

**Submission  
No 12**

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

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**Date Received:** 23 October 2019

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There are no national welfare standards for circus animals, only guidelines. These animals are not protected and the ones in circuses are routinely subjected to months on the road confined in small, barren cages. Also circus animals are forced to live in enclosures denying them every opportunity to express their natural behaviour and their training is often based on fear and punishment.

Dolphins and orcas should certainly not be in marine parks as there is not enough room for them to swim around properly and they are unable to display their natural behaviour. Many captive dolphins are regularly treated with ulcer medication or antidepressant medication to alleviate the frustration of captivity. Quite often they have severe dental issues as a result of frustrated chewing on their tank walls.