndha became unpredictable and eventually caused the death of floor director Claude Santelli in September 2001. Her behavior problems worsened.

²⁷ COSTAZ, Gilles. Excerpt from "Les peintures équestres de Grüss," echoes of 05/01/2006.

Tigers

Solitary animals

Unlike other animals mentioned in this report, tigers are solitary for most of the year. Males and females only live together during the mating season. In circuses, however, not only are several tigers kept, but they are housed together in the central cage.



tigers – Maximum circus

Animals in motion

A tiger's territory may stretch from 20 to 180 km². Tigers are hunters--their morphology is designed for movement (running, trotting, springing, climbing, etc.), and also for swimming.

In touring shows, not only are they unable to get enough exercise, but they also have no access to water. Their cage is usually bare, with no water provided. Only a few circuses (Pinder, Amar) move a cage outside once in a while.



Amar circus



A Zavatta fils circus



Arlette Grüss circus



Nathalie Halley



Pinder circus



White tigers - Médrano circus

Problems at birth

Lacking the proper flight distance, tigresses eventually kill their own cubs since they can't protect them from attacks from outsiders.

Animal trainers often take photos for advertising purposes at the very moment they separate unweaned cubs from their mother, even though this separation is both the result and proof of the tigers' maladjustment to captivity.

"Because of their biological characteristics and highly specific social behavior (tigers are largely solitary animals), it is very difficult for circuses to keep tigers in the required conditions for their individual needs. It should be noted that stereotypies and behavioral problems occur with all big cats if they cannot satisfy those needs. Moreover, psychological tension, irritation, and overexcitement (caused by visitors, for example, or by other animals) cause serious behavior disorders. Since tigers need to exclusively occupy an interior/ exterior enclosure of appropriate size (including trees for climbing and claw-sharpening, and a body of water), it seems almost impossible to reconcile those needs with the constant touring so characteristic of circuses. Since tigers are also cited in Appendix I of CITES, their captivity in circuses is unacceptable²⁸ !"

²⁸ SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER Hermann, Dr. BUCHL-KRAMMERSTATTER, Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses , Vienna 1996.

Baboons

The baboons kept by circuses are mainly of the anubis and hamadryas species, which normally inhabit the hotter regions of Africa (open savannahs, lightly forested areas, steppes).

They live in groups of 20 to 200 individuals, and this conditions their social behavior. These primates range over large distances and their territory can cover up to 30 km².



Amar circus



Rozel circus



Star circus



Ullman



Stéphan Zavatta circus

Health issues

Following a seizure carried out on Cancy Circus, STLV tests performed on four adult baboons came out positive, revealing that they were infected with a retrovirus potentially transmissible to humans.

"The disease caused in non-human primates by this virus is quite severe, but not constant (seropositive primates don't systematically develop it). Transmission of the virus to humans is possible (mainly, but not only, through bites and scratches), but the real zoonotic potential of this disease is not yet quantifiable (do infected humans actually develop the disease?).

Given the similarity of the STLV virus to the human HTLV virus responsible for a malignant and fatal lymphoma, infected animals must be managed with utmost care and attention."

The four baboons were euthanized. The fifth, a young male, was transferred to the CNRS primatology station in Rousset-sur-Arc (Bouche du Rhône).

"I'd like to draw your attention to what happened to the two baboons that shared the same origin as the five that were seized. They remained in the original circus, and although they were not tested, they are probably seropositive."



"Because of their pronounced social behavior, of the group size required by each species, and of their need to climb, it is largely impossible for circuses to keep primates in conditions that allow them to fulfill their behavioral models²⁹."

Amar circus

²⁹ SCHWAMMER, Dr. Harald, PECHLANER, Dr. Helmut, GSANDTER Hermann, Dr. BUCHL-KRAMMERSTATTER, Guidelines for keeping of wild animals in circuses , Vienna 1996.

International laws

Austria – Wild animals have been banned in circuses since 2005, except lions and tigers. The Federal States of Vienna and Salzburg are strongly pushing for this ban to be applied to all wild animals. (*Source: Association Vier Pfoten*)

Belgium – Only animals born in captivity can be kept in circuses. Circus traveling is limited, tours that do not allow natural behavior or that result in physical violence are forbidden, and there are minimal standards of detention. (*Royal Belgian Order of September 2, 2005*)

Denmark – Wild animals (except Asian elephants, camels, and llamas) have been banned in circuses since 1991. (*Danish Act on Protection of Animals, Act No. 386, June 1991*)

Finland – Wild animals (except seals) have been banned since 1996. (*Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, August 2, 1996*)

Norway – Wild big cats and bears are banned, as well as all other animals if captured in the wild. (*Welfare of Animals, Act No. 73, 1974*)

Sweden – Wild carnivorous animals, pinnipeds (except seals), rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, cervids (except reindeer), giraffes, kangaroos, raptors, ratites (ostriches, rheas, emus), and crocodiles have been banned since 1988. (*Animal Welfare ordinance, Act No. 539, 1988*)

Brazil – Domestic and wild animals are banned in circuses. (*Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, No. 2634/2001*)

Costa Rica – Wild animals have been banned since July 2002.

