

Submission
No 239

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

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We are bombarded with negatives about the circus to a point of brainwashing. The goal of animal rights advocates is to end all animal ownership. For just a moment replace dog or horse with elephant and tiger and you will see little difference.... all are owned, all are trained, all are cared for by a human. You teach a dog to sit as you do an elephant.. for a reward. You house them outside of their natural environment, you control what they eat, where they sleep, how they spend their time. It is considered slavery by the animal rights groups and they will not stop at just ending the circus.

We, as a society, used to love the opportunity to connect to these wild magnificent beasts. It anchored us to their wild counterparts in our hearts and minds generating donations and actions towards their well being. In large part, this love and connection built through the zoos and circus has been its doom. Those funds have been redirected to ending all animal ownership rather than caring from them.

It isn't popular in this rabid climate of AR to take a stand for the circus but I beg you to please do so. You see I was that small child who fell deeply in love with these incredible beasts while sitting on a bench under a big tent watching in awe as I became a part of their world. Just like millions of other people who found that connection under a big top, I have donated to and advocated for these and other animals. My fear is many of those funds were stolen by the animal rights groups to end these connections for future generations rather than use these donations as intended - to insure and help those in the wild.. those without the protection of the caretakers who love them.

I trusted that with the funding from myself and millions of others the wild siblings of these circus animals would be protected, safe from harm and yet today they are at even greater risk than they have ever been in history. Where did all that money go? I believe most of it is being used to end not only the circus but all connections to domestic animals. Just listen to their words, see where they are spending the precious donations that were entrusted to them. Rather than end the circus, zoos, and my future ability to own a pet please hold these groups accountable to the public. Many promises have been made and broken, they have deceived all of us. Please understand the objective of the animal rights movement and stop it now - I beg you. I love animals and want them in my life - we all do with little exception. Please protect the animal human bond and public funds.. protect them and us before it is too late. Thank you
- Linda Minten, Founder of Farmers to Felons and Protect Animal Ownership.