

Submission
No 204

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I am against lions and monkeys in circuses and cetaceans in sea world type shows.

Animals in the circus are forced to live and travel in small cramped cages, and made to carry out unnatural, mindless tricks in loud, frightening circus tents. Keeping animals in cages or in chlorinated tanks and forcing them to perform for human audiences is animal abuse and exploitation.

Circus animals are stressed and traumatised on a daily basis. There is nothing natural about forcing wild animals into a tiny space to perform for baying crowds.

Circuses play no meaningful role in education or conservation. These businesses promote lifelong suffering of wild animals for sake of a few minutes of “entertainment”.

Circuses exploiting animals teach the public that animal domination and cruelty is ok. They are failing in their social obligation and responsibility to the community.

The majority of the New South Wales community finds the exploitation of animals in the circus completely unacceptable. That is why over 40 councils across Australia have banned the use of animals in the circus.

The community knows that circus living conditions are hugely detrimental to these wild animals, causing severe stress, boredom, frustration and lethargy.

For the 6 Lions in the travelling Stardust Circus, our laws state they only need a 70m² area in which to live. This is the space of just over 4 parking spaces, or ¼ of a tennis court. This is disgraceful.

For the 4 Rhesus Macaques at Stardust Circus, our laws state they only require a 12.5m² area in which to live out their lives. This is just 85% as large as a parking space, or the equivalent of 3 king sized beds.

Rhesus Macaques are known to share the pain, the trauma, and feelings of others. They are smart and self-aware. We cannot allow them to be subjected to lifetime of cruelty.

Our weak laws have failed these animals long enough. We must follow the example of the 48 other countries and jurisdictions worldwide who have banned this barbaric practice.

The NSW Government must ban the use of these wild animals in the circus and close the loopholes allowing this abuse to continue on both public and private land.