India – Circuses are forbidden from presenting shows featuring tigers, panthers, lions, monkeys, and bears. (*The Times of India News Service, 10/05/2001*)

Israel – In practice, ban of wild animals by refusal to grant certification since 1998. (*"La souffrance des animaux n'a rien d'amusant" – GAIA 2003*)

Singapore – Wild animals banned from touring shows since 2000. (*Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore, Ministry of National Development, 2000*)

French legislation

The August 21, 1978 order sets rules for the operation and control of establishments that present live local or foreign wildlife specimens to the public. Sections 15 and 16 specify that this order applies to mobile establishments "subject to adaptations required by the mobile nature of their facilities."

Circus professionals have not complied with the general rules of this order, either with respect to minimum detention standards or the continuous provision of healthy and fresh water.

The retranscribed Zoo Directive replaced this order for zoos, rendering it valid only for circuses, which are entitled to invoke the phrase "subject to" to absolve themselves of any obligations.

There is currently no minimum detention standard. Most animals are restrained in very small spaces (3 to 4 m²) with no habitat enhancement and often nothing to drink.



This black panther in the Diana Moreno Bormann circus has only a few square meters in the dark with no bedding and no water source. Seeing this animal's state and living conditions, it is particularly disturbing that her "owner" is an expert reporter with the Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry in the commission that issues certificates of competence.

Certificates of Competence

Certificates of competence are individual administrative decisions acknowledging a person's qualification to assume responsibility for keeping non-domestic animal species³⁰

³⁰ (30) DNP/CFF 2000-1 circular of January 17, 2000

This certificate is the only constraint for circuses, although animal caretakers do not necessarily hold a certificate.

When one sees the conditions in which animals are held and the resulting problems, it is clear that the certificate of competence does not guarantee the bearer is qualified to respect the animal's basic needs.

October 25, 2004 – A Polish caretaker working for the Pinder circus was injured by a tiger. Due to his own error, this man in his thirties suffered a deep gash in one ear and a small part of his cheek from the animal's claws.

This accident is not the first. A caretaker was severely injured in August 2000, and in March 2003, a tiger tore off a circus employee's arm.

According to Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage, in 2007 no fewer than 22 tigers, 32 lions, 1 panther, and 17 primates (9 baboons, 7 magot monkeys, and 1 green monkey) were held illegally by "owners" who had not applied for certificates of competence. This does not include all the certificate applications the Environment Ministry denied.

Response

The strict application of Section L.214.1 of the rural code stipulating that " any animal, as a sensitive being, must be placed by its owner in conditions compatible with the biological imperatives of its species " should bring about a change in the treatment of animals in circuses.

As we have shown in this report, species' biological imperatives are absolutely not respected and--as shown by the science team at the Vienna Zoo--while improvements in the short term are desirable, they will not be sufficient due to the mobile nature of circuses. How can we establish a minimum welfare standards for zoo animals that are invalid for circus animals? Prohibiting wild animals in these mobile establishments is the only viable solution in the medium term.

The large number of animals and births in circuses--in 2005 the Amar Circus reported the birth of 15 tigers and 12 lions--has given rise to a real placement problem. While new sanctuaries can provide valuable assistance, they are not enough, due to the number of animals needing to be placed.

Given the experience of other countries, a ban is not feasible except through gradual extinction and on a case-by-case basis according to species.

In response, French animal protection and defense associations and foundations unanimously agreed on a joint proposal submitted to the Environment Ministry in 2007. This proposal is reasonable, given both the physiological needs of animals and the time circus professionals will need to make changes.

While we understand the circus world's misgivings regarding these inevitable changes, continuing to exploit animals at any cost--when we are learning more and more how similar to us and fragile they are--will inevitably lead circuses to a dead end.

If circuses are a living dream, let us ensure they go forward wide awake.



Bonobo - Kinos circus

Joint proposal

in view of the revision of the decree of August 21st 1978 on travelling structure

Having regard to article L.214-1 of the French Rural Code which stipulates that "every animal is a sentient being and must therefore be kept by its owner in conditions that meet the biological needs of its species."

Having regard to article 10, paragraph 1 of the decree of August 21st 1978³¹ concerning the obligatory characteristics of fixed and travelling structures that show living native and non-native fauna to the public, whereby "the animals must be housed in structures that are adapted to the biological needs, aptitudes and behaviour of each species."

Having regard to article 16 which stipulates that "travelling structures come within the scope of this decree subject to adaptations required by the itinerant nature of their installations."

³¹ The decree of August 21st 1978 concerning the obligatory characteristics of fixed and travelling structures that show living native and non-native fauna to the public, and the decree of August 21st 1978 concerning general rules of functioning and inspection of structures that show living native and non-native fauna to the public have been repealed with respect to non-itinerant zoos which show living native and non-native fauna to the public (the text has not been repealed for travelling structures).

Having regard to Appendix I of the Washington Convention (CITES).

Having regard to the decree of August 11th 2006 which establishes the list of domestic animal species, breeds and varieties.

