



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting us about traveling animal shows. Conditions for animals used in these displays are often unimaginably horrid.

Treated as nothing more than equipment, animals used by these kinds of exhibitors are packed and unpacked in an endless string of exhibitions. Forced to endure large and often boisterous crowds, the animals live in a perpetual state of discomfort, frustration, and fear. The animals' most basic needs, including rest, food, and water, are often neglected in favor of making money.

Every state in the U.S. has laws prohibiting the cruel treatment of animals. The definition of cruelty varies slightly from place to place, but in general, an animal must be provided with food, water, and shelter and cannot be mistreated. Trust your instincts; if you see an animal in distress, don't hesitate to take action. Anyone can file a cruelty-to-animals complaint and ask for a humane officer to check on an animal. In larger towns and cities, look in the blue pages of your telephone book for the number of the animal control department, humane society, or SPCA. In rural areas without an animal-protection department, the county sheriff usually enforces the state's anti-cruelty statutes.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) enforces the federal Animal Welfare Act, which offers some protection for animals used in exhibitions, such as circuses, zoos, and traveling shows. The USDA's authority does not supersede the local agency's authority to investigate or file charges, although local humane offices can be reluctant to get involved in cases involving exotic animals. Remember, you have the right to insist that local authorities investigate your complaint. To back up your report, it's smart to have a copy of your state's anti-cruelty statutes on hand. Go to www.Animal-Law.org/statutes/ or your local library to get a copy of your state's laws.

You will find loads of information in this pack to assist you in your campaigns. Thank you for your efforts and for all that you do for animals. As always, if you need assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Connor
Animals in Entertainment Caseworker
Captive Animals & Entertainment Issues Department

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS