

Submission
No 264

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

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NSW INQUIRY INTO THE
EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC
ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES



Introduction

I am writing to voice my support for the use of exotic animals in circuses here in Australia, and also share my knowledge and education on the topic, with you. My name is Jessie Daley, I have been a performer with 5 different circuses with animals here in Australia, as well as held a career as a zookeeper in different facilities, managing exotic species such as Lions & monkeys. I currently hold a certificate 3 in Captive Animal Management, and am obtaining a Certificate 5 in captive Animal Management in 2020. I am also head of an online group (SUPPORTING CIRCUSES WITH PERFORMING ANIMALS) or (SCWPA), an online following of over 2,000 members made up of not only circus personnel, but a large majority being members of the public. We use this page to educate the general public on the life of circus animals, their training, and their welfare. We also work tirelessly to dispel the lies, rumours and propaganda the "animal rights community" level at circuses, under the false pretence of abuse and neglect.

Animal Rights Ideology

I feel it is important to first distinguish between the concept of Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: below is an excerpt from the Eronis Circus Website, Dedicated to educating the public on animals in circuses here in Australia.

"As you may already be aware, there is some opposition toward the use of animals in circuses, by vocal "Animal Rights groups". Firstly, one must be aware that there are huge fundamental differences between the concepts of "Animal Welfare" and "Animal Rights". We wholeheartedly support Animal Welfare but are opposed to Animal Rights, which is otherwise known as "Animal Liberation".

- Animal Welfare is a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and when necessary, humane euthanasia.

- Animal Rights is a radical philosophical view that animals have rights similar or the same as humans.

True Animal Rights proponents believe that humans do not have the right to use animals in any way, shape or form.

There is extensive literature from Animal Rights figures outlining an agenda which would eventually ban all use of animals by humans, including pets.

Their aim is to bring about a completely vegan society with no interaction with animals whatsoever, to phase out the existence of domestic animals (which they consider "slaves") and to bring about what we call "Animal Apartheid".

To achieve this extremist goal, for a number of years, animal rights groups have harassed circus people with unfounded claims of animal exploitation, cruelty and abuse. Using flawed information, dated/staged imagery, prejudice and often complete fabrications of the truth, these groups attempt to manipulate public opinion toward their agenda. Animal rights activists are firmly against ALL animals in ALL circuses, no matter how well they are treated"

We are well aware of the Impact extremist Vegan animal rights groups are having on our animal Agriculture industry here in Australia, i think it is important to understand the same people who are breaking into farms, terrorising farming families, damaging and vandalising farming equipment, and also stealing livestock, are the same individuals and groups attacking circuses here in Australia.

we see day in day out the lies and incorrect stereotypes used by these people against our farmers, this is the same injustice being used against circuses who choose to display animals in their performances.

Circuses such as the Stardust Circus, have their vehicles vandalised, promotional Banners and signs Ripped down and destroyed by these extremist vegan vigilantes, the same extremists who are now calling for a ban on circuses.

Circuses here in Australia work tirelessly to educate the public on their animals, holding animal training displays free to the public, tours of their facilities and a chance to see how these animals live outside of the show, but it seems at times they are drowned out by this extremist vocal minority.

Before I begin I must Inform you, Under the instruction of **Emma Hurst**, the link to this submission has been shared online throughout the animal rights community, in not only Australia, **but the world.**

This submission platform for this enquiry has been shared in animal rights groups in the **United states of America, Canada, South Africa, South America** and many more countries. This has been done to make it seem the majority of the AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC want to see a ban on circuses, when in fact the submissions have been tainted by animal rights supporters from across the globe. one of the posts from a group in the USA read, "**come on guys, our friends in Australia need help, use this online submission form to tell the law makers in Australia you don't believe animals should be in circuses**" it then goes on to read "**Make sure you say you're an Australian citizen living in the state of NSW, otherwise our submissions won't count**".

I Can Provide evidence to this upon request, as this is well documented.



Should Exotic Animals Still Be used In Marine Parks and Circuses ?^a

- Firstly I Must acknowledge this as much about Exotic Animals As it is Domesticated animals, as they are both on the agenda of Animal Rights Groups Such as the Animal Justice Party, and if exotic Animals Are banned they will come after Domesticated animals next, just like the AJP wish to ban zoos here in Australia.

