

ANIMALS IN INDIAN CIRCUSES

A PETA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS AUTHORISED BY THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

- Dr Manilal Valliyate, Co-opted Member, Animal Welfare Board of India; Director of Veterinary Affairs, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India
- Dr Naresh Chandra Upreti, Honorary Animal Welfare Officer, Animal Welfare Board of India; Programme Manager, Animal Rahat
- Sunil Havaladar, Honorary Animal Welfare Officer, Animal Welfare Board of India; Senior Animal Welfare Officer, Animal Rahat
- Dr Chetan Yadav, Clinical Quality Assurance Manager, Animal Rahat

INSPECTION PERIOD

November 2012 to July 2013

CIRCUSES INSPECTED

- Amar Circus (when performing in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- Gemini Circus (when performing in Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- Great Bombay Circus (when performing in Pitampura, New Delhi)
- Great Champion Circus (when performing in Vasai, Mumbai)
- Great Golden Circus (when performing in Jamnagar, Gujarat)
- Jamuna Circus (when performing in Warangal and Khammam, Andhra Pradesh)
- Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) (when performing in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and Ranebennur, Karnataka)

- Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) (when performing in Channarayapatna, Karnataka)
- Kohinoor Circus (when performing in Ramganj, West Bengal)
- Metro Circus (when performing in Arni, Tamil Nadu)
- Moonlight Circus (when performing in Dahanu, Maharashtra)
- Rajkamal Circus (when performing in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala)
- Rambo Circus (when performing in Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra)
- SAM Circus (when performing in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh)
- The Great Prabhat Circus (when performing in Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka)
- The Great Royal Circus (when performing in Bandra, Mumbai, Maharashtra)

This report also includes input from inspections conducted by the following Honorary Animal Welfare Officers at the Jamuna Circus, with their findings submitted to the inspection team:

- T Ramesh Babu, Honorary Animal Welfare Officer
- Dr T Narasimhulu, Deputy Director, Veterinary PolyClinic, Khammam
- Dr Kiran Kumar, Assistant Director, Veterinary PolyClinic, Khammam

A. INTRODUCTION

The AWBI authorised a team from PETA India and Animal Rahat to inspect circuses in India in order to gain an understanding of the living conditions of animals used in circuses. Of the 20-plus circuses registered with the Animal Welfare Board of India, 16 were inspected (more than 50 per cent of the registered circuses). The observations in this report therefore substantially represent the state of affairs in circuses in India. The cruelty and violations of law witnessed and documented are pervasive and entrenched, and they occur routinely in Indian circuses.

Among the litany of abuses, it must be noted that had the Central Zoo Authority's (CZA) 2009 ban on keeping elephants in zoos been implemented, the suffering that circuses inflict upon our national heritage animal would have been eliminated, as circuses are classified under zoos collections per The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Relevant acts, rules, notifications and guidelines for circuses include the following:

- CZA circular banning elephants in zoos (dated 7 November 2009)
- Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests' Project Elephant via letter number 9-5/2003 (dated 8 January 2008)
- Guidelines of captive-elephant management issued by the Indian government, as outlined by Tamil Nadu's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (dated 20 September 2012)

- Licensing of Farriers Rules, 1965
- Performing Animal (Registration) Rules, 2001
- Performing Animals Rules, 1973
- Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009
- The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002
- Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001
- Wild Life Stock Rules 2003

B. INSPECTION FINDINGS

1. Use of Unregistered Animals

At all of the circuses that were inspected, animals not registered with the AWBI were blatantly exhibited or forced to perform. As per the law, every animal to be exhibited or to be used to perform in a circus must be registered with the AWBI. The registered animals are listed in the Certificate of Registration that is issued to a circus by the AWBI. Exhibition or performance of any animal not registered with the AWBI (ie, not listed in the Certificate of Registration) is a violation of the Performing Animal (Registration) Rules, 2001.

