



There's

NOTHING FUN

about the life of a

circus animal

Animals used in circuses are not entertainers by choice, and only perform their demeaning "acts" because they must obey their trainers or suffer painful beatings.

Tigers do not voluntarily jump through flaming hoops and elephants do not willingly stand on their heads, so circus trainers routinely use whips, chains, bullhooks, choke collars and electric prods to control and terrorize animals who were meant to roam free in the wild.

Animals in circuses suffer further from being on the road 48-50 weeks out of the year. Crammed in narrow trailers during travel, animals are prevented from engaging in even their most basic natural behaviors. Between performances, many animals are crowded together into cages, and elephants are often tethered to the ground with chains. Constant confinement and recurrent beatings cause animals severe physical and psychological stress, and sometimes result in their death.

The harsh conditions of the circus are a far cry from the lives these animals would live in their natural habitats.



Break their chains

Elephants born in the wild live in large matriarchal family groups and develop deep, lasting bonds with each other. In contrast, elephants used in circuses are typically torn from their mothers as infants, shackled with chains, jabbed with bullhooks and have their spirits broken until they obey the commands of their "masters." This is the price animals pay for people's amusement.

Boycott Circuses with Animals!

What You Can Do

- ◆ Educate your friends and family about what happens behind the scenes of the circus industry.
- ◆ Boycott circuses that use animals - don't pay for their enslavement.
- ◆ Attend circuses such as Cirque du Soleil and the New Pickle Circus that feature astounding human acrobats, aerialists and jugglers instead of animals.
- ◆ If a circus that uses animals comes to your area, contact IDA for more flyers, children's coloring books and background information on that specific circus.

"I was able to see what I call the systematic daily abuse. I was able to see the hitting of the elephants. I saw elephants hooked with the bullhook so much that they bled. I have seen scars behind the ears that you could stick your fingers into."

Tom Rider, former circus employee turned activist



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