

From: Customer Help

Sent: 05 January 2017 14:17

To: CompanionAnimalWelfare

Subject: You have been forwarded an enquiry from the First Point of Contact Centre.

Enquiry:

Performing Animals

Dear Sirs

I see that Ms Rona Brown and Mr Douglas McPherson are mainly involved with the promotion of wild animals for circus. Ms Brown states she has met with the Welsh Assembly on this matter. In brief; my family have been established circus artistes - three generations, my personal family have been booking agents for acts, show promoters (nationwide) for over 30 years, including tours of Wales- we are now retired. This issue of wild animals in circus (in our view) is most destructive for the image of circus as a whole and therefore the welfare of circus acts and artistes who number in the hundreds (never referred to by the above persons and their supporters).

I enclose for your perusal the above persons social media publications over the past few days following meetings with the Welsh Assembly. The true facts are not placed by them.

I have read your online link about animals in entertainments but apart from the words 'film industry' the link contains over 50 pages about animals in circus when the number in Britain is less than 20. This is not helpful to circus artistes and the above two persons are clearly not interested in that issue. You may recall that the proprietor, Gerry Cottle, removed all wild animals 30 years ago and said the issue was promoted by (quote) 'dinosaurs'.

My fear or suspicion. I think the whole issue to target the name circus, that is generally managed well enough for the few animals involved (no wild caged animals or elephants), is being used by this 'must have wild animals in circus' group to take attention from the film industry that is huge. It is likely that British trainers (including Ms Brown) supply wild animals but across the world I fail to see how it can be controlled. You mention so many countries who have banned performing wild even domestic animals from circus but, no mention of the film industry world wide whatsoever. Who is controlling that? Animals used and transported to isolated locations.

The easiest option would be, to remove all wild animals from British circus and then concentrate on other areas. Clearly the paying public are not bothered any more about wild animals in performance. I strongly suggest and favour, the allowance of equestrian and domestic animals, with the strong enforcement of the 1925 Performing Animals Act to mean, rigid licensing of all trainers presenter and keepers (annually) and the removal of such a license if the person is proven unsuitable. This was the 1925 Act according to the enclosed copy as published in The Stage newspaper 1950. It applied to any situation where animals were presented - currently, television, films, circus, Variety, clubs, galas - anywhere the public are involved.

Most grateful for you views (facts) concerning the cinematographic area.

Yours sincerely

Tom Sandow (past Safehaven Entertainments)

Curent online Safehaven International Directory.

<http://www.sandowsafe.co.uk/2016/12/30/rona-brown-and-animals-in-films/>

Additional Instructions:
Customer:

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Enquiry Number:
HR-511929-Q6D0
Enquiry Date:
05/01/2017 14:15