

Submission
No 215

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

Name: Ms Inez Hamilton-Smith
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To Committee members,

Recently the Stardust Circus was near my house in the Illawarra and I was able to witness the setup and behaviour. The lions had access to an outdoor area that was approximately 6m x 15, plus they had access to small inside trailer. Unless they are performing, this is the only area they can walk and can exercise.

I have read that lions in the wild need about an area of 100 square miles. How can an area of 6m x 15 m meet their behavioural or physiological needs? It was very sad and upsetting to watch. These lions can't go back to the wild, but at the least they should be in a sanctuary where they can explore and walk for a descent time, not just pacing along the fence which is witnessed. I have read that this behaviour is due to stress, and boredom, which of course makes sense as they can't carry out their natural behaviours because are confined to such a small area. It is like witnessing humans in a prison going crazy, except the lions have committed no crime except to be born a lion.

There is no doubt that this is unacceptable. Animals should not have to live like this to entertain humans. Please introduce a date from which this will be outlawed will be prohibited.

There should also be a prohibition on the use of captive dolphins for entertainment. In the wild dolphins may swim up to 100km a day, but in captivity they are in a swimming pool and going crazy. This is simply not ok and must be prohibited asap. If people want to see dolphins they can go to places like Tin Can Bay where a a pod of dolphins comes in to the bay by choice. It is highly regulated and humans are not allowed to touch them and it is up to the dolphins if they want to come into the Bay or not.