

Submission  
No 247

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

**Name:** Rikki Ashton  
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Dear NSW parliament

I would like to voice my opinion on the current legislation against the breeding and show casing of animals in marine parks, zoos and Circuses.

Should exotic Animals be in circuses?

In my well informed and greatly researched opinion I believe that all animals should be in Australian circuses as they are simply just not abused, as an animal lover, I am against animal abuse much like most good well run circuses, good well run zoos and good well run marine parks, what they are doing is not abuse the animals are cared for like kings and are loved by all. Studies show that as long as the animals individual needs are kept e.g. food, water, area to play ect (all of which are are met and exceeded by australian circuses we know this as the RSPCA have throughly inspected Aussie circuses) they are happy. Salivary cortisol tests (salivary cortisol tests measure the stress levels on animals) were carried out on Martin Lacey Jrs lions (Martin Lacey is the owner of circus krone and has recently won awards for the care of his lions) during travel and the results came back that there was no stress for the animals. In Australia stardust circus has received an A rating from the NSW government for the care and welfare of there animals. In summary exotic animals should be in Australian circuses as they are cared for loved and most of all not abused.

Should the breeding of animals in circuses and marine parks continue?

I believe that the breeding of animals in circuses and marine parks should continue as I believe that without the continuity of breeding in captivity we may see no future of the animals. There is no need to stop as its adding numbers to the falling population.

Does the current legislation adequately protect the welfare of animals?

The answer is yes it does and there is not much else to say but it more then enough does.

Thank you for taking time to read this I do hope you understand that these animal rights activists are pushing false and misleading information and I trust you will take the people who devote their lives to these animals well into consideration.

Thank you kindly -Rikki