

**Submission
No 36**

**INQUIRY INTO EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN
CIRCUSES AND EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Ms Jane Canfield

Date Received: 15 October 2019

Dear Ministers,

I wish to enter a submission regarding the bill to hold wild and exotic animals in a captive state.

In the 1990's I was on the board of a regional RSPCA committee and for the time that I held that position, we had numerous complaints and inspections regarding touring Circus's that used exotic and non exotic animals in their 'show'. In the early 2000's I was part of a demonstration on behalf of a nation-wide wildlife group that fought (and won) to prevent native animals, particularly koalas being kept in an enclosed (glass) space in the bowels of a tourist building. They even had the endorsement of a vet that turned out to have been co-erced by the applicant. The animals would never have seen real sunlight (which would create health problems) or fresh air.

It is 2019 and I feel we are going backwards in our continual fight to prevent animals being used for profit. We are constantly on the lookout for profiteering by individuals, private companies and business to use sentient beings for money. And this is the only reason it is done, no matter what gloss they try to put on it. We cannot rely on the operators of these businesses to be ethical and always do the right thing. Or for private 'licence' held citizens to do the right thing, as was seen in a recent media report. Where the escape/dumping of a non-native animal in Australia,; a huge boa constrictor which is still on the loose in western Sydney and will endanger lives of pets, native animals and potentially human beings is a classic example of not being able to trust that humans will do the right thing, no matter how many licenses or regulations are supposedly in place.

As a wildlife carer, we see the stress that is brought upon our native animals that are injured, but just by being kept 'in captivity' for a short time is bad for the animal. And they show stress. This applies to native and non-native animals.

To summarise, importing, animal hoarding, animal sale, animal trafficking, animals kept for 'entertainment' has been proven over and over again to be dangerous, unethical, inhumane and just plain WRONG.

I hope that our elected representatives will overturn this bill and put an end to this outdated and unethical business.

Thank you for your time.