

Submission
No 235

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

Name: Tony Ratcliffe

Date Received: 2 January 2020

I come from a family of NZ FUNERAL DIRECTORS ,,,,,I left my Parents in TAUMARUNUI when I was just 15 years old and pursued a dream to work for WIRTHS CIRCUS , I am 74 years old and have spent a life time caring for animals in both circuses and zoos , CIRCUSES are a well established authority on handling , care , welfare and training of all different species of animals , I also had a period with a Marineland training and managing DOLPHINS , I DO NOT support Marinelands , and had one closed down because of the manner in which they captured and cared for DOLPHINS , I don't condone any form of cruelty . I have handled over 40 elephants in my era and have the distinction of handling and training the AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANT , I lived with my elephant for over 40 years . I am an advocate for good practise in ANIMAL WELFARE , I do believe circuses are leaders in Animal welfare , they are in front of the public eye daily , it is my opinion they lead in ANIMAL WELFARE , I would be willing to stand in front of an ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE and give a full address and insight into animal welfare and circuses , I respect what you stand for and are prepared to give my time and experience to help you derive at a decision in support of circuses and their great feelings and work they do in support of all the animals they care forGood luck in deriving at a sensible decision for circuses to display animals in a very caring mannerthankYOURS
SINCERELY TONY RATCLIFFEauthor of the ELEPHANTMAN and retired owner of WHIRLING BROS CIRCUS .