When inspecting the circuses' documents, it became clear that numerous animals were being kept captive in cages or chains, exhibited, forced to perform tricks and otherwise exploited without the AWBI's permission. Unregistered animals discovered during the inspection of the 16 circuses include elephants, horses, mules, ponies, dogs, Persian cats, sheep, goats, goldfish and birds

such as emus, macaws, African grey parrots, cockatoos, green parrots, geese, pelicans and ducks. The Kohinoor Circus had seven unregistered goats, and the Moonlight Circus had 22. Apart from being exhibited illegally, unregistered animals are trained and forced to perform without the AWBI's consent. The practice of illegally using unregistered animals for performances is rampant in Indian circuses.

In some circuses, unregistered animals are not mentioned in records and registers, including species registers, health registers, vaccination registers, feeding registers, etc. Required records, such as for veterinary care, are not maintained for these unregistered animals in most circuses. Some circuses transport their unregistered animals without the required health assessments and permissions. This is an apparent violation of the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001.

One of the most serious offences uncovered during the inspections was the practice of keeping elephants not registered with the AWBI

Photo 1:
Three elephants exhibited in Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) in Ranebennur, Karnataka, despite the registration of the elephants having been withdrawn by the AWBI



and forcing them to perform. On 20 June 2013, the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) was found to be exhibiting five elephants and forcing them to perform acts in three shows daily in Ranebennur, Karnataka, despite the registration of all seven of the circus's elephants having been withdrawn by the AWBI on 19 March 2013. (The withdrawn registration includes the registration of the two elephants kept by Unit 2 of the Jumbo Circus.) The letter from the AWBI sent to the Jumbo Circus clearly stated, "You are hereby directed ... not to exhibit the elephants". Additionally, the CZA, in its letter number 22-66/2004-CZA(474)(Vol I)(M)/2228 (dated 21 February 2013), stated that it had refused to renew its recognition of the "captive animal facility" as a "zoo" until Jumbo Circus put all its elephants in one unit instead of splitting them between two.

At the Moonlight Circus, the inspection team learnt that an elephant calf with the circus named Suman had not been registered with the AWBI, even though the circus was exhibiting the animal. The unregistered calf was born on 27 September 2011; therefore, as of the time of the inspection, the calf had not been



Photo 2:
The Moonlight Circus housed 22 unregistered goats.

Photo 3:
The Moonlight
Circus' calf Suman
was not registered
with the AWBI.



registered with the AWBI for a period of one year and three months.

The Gemini Circus has six elephants, but according to the AWBI's records, which are up to date as of 30 November 2011, only four are registered.

Animals born in circuses are commonly never registered with the AWBI. For example, dog breeding occurred in the majority of the circuses with dogs, yet no circus acquired breeding permission from the AWBI. The inspection team also found a newborn foal in the Rajkamal Circus.

2. Animals Forced to Perform Unregistered Tricks

Annexure I of the registration certificate that the AWBI issues to circuses lists the general nature of planned performances involving animals, including what the animals will perform, the number of animals participating in the acts and the duration of the acts. Circuses can only showcase acts listed in Annexure I of their AWBI



Photo 4:
A dog is forced to
jump through rings
set on fire in Jamuna
Circus despite such
acts being against
the law.

registration certificates. Throughout the inspection, the team documented animals performing acts that were not registered. Forcing animals to perform such acts is a violation of the Performing Animals Rules, 1973.

During the inspections, it was discovered that numerous circuses were exploiting elephants by making them perform tricks without the AWBI's consent. With the sole exception of the Great Champion Circus, **every circus inspected forced animals to perform unregistered tricks.**



Photo 5:
An elephant is
forced perform
stand one foot on a
podium – the act is
not registered by The
Great Prabhath Circus.

In all the unregistered performances, animals were forced to perform unnatural, dangerous tricks. One frequently unregistered act involves elephants being forced to climb and balance on a circular podium while an acrobat performs on the pachyderm's back or while suspended from the animal's trunk. In the Amar Circus, an elephant was forced to balance herself on one foot while perched on a circular podium, and in the Jamuna Circus, an elephant was forced to stand on her hind legs (forelimbs suspended in the air) on a tiny podium while an acrobat sat on the pachyderm's back.

