

Submitter: Andrea Kozil
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

Dear Committee Members,

I am here today to ask you to support HB 3214. In 2018 I worked with Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran to unanimously pass an ordinance to ban all traveling animal acts throughout Multnomah County. We closely partnered with the then director of Multnomah County Animal Services, Jackie Rose. She was a fierce supporter of the bill in part because her agency would receive calls with animal welfare concerns when tigers were exploited for photo-ops at the river front festivals, or circuses traveled through with abused and neglected animals. The county made no money at all when circuses or traveling shows came through – these were self-contained markets and any money made left the county when the show left town – yet because of the animal welfare problems there was a fiscal impact on her agency.

Animal used in circuses and traveling shows are trained with pain and the fear of punishment, caged and chained in trucks and trailers, forced to endure months of grueling travel and bullied to perform silly tricks. Forcing animals to travel for monetary profit will always result in stress, neglect, or abuse.

Government documents confirm that wild animal shows and displays all too often have miserable records of animal care and commonly fail to comply with animal protection laws.

Many animals also pose a public health and safety risk. Wild animals used in live entertainment have run amok, attacked trainers, and injured members of the public. Local law enforcement and animal control have no training or equipment to handle dangerous wild animals, especially in the event of an animal escape.

Oregon should join the growing movement to ban entertainment that exploits animals. It's not rocket science to know that these animals suffer. Please do the right thing, please vote in favor of HB 3214.