- personally i think those people who say animals shouldn't be kept in marine parks, zoos or circuses forget about the incredible impact these facilities have on people, but more specifically on children.

when a child goes and visits a circus or marine park and they have an animal sitting right in front of them, that child now has a perception of animals that he or she never had before. And with that perception they create an interest in protecting and preserving those animals, and then with that interest they then go out and then they pick up their rubbish at the beach, or they want to go then study biology, or they want to then go do conservation, and that would have never happened if they didn't have the experience that is only available through a zoo, circus or marine park. Now believers of the Animal Rights ideology will argue this isn't the case, or that children can learn just as much from books, but then I remember, **I was that child**. I was 8 yrs old when I went to the circus with my mother, I still remember I saw a enormous male lion, cuddle up to his trainer, and the pure love and bond that I saw made me instantly say "I want to do that", flash forward 8 years I'm studying biology in High school, another 4 years I'm working in a circus alongside their amazing animal trainers learning hands on the love, care, patience and dedication it takes to work with these animals, 2 years later I'm working in a zoo managing a collection of over 300+ animals. they can argue all they like that circuses serve no educational purpose or that they are "outdated" but I'm not the only child who was inspired by a circus to take up a career caring for these animals, nor will I be the last.

Dr Marthe Kiley-Worthington, one of the worlds foremost animal behaviour experts, was commissioned by the RSPCA and UFAW (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) to carry out an independent, scientific study of circus animals, in comparison with animals in zoos and in the wild. The results of her 18 month investigation are available here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU71z8Ej5EM>

http://the-shg.org/Kiley_Worthington/index.htm

Do animals in circuses and zoos suffer psychological ill-health?

Is handling and training cruel?

Does transportation cause stress?

After 3000 hours of scientific observation of animals and many visits to circuses and zoos, including training, travel and performance, Dr Kiley-Worthington concludes that, while there are improvements that must be made, circuses do not by their nature cause suffering and distress in animals. She states, "On balance, I do not think that the animals best interests are necessarily served by money and activities diverted to try and ban circuses and zoos either locally or nationally. What is much more important is to continue to encourage the zoos and circuses to improve their animal welfare along the lines recommended."

Arguing against animals and people having no contact (Animal apartheid), Dr Kiley-Worthington looks towards a symbiotic animal management system in circuses, zoos and elsewhere, so groups of animals and people can live and work together, respecting each others needs but each gaining from the relationships - CHIRONS WORLD.

MARTHE KILEY-WORTHINGTON, B.Sc., D.Phil., was one of the first ethologists to go and live with and study wild African animals, and to recognise behavioural problems of captive and domestic animals. She has done research and taught at the Universities of Makerere, Sussex, Pretoria and Edinburgh. Her work includes studies of many large mammals, animal welfare and training. Since 1971, she has been an Animal Behaviour consultant, and she also runs experimental Eco- farms, currently in Devon. She has three sons and is the author of five books and numerous scientific papers.



Does the current legislation/ Acts adequately protect the welfare of animals?

- Circuses in NSW are Already licensed and audited annually under the Department of Primary Industries DPI.

there is also a code of practise in NSW, which all circuses proudly adhere to:

*STANDARDS FOR CIRCUS ANIMALS IN AUSTRALIA

These are the official codes and standards that circuses in Australia have to abide by. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/121549/Exhibited-Animals-Standards-For-Exhibiting-Circus-Animals-in-New-South-Wales-February-2019.pdf

These Standards have been primarily developed to ensure the welfare of exhibited animals but cover a range of areas including:

- a) psychological and physical animal welfare;
- b) educational value of exhibits;
- c) public safety;
- d) requirements for new or existing exhibits

An exert from Adam St James Ringmaster of the Stardust Circus,

“The problem is that there is a lot of information put out to the public that is not relevant to Australia,” he said.

“Australia has the strictest regulations when it comes to keeping circus animals out of any country in the world.

“We are heavily policed in this country. The majority of the places we go, we get inspected in almost every town and the field inspectors from the RSPCA have never found any problem with our animals, and have, in fact, always commended us on the condition of our animals and their living quarters.”

He said Australia also has a very strict code of practice for keeping animals in a circus, which was put together by multiple organisations.

Stardust Circus’s animal enclosures exceed the size dictated by the code, animals have access to water and there is shade provided.

In the lion enclosure, the six lions have access to their trailer, which is air conditioned or heated depending on the season.

When it comes to training, Stardust uses positive reinforcement, which involves food as a reward, while animals that become too old to perform are retired to a property in Sydney.

Mr St James said Stardust is always happy to speak to people with any concerns.

"Don't believe everything you hear; come down and see for yourself," he said.

Personally I feel these standards are a step in the right direction. They are admired and looked up to in other countries and I feel if we could, instead of banning circuses, work with them, by using these standards and implementing them nationwide, Australia could continue to lead the way in Animal Welfare.

I Feel this isn't an issue of how the circuses care for their animals, but, how the public THINKS they care for our animals, so any new legislation should put their minds at ease, and ensure them that circuses are well monitored and regulated.

I would like to see some federal legislation to govern the use of animals in circuses.

FURTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Circus Lion Stress test:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eIsbOchpxA>

Marine Mammal Trainers Respond to Backlash

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX4GRC6Lo7w>

*ASTLEY'S LEGACY - ANIMAL CIRCUS FACTS AND FICTION

<http://circusthetruth.blogspot.com.au/>

*ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES AND ZOOS

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