In both The Great Prabhath Circus and the Jamuna Circus, clearly reluctant dogs were dragged by trainers and repeatedly forced to jump through metal hoops that had been set on fire. The Great Royal Circus and the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) were found to be exhibiting a goldfish swallowing act, wherein a male circus



Photo 6: An elephant with the Rambo Circus is forced to perform a trick not registered by the circus with the AWBI.



Photo 7: An elephant is forced to perform an unregistered act in the Jamuna Circus.

performer swallowed goldfish, held the fish in his stomach for several seconds and then regurgitated them back into a jug of water. In one instance at The Great Royal Circus, the performer regurgitated the goldfish onto the floor.

Animals were dragged, poked and hit with sticks and ankuses to force them into performing these unregistered, unnatural tricks, which go against the animals' basic instincts. This apparently violates the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which state that "the owner shall train an animal as a performing animal to perform an act in accordance with its basic natural instinct." Using animals in additional unregistered acts also leaves them vulnerable to fatigue.

3. Physical Abuse of Animals

Physical threats, use of weapons or blatant physical abuse was observed and documented in all the circuses with performing animals. Animals were filmed being prodded, hit and smacked with metal sticks during performances. Investigators filmed dogs who were forced to perform by workers wielding wooden and metal sticks and bare hands; camels who were hit with whips and long, thick wooden sticks; horses lashed with thick rope whips; birds prodded with metal sticks and elephants hit, poked and dragged with pointed ankuses. Animals were videotaped and photographed being hit, poked and prodded both inside the ring and in their respective sheds.

At the Rajkamal Circus, the inspection team saw the dogs' caretaker whack a Pomeranian with all his strength using his bare

hand because the dog got into a scuffle with another dog. At the Jamuna Circus, a caretaker was caught on film kicking a dog who was reluctant to perform a trick.

Our country's national heritage animal, the Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*), suffers horrendously at the hands of



Photo 8: A camel is hit with a stick in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1).



Photo 9: A trainer whips a pony with a whip made of thick nylon rope in the SAM Circus.



Photo 10: A trainer kicks a dog in the ring to force the dog to perform in the Jamuna Circus.



Photo 11: A camel is hit by a trainer in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1).

mahouts, trainers and caretakers wielding cruel metal ankuses, nail-tipped sticks and pointed spear-like sticks. Elephants are prodded, hit, whacked and jabbed on their faces, ears, feet, trunks and stomachs. In Rajkamal Circus, an investigator documented a mahout whacking an elephant on the head with a pointed, metal ankus and dragging the elephant by piercing the ankus into the flesh of the dorsal part of the trunk.

During the surprise inspections, the team found several elephants with fresh, bloody ankus wounds as well as scars from such wounds. In a seven-minute act at the Kohinoor Circus, an elephant trainer was filmed poking, jabbing and hitting the performing elephant 74 times – that's more than 10 times a minute.

The abuse of animals is rampant despite regulations like The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty to animals "if any person beats, kicks, over-rides,



Photo 12: Dogs, such as this one in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), are prodded and hit with sticks.



Photo 13: A dog is hit with a stick in the SAM Circus.



Photo 14: A trainer is about to whack an elephant on the face in The Great Prabhath Circus.



Photo 15: An elephant is hit behind the ear in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1).



Photo 16: A trainer hits an elephant on the ear in the Kohinoor Circus.

over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering or causes, or being the owner permits, any animal to be so treated". Physical abuse also appears to violate the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which mandates that owners shall ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering before, during or after their training or exhibition. Additionally, according to Project Elephant's Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, the act of "beating, kicking, over-driving, over-loading, torturing or treating any elephant so as to subject [him or her] to unnecessary pain or suffering, or being an owner permitting, any elephant to be so treated" is prohibited and amounts to cruelty to elephants.