Whereas the use of animals listed in Appendix I of CITES for entertainment purposes is contrary to the preservation of these species which are threatened with extinction in the wild.

Whereas the above-mentioned texts impose minimum legal and regulatory standards aimed at satisfying each species' biological needs.

Whereas the itinerant nature of circuses and travelling shows prevents them from respecting these standards.

Whereas ethologists and zoologists have stated that the behavioural disorders observed in animals in circuses are "a sign that the necessary adaptations have not been made and can therefore be taken as a criterion for evaluating the suitability of an environment for the long-term housing of animals." (McBride, Glen & Craig, J.V.), "reveal a chronic absence of well-being" (Hannier I.) or are "proof of chronic suffering." (Wemelsfelder F.).

Whereas animals in circuses are made to perform unnatural acts and have been trained to do so using methods that are incompatible with their biological needs.

Whereas the conditions in which animals in circuses are kept and trained are known to result in pathologies such as heart disease, arthritis, stereotypical behaviour and other behavioural disorders.

Whereas and in view of the above, because of their itinerant nature, circuses that use wild animals are unable to respect minimum legal and regulatory standards.

All wild and domestic species that are not listed in the annex to this proposal shall be banned from travelling structures as from July 1st 2008 and shall be transferred to permanent structures that comply with the decree of March 25th 2004 on zoos.

General provisions for species annexed to this proposal

Sterilisation (modification of article R214-84 of the French Rural Code) and identification by microchip shall be obligatory.

No further acquisition of a wild animal or transfer from a permanent structure to a travelling structure shall be authorised and consequently no new authorisations

(certificat de capacité) shall be issued for circus-related activities.

To optimise inspections and ensure that animals in circuses are correctly monitored, travelling structures shall be required to produce a written itinerary for the year, and present themselves once a year before the Veterinary Services Department for the area to which they are administratively attached.

Conditions in which species annexed to this proposal are kept

The animals must have the same amount of space as legally required for zoos. This applies to both indoor and outdoor enclosures. (The Belgian royal decree of September 2nd 2005³² could be used as a model). The animals must have freedom of movement within their enclosures .

The animals' environment and diet must be suited to their needs, and they must have permanent access to water.

In accordance with article R.213-18 of the French Rural Code, only animals that actually take part in the performance shall be present at the performance site . Animals in training or retired animals shall not be present on the site and itinerant side-shows shall be expressly forbidden.

The animals must be transported by qualified staff in vehicles that are adapted to their species.

Circuses shall not travel to more than 60 sites in one year or shall remain on the same site for at least five consecutive days.

Training of wild and domestic species annexed to this proposal

Any training method or implement which distresses the animal, causes suffering, torments the animal or in any way inflicts physical or psychological damage, such as the use of fire in training or performances, the use of ankuses, etc., shall be outlawed.

A professional certificate shall be immediately introduced for:

– the training and presentation of an authorised domestic animal.

³² <http://www.staatsbladclip.be/lois/2005/09/12/loi-2005022712.html>

- the presentation of a wild animal that has already been trained.

This certificate shall be granted to persons who have demonstrated anatomical, physiological and ethological knowledge of the species in question , and knowledge of legislation relating to animal welfare, protection of species and the functioning of structures that show live animals to the public.

This certificate shall be:

-for one species only. A person wishing to train a different species must hold the corresponding certificate.

-distinct from the certificat de capacité for the presentation of non-domestic species,

-reassessed every five years,

-refused to anyone who has already been condemned for ill treatment of or cruelty to an animal.

Animals in circuses shall not be rented or in any way made available for other uses and in particular for advertising, television programmes, films or photographs.

Any non-French trainer wishing to work in France shall only show species listed in annex 1 of this proposal, must be in possession of the French certificat de capacité for the presentation of non-domestic species, and must hold the abovementioned professional certificate(s) or their equivalent for temporary shows.

Annex

Wild animals subject to the provisions of this proposal (including sterilisation and identification) until their complete eradication from travelling structures.

Primates

Macaque – *Macaca sylvanus*

Crab-eating macaque – *Macaca fascicularis*

Felines

Lion – *Panthera leo*

Domestic species subject to the provisions of this proposal.

Canidae

Dog – Canis familiaris

Equidae

Horse – Equus caballus

Camelidae

Dromedary – Camelus dromedarius

Domestic camel – Camelus bactrianus

Llama – Lama glama

Alpaca – Lama pacos

This joint proposal is made by the following organisations and foundations:

Convention Vie et Nature



Code Animal



Faune Explo / Protect Bear



Fondation Assistance Aux Animaux



Fondation Brigitte Bardot



*Fondation Ligue Française
des Droits de l'Animal*



Fondation 30 Millions d'Amis



*Groupelement de Réflexion et d'Action
pour l'Animal*



Le Club des Amis de la Nature



One Voice



*Peta Europe
(Pour un traitement éthique des animaux)*



Respectons



Société Nationale de Défense Animale



Société Protectrice des Animaux



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<http://www.code-animal.com>

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