

**Submission  
No 159**

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

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I am completely against the use of exotic animals and cetaceans used for entertainment. I do not support breeding programs that bring cetaceans into the world for exploitation or entertainment. These animals have the right to a life of freedom, not for shallow entertainment purposes.

When I see a circus with exotic animals or domesticated animals in my home town area or anywhere else, I feel saddened, ashamed to be a human, distress for the animals and horrified as I think deeply about the experience of the animal of life in this world. I imagine if it were me restrained, trapped, bored, forced and controlled.

I have watched a lion pace backwards and forwards through sheer boredom as they waited for the next time they were fed or forced to perform. Their cage was in the full sun and the pacing was indicative to me of sheer boredom. I imagine what it must be like to live my entire life like this and know that I would not be able to do it myself. If I cannot do it myself, then why are other species put through such torture? I have seen monkeys pacing backwards, forwards, up and down in their cage and cannot imagine the depression they must fall into after countless days of boredom and non-stimulation. Animals are sentient and have their own interests and it is definitely not inclusive of waiting to entertain the mindless and thoughtless. And watching dolphins and other cetaceans swim backwards and forwards in a tiny pool is heartbreaking considering they belong in the vast and open ocean. I imagine if they were Flipper – the dolphin from one of my childhood children's shows. I saw Flipper as a friend and as a dolphin who had choice and freedom. This is how I have made the connection between humans and animals.... We all want the same basic rights of freedom, safety, family, happiness, being with our own kind, health and food, water and the ability to adjust our positions to suit the elements.

No animal should be kept in captivity. All animals must have freedom. A circus is not educational and if there are victims then it should not fall under the category of entertainment either. Use holographs if humans cannot entertain themselves or their children or use humans who have elected to perform instead.