

Ringling: Our captive breeding program is "essential to the survival of the Asian elephant species."

Reality: Ringling rears a herd of captive elephants for its own profit. Ringling was forced to set up a captive breeding facility after new laws required them to stop importing elephants captured in their own territories. The elephants born into the circus are destined for a life of captivity and will never be freed. Moreover, in the last decade four baby elephants bred by Ringling have also been killed while at Ringling. Also, white tigers are the result of inbreeding; they are unnatural and do not help free-living tigers.

Ringling: Elephants get pedicures.

Reality: Captive elephants require foot trimming. Free-living elephants naturally wear down their continuously-growing soles, but denied freedom of movement, captive elephants face serious foot problems resulting from spending lifetimes on concrete and standing in their own excrement.

Ringling: Elephants get baths.

Reality: The elephants get hosed down and have no access to water or mud, whereas free-living elephants spend several hours a day in rivers or pools.

Ringling: "Animals are an essential part of the circus tradition at Ringling Bros."

Reality: Animal acts can end today. Ringling did away with big cat acts from 1925-29 in response to public pressure. ("Wild Animal Acts Barred from Circus," *Christian*

Science Monitor, 31 March 1925) Sanctuaries already exist that can take in the animals. Countless human-only circuses currently dazzle audiences, including here in Pittsburgh. You can help end the lifetime imprisonment of animals for our amusement by creating a new tradition: attend only animal-free circuses.

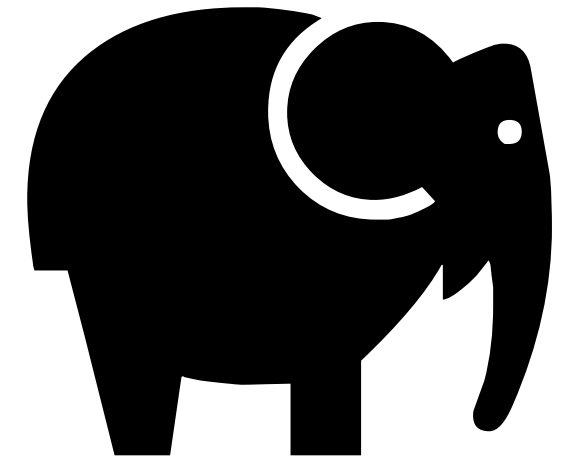
What you can do

- **Pledge** to attend only animal-free circuses. Sign up at www.animalfreedom.info
- **Contact Voices for Animals** for more ways to get involved. www.vfa-online.org, 1-877-321-4VFA
- **Attend The Candy Butchers**, an animal-free circus, Nov 7-10, New Hazlett Theater, www.pgharts.org, 412.456.6666
- **Contact Ringling** and let them know you won't be back until they get rid of animal acts. Ringling creates new shows each year, so tell them, next year, make it animal-free!
- **Check out** local kid & animal-friendly entertainment:
 - **Zany Umbrella Circus**, Pittsburgh's own animal-free circus! 412.390.4054, www.zanyumbrellacircus.com
 - **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** Visit a special exhibit, Circus for Social Change www.pittsburghkids.org, 412.322.5058
 - **Center for Creative Play** www.cfc.org, 412.371.1668
 - **Pittsburgh International Children's Theater** www.pghkids.org, 412.321.5520
 - **Gemini Theater Company** www.geminitheater.org, 412.243.6464

Want to know more? Contact us!

- **AnimalFreedom** www.animalfreedom.info • 412-421-4586
- **Voices for Animals of Western PA** www.vfa-online.org • 1-877-321-4VFA

Thank you



for caring about animals!

Most people oppose the exploitation of animals. Knowing this, Ringling attempts to reassure potential patrons that animals in circuses are not being harmed. But since Ringling depends on filling arenas, they'll say anything to sell a ticket. The end result is that caring people get tricked into hurting animals through their ticket purchase.

You've heard Ringling's assurances, now find out what they *didn't* tell you...

Ringling "cares for animals 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

Reality: Animals are held in captivity against their will 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For spectators, the circus comes once a year, but the animals never get a day off. They are constantly chained or in cages, performing night after night and then loaded onto a train, only to repeat the cycle day in and day out for most of the rest of their lives. Dr. Daphne Shelbrick D.V.M., a leading authority who has worked with elephants for 50 years, concludes: "No captive situation, however attractive it may appear to a human, can possibly be adequate for the needs of an elephant in terms of space."

Not surprisingly, animals regularly resist their exploitation by escaping or injuring their handlers. Elephant handling is the most dangerous profession in the nation--three times more hazardous than coal mining. Officer Blayne Doyle, who had to shoot 47 rounds into Janet, an elephant who charged out of a circus arena, noted: "I think these elephants are trying to tell us that zoos and circuses are not what God created them for. But we have not been listening." ("Elephants Pose Giant Dangers" *LA Times* 11 Oct. 1994)

Ringling: If you are concerned about how our animals are treated you "should just go and look at our animals."

Reality: The animals in Ringling exhibit neurotic behavior. When they are not performing, animals can be seen exhibiting "stereotypic" repetitive behavior. For example, we documented a Ringling elephant who repeatedly swayed

back and forth, swung her leg, then used her trunk to pick up and drop a chain tied to her front leg. Joyce Poole, a renowned observer of free-living elephants, notes, "In over 34,000 sightings of groups containing 1 to 550 elephants, not one elephant has been seen swaying rhythmically back and forth or showing other neurotic behavior ultimately caused by lack of space."

Ringling: Trainers and animals have a "wonderful relationship" and the animals are taught through "repetition and reward."

Reality: Ringling thinks that if they repeat "repetition and reward" enough times, people might start to believe it. But if you do, there's a bridge in Brooklyn we'd like to sell you. Tigers do not choose to run away with the circus and perform tricks – you'll probably observe them resisting performing the act. Ample video footage and sworn whistleblower testimony document how Ringling employees beat animals.

Ringling: Tricks are "natural behaviors."

Reality: Captive animals are denied the ability to express their natural behaviors such as having extended social groups and living on large territories. Everyone knows cats do not naturally walk on balls or swing from ropes. Tigers are solitary animals who should not be forced to live together in cramped cages. Realizing that it is not possible to meet elephants' needs in captivity, the Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, Bronx, Alaska, and other zoos have increasingly decided to end or phase out keeping elephants.

Ringling: We "help you appreciate the need to protect wildlife for future generations."

Reality: Circuses teach children that animals are things to be exploited for profit. Wildlife ecologist Winifred Kiiru notes, "Children across Africa have never seen elephants. Yet people in the Western world believe that it is their right to see elephants, no matter what the cost to the elephant." (*The NewStandard*, 6 Mar. 2006) It is this same basic attitude of human superiority and entitlement to all planetary resources that is helping to drive environmental harm in the first place.

Ringling: "When you have met an [elephant's] biological needs, what more can you do?"

Reality: Elephants are complex social beings, not machines. The *New York Times Magazine* ("An Elephant Crackup?" Oct. 8, 2006) detailed how elephants are "profoundly social creatures" who maintain relationships over 70 years and visit the graves of the dead they have buried. Through habitat loss, poaching, and systematic killing by governments, the "fabric of elephant society" has been frayed and elephants now "exhibit behavior typically associated with post-traumatic stress disorder and other trauma-related disorders in humans." Similarly, the circus environment cannot provide for normal social groupings, which includes things like young elephants not leaving their mothers' side for eight years, and the presence of male elephants, who are too dangerous to use in circuses.