

Submission
No 246

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

Name: Dante Ashton
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Hi,

I am writing this email in hopes of helping the Australian circus industry.

I'm a 7th generation circus performer, so growing up I was surrounded by animals and they are my family. I know first hand how well cared for these animals are, I work with these animals every single day of my life.

We do what we do best with our animals right by our side, we come from generations of lion tamers and horse back riders. We know how well cared for these animals are, we take pride in the welfare of our animals and it kills us every single day that people are so closed minded that they don't want to know the truth. We live in a world where people think that their opinions are facts.

Circuses are open books, we invite every single person to come and see our animals for themselves, to see how well cared for they are, see the way they are trained and the way they are loved.

Circus is all about educating people on how animals in the circus are looked after, to show that animals can live happy and healthy lives whilst in captivity.

The truth is, there are thousands and thousands of people who support and love real traditional circus, it is not dying. Our animals are our lives, just like your pet dog is yours. They are our whole reason for doing what we do. The exotic animals in the circuses across this country are the most well looked after animals I have seen in my whole life of circus.

Soon there will be no animals left in the wild, and zoos and circuses are the ones keeping these animals alive for generations to see and learn about. The difference between wild animals and ones in captivity is that they form a human-animal bond that is unbreakable and that's something that shouldn't be taken away. These animals love us just as much as we love them.

Kind regards,
Dante