

Submission
No 57

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

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PLEASE - NO to circus with animals. NO animals in entertainment. Let's leave animals alone.

A circus environment could never meet the fundamental physiological and psychological needs of exotic animals. They are kept in cages and pens their entire lives, including during transport, unable to engage in their natural behaviour. Lions in the wild can roam vast areas, claiming territory and seeking out mates, but they can't do this while being confined to wagons or trucks for days at a time touring with a circus. Macaque monkeys, who are our close relatives and prefer to live in large mixed groups, are kept in metal cages with limited opportunity to socialise. There are simply no improvements to their housing or transport that could overcome these problems, which are inherent in a circus environment.

Dolphins are social, intelligent animals who, in the ocean, dive and swim up to 100 kilometres a day with their family pods. But in captivity, they're trapped and forced to perform meaningless tricks for noisy crowds. In addition, they navigate by echolocation, but at marine parks, the reverberations from their own sonar bounce off the walls of the tanks, which is extremely confusing and disorienting. There is no way to make a tank in an amusement park meet the physical and psychological needs of cetaceans.

Neither exotic animals nor cetaceans should continue to be bred for use in circuses or exhibitions. This is essential to addressing all the animal welfare concerns discussed in the previous questions for future generations of animals. A life in captivity is no life at all for wild animals.

The animals should be freed from the entertainment industry as swiftly as possible. While a ban on breeding would be a great first step in ending the suffering of future generations of exotic animals in circuses and cetaceans used in exhibitions, the animals currently being forced to perform for profit deserve to live out their remaining days in a peaceful sanctuary, rather than being confined to cramped transport wagons or small chlorinated pools. In their natural environment, lions roam vast distances, macaque monkeys live in large mixed social groups and explore rainforest treetops, and dolphins swim long distances, dive, and ride the waves. Captive exotic animals who have been denied the opportunity to fulfil these fundamental needs up until now must be provided with the highest-quality care, which they desperately need, for their remaining years.

These laws are inadequate because exotic animals and cetaceans are still permitted to be bred and exhibited by circuses and marine parks in New South Wales.

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