

**Submission
No 104**

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

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Exotic animals such as lions, monkeys and dolphins should not be used for human entertainment purposes.

Lions are forced to live and travel in small cages. They are cramped in and denied their natural instincts.

They are trained via punishment and reward.

This is totally an unnatural life for them . Many become damaged psychologically.

A similar situation exists for monkeys. Performing circus animals are kept for prolonged periods in close confinement, in artificial social groups and are continually being transported between circus venues for the duration of their performing lives. All for the purpose of entertainment.

The life of a circus animal leads to stress, boredom and often results in abnormal behaviours or stereotypes, such as repetitive pacing or swaying. Even when wild animals have been captive-bred for many generations they still retain their 'wildness' and should not be considered domesticated.

Non-human primates are highly intelligent, complex, and very social. They require a high level of stimulation to prevent them from becoming bored in a captive environment. Captive lions also require regular stimulation and show severe signs of boredom and frustration when kept in the restricted environment of a circus pen.

Dolphins are similarly kept in chlorinated pools, Their eyes and skin suffer. They are forced to perform live an unnatural life. In the wild a dolphin will swim hundreds of kilometres each day.

And let's face it, humans in circuses are great. We all love the exploits and are amazed at what mere mortals can do. We do not need animals in the circus.