4. Elephants Abused With Metal Ankuses

Subjected to routine abuse, elephants used in circuses in India live in constant fear. Mahouts and elephant trainers use devices such as "bullhooks" to cruelly punish and control the elephants. Also called "ankuses", "goads", "hooks" or "guides", bullhooks are sharp, metal-tipped instruments that resemble a fireplace poker and are made from wood, metal, plastic or fibreglass. Some bullhooks have long cane-style handles ("shepherd's crooks") that allow trainers to get a firmer grip so that greater force can be used to pull and yank the elephants. Handlers use the hook and the point to apply varying degrees of pressure to sensitive spots on the elephants' bodies in order to force the animals to move. The handle is swung like a baseball bat and induces substantial pain, especially when elephants are struck on the ears, trunk, wrist, ankle or other areas where there is little tissue between their skin and bones.



Photo 17: Sharp ankuses were found in the elephants' shed at the Jamuna Circus.



Photo 18: Ankuses were found in the elephants' shed in the Rambo Circus.

Metal ankuses were found at the Rambo Circus, Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), Rajkamal Circus, Amar Circus, Jamuna Circus, Great Golden Circus, Great Prabhath Circus and Kohinoor Circus (in eight of the 14 circuses that have elephants registered). Other weapons, such as pointed metal-tipped sticks, were found in other circuses that were housing and exhibiting elephants.



Photo 19: An ankus was found in the Amar Circus.



Photo 20: Elephants were poked with an ankus during an Amar Circus performance.



Photo 21: One of the Rambo Circus' elephants had a hole in her ear from being dragged by an ankus.



Photo 22: This bloody ankus wound was found on an elephant's face in the Rajkamal Circus.



Photo 23: This bloody ankus wound was found on an elephant with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2).



Photo 24: An ankus wound was found on an elephant in the Rajkamal Circus.



Photo 25: A mahout pokes an elephant with an ankus in the Rajkamal Circus.

Many elephants – including elephants with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), Rambo Circus, Rajkamal Circus and Amar Circus – had bloody ankus wounds on their ears, trunks, faces or feet. Almost all the injuries appeared to be fresh, with bright red blood present at the wound sites. Others had ankus scars on their bodies, especially behind their ears and under their trunks.



Photo 26: These wounds on an elephant's leg were inflicted with an ankus during an Amar Circus show.

5. Erroneous Certificates of Health for Travel

Inspectors found that the majority of health certificates that were issued to circuses by veterinarians prior to animals' transport from one camp to another declared unfit, lame, blind and sick animals "fit for travel", "healthy" and "free from contagious and infectious diseases". Inspectors asked all circuses to supply records of health certificates dating back two years. **Not a single circus furnished any health certificates in which an ailing animal was declared unfit for travel. The physical assessment of the animals by the inspection team, however, documented that every circus (except the Great Champion Circus, which kept four unregistered dogs but did not use animals for performances at the time of inspection) had animals who were unfit for travel on the days the circuses were inspected.**

The fact that sick, lame, blind and injured animals were declared “fit for transportation” and “healthy” by veterinarians calls the credibility of the certificates into serious question and may indicate some type of coercion.



Photo 27: A health certificate from the Rajkamal Circus that declares all animals healthy and contains blanks where the vet’s name and camp details can be written in.

Inspectors found that some circuses kept blank photocopies of health certificates which declared all their respective animals “fit for travel”, “healthy” “fit for transportation” or “free of contagious and infectious diseases”. The date, camp location and name of the veterinarian were left blank. Details were filled in by the veterinarians who were hired every month when the certificates had to be issued, signed and stamped. Animals are transported regardless of whether or not they are fit for travel and even if they are in the advanced stages of pregnancy. Veterinarian signatures and stamps on the photocopied health certificates declaring all the animals (including those suffering from blindness, lameness and/or

disease) as healthy indicates that veterinarians don’t carry out a physical assessment of the animals and that they instead simply sign and stamp the photocopies. This also underscores the indifference of circus management towards their animals and the overall lack of concern about animal welfare.

Several egregious irregularities in health examinations were also found. The Rambo Circus possessed several blank fitness-to-travel certificates which were pre-signed and pre-stamped by veterinarian Yatin B Pujari – details about the animals were simply filled in on the signed and stamped certificates ahead of the journeys. The possession of blank signed and stamped certificates calls into question the authenticity of all previous certificates signed by the veterinarians. Furthermore, the Rambo Circus could not furnish the inspection team with a fitness-to-travel certificate for a trip in which 15 dogs from Belgaum, Karnataka, were transported to Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra. Similarly, photocopies of blank health certificates – which declared the animals “apparently healthy”, “free from vices” and “fit for performance and transporting” and which were pre-signed and pre-stamped by veterinarians – were found in the possession of the Rajkamal Circus.

