

Submitter: Gerald Janes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

I am in support of this bill because Circus animals have the right to be protected and treated humanely under the Animal Welfare Act.

Tigers naturally fear fire, but they are still forced to jump through fire hoops in some circuses and have been burned while doing so.

Circuses are repeatedly cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act for trailers that have splintering wood and sharp, protruding metal pieces near animals' cages.

Trainers use whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods, bullhooks and other painful tools of the trade to force animals to perform.

In more than 35 dangerous incidents since 2000, elephants have bolted from circuses, run amok through streets, crashed into buildings, attacked members of the public, and killed and injured handlers.

Every major circus that uses animals has been cited for violating the minimal standards of care set by the United States Animal Welfare (AWA).

11 months a year they travel over long distances in box cars with no climate control; sleeping, eating, and defecating in the same cage.

Virtually 96% of a circus animal's life is spent in chains or cages.

Since 1990, there have been more than 123 documented attacks on humans by captive large cats in the United States, 13 of which resulted in fatal injuries.

During the off-season, animals used in circuses may be housed in small traveling crates. Such confinement has harmful psychological effects on them. These effects are often indicated by unnatural behavior such as repeated swaying, and pacing.

Lack of exercise and long hours standing on hard surfaces are major contributors to foot infections and arthritis, the leading causes of death among captive elephants.