

Submitter: Jessica Warren
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

Elephants are made to stand on one leg and spin in circles – often while standing on top of small stools. These are actions elephants have never been observed carrying out in the wild precisely because they cause long-term damage to the animals' physiology.

It is well documented that elephants are forced to perform these actions by being beaten with bullhooks, while young elephants are savagely constrained and beaten in a process known as “the crush”, which breaks their spirit and forces them to comply.

Big cats are popular in the circus, but many have their teeth and claws removed rendering them harmless to their abusers. They are “trained” with whips which teach them to fear the ringmaster and not attack.

These actions are so unnatural that no animal can be encouraged or instructed to carry them out – they must be forced. Initially this is done with violence, then with the promise of food. As a result, many circus animals are also underfed to keep them hungry and eager to please.

Please pass this bill.