As per the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, and the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001, the health of all animals in circuses must be assessed prior to transport from one camp to the next. Circuses are required to obtain a veterinary health certificate issued by a veterinary surgeon and a certificate issued by a state government veterinarian not below the rank of Assistant Director/ SDO (District Animal Husbandry Officer).

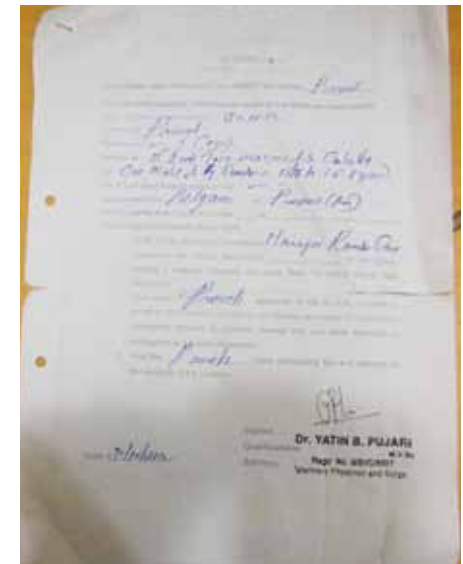


Photo 28: A photocopy of a fitness-to-travel certificate that contained a vet’s stamp and signature. The details were to be filled in later.

The state government veterinarian is also required to verify that all relevant central and state laws, rules and orders pertaining to the animals, including all the rules relating to transport, have been duly complied with.

The health of all animals was not assessed prior to transport.

The majority of the 16 circuses inspected did not list unregistered animals on veterinary health certificates and fitness-to-travel certificates for animals. The inspectors found that most circuses were housing, exhibiting and transporting most unregistered animals without having them assessed by a veterinarian (the animals weren't listed on the health certificates). For example, it was observed that the health of seven unregistered goats in the Kohinoor Circus was not assessed.

In what appears to be a violation of the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001, many certificates are issued by veterinarians below the required ranks.

Additionally, going by the documents furnished by the circuses, only two of the 16 circuses inspected adhere to species-specific format of the fitness-to-travel certificates. The Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, require that circuses obtain fitness-for-travel certificates.

The management of the Jamuna Circus feigned ignorance about the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, and the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001, and did not adhere to the practice of getting veterinary and fitness-to-travel certificates for their animals (except the elephants) prior to travel. The 13 dogs, five birds and

nine ducks were being transported without fitness-to-travel or veterinary certificates – for what appears to be years. The Great Champion Circus and the SAM Circus couldn't furnish any fitness-to-travel and veterinary certificates to the inspection team.

The transport of animals from one camp to another without a proper health assessment by a veterinarian who can declare whether each animal is "fit" or "unfit for transportation" and the lack of fitness-to-travel certificates appear to be a gross violation of both The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001.

6. No Permanent Veterinarians

The law requires circuses that have more than 10 animals to hire a full-time veterinarian. Most inspected circuses with more than 10 animals had no full-time veterinarian. Failure to do so appears to be a serious violation of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001.

That nearly all the circuses inspected failed to have a full-time veterinarian exemplifies the circus owners' indifference towards animal health and welfare. In the absence of a permanent veterinarian, a sick or injured animal cannot receive immediate medical attention, which prolongs the animal's suffering and further aggravates the ailment.

Circuses generally hired a veterinarian only to issue certificates prior to travel or to assess an animal who was ill – in most cases, only when an animal was severely ill.

Photo 29:
A pelican in the Gemini Circus was found suffering from exophthalmos (abnormal protrusion of the eyeball) of the right eye.



Inspectors found several lame, diseased animals who had been denied veterinary care and treatment. The inspection team documented elephants who were suffering from fungal infections and severe tethering and hobbling wounds; camels with bursitis, dermatitis, alopecia, pus-filled wounds and capped elbows, knees and stifles; dogs with bloody wounds, dermatitis and cataracts; horses with saddle and hobbling wounds, lameness, osteoarthritis, overgrown and deformed hooves, damaged soles and swollen feet; birds with clipped wings and missing nails; and pregnant animals who were not being provided with routine health care. Camels and dogs were found with self-inflicted bite wounds which were not attended to until the inspection team brought the injuries to the respective circuses' notice and ensured immediate veterinary care was provided. Horses who attacked and bit each other did not receive medical attention until the inspection team questioned the circuses' management.

Lack of medical attention and care resulted in some animals having improperly healed injuries and medical conditions. The Gemini Circus' 10-year-old horse Laila was found with an abnormally healed fracture on her right hock area, and the Great Bombay Circus' 6-year-old camel Ganga was found with an abnormally healed fracture at the fetlock joint of the right hind leg. The Great Royal Circus' 16-year-old horse Latha was found with conjunctivitis, edema of the conjunctival mucosa and swollen eyelids, and a pelican with the Gemini Circus was found suffering from exophthalmos (abnormal protrusion of the eyeball) of the right eye. The Moonlight Circus' elephant Bijli was blind in her right eye, and the SAM Circus' elephant, Paruh, was partially blind in one eye and completely blind in the other.



Photo 30: This horse with The Great Royal Circus had conjunctivitis (in both eyes) and swollen eyelids.



Photo 31: This camel with the Great Bombay Circus had a fractured leg that had healed abnormally.

Photo 32: The Jamuna Circus' elephant Sadhna died in July 2013 because of acute hepatitis.



Numerous animals with the circuses inspected have died as a result of insufficient veterinary care. The Jamuna Circus' 33-year-old elephant Sadhna died on 12 July 2013 because of "acute hepatitis leading to syncope" (according to the post-mortem report) when the circus was camping in Khammam in Andhra Pradesh. The report states that the elephant had been vomiting two days prior to her death. However, when Honorary Animal Welfare Officer T Ramesh Babu inspected the circus in Khammam 10 days prior to the elephant's death, he had noticed the elephant vomiting then as well. Upon questioning, the circus's manager dismissed the elephant's vomiting as an unusual, one-time incident. Had the circus hired a full-time veterinarian instead of flouting the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, Sadhna could have received timely veterinary attention and her life might have been saved.

The Gemini Circus and units 1 and 2 of the Jumbo Circus furnished receipts showing that they had hired and paid full-time veterinarians, but apparently, the veterinarians eventually quit or are absent for weeks on end. The management of these circuses could not introduce the full-time, permanent veterinarians to the inspectors as they were not in attendance at the time.

7. Injured Animals Forced to Perform

Injured, sick, lame, blind and diseased animals were forced to perform, which is an apparent gross violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001; and the Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants.

Blind elephants were forced to perform in some of the circuses inspected. One of the most appalling findings was the case of the SAM Circus' sole elephant, Paruh, who is almost completely blind. Paruh was forced to perform in three shows daily. Bijuli, an elephant with the Moonlight Circus, is blind in the right eye.

The inspection team also filmed and observed lame equines suffering from osteoarthritis, swollen feet and uncut hooves; dogs with cataracts and bloody wounds; elephants with chipped nails and bloody tethering and ankus wounds; camels with capped feet, self-inflicted bite wounds, dermatitis and alopecia; and birds with clipped wings who were forced to perform in the ring, show after show.

Sick, unfit, diseased, blind, mutilated or lame animals were forced to perform in all the circuses inspected, except the Great Champion Circus, which claims not to use animals in performances.



Photo 33: The Rajkamal Circus' dog Marshall, who had a wound on his leg and was limping, is forced to perform in every show.

In the Rajkamal Circus, a Great Dane named Marshall was suffering from an untreated bloody wound above his paw (on the metatarsal bone of his right hind leg), yet he was forced to perform three times daily. Marshall was administered medicine only after the veterinarian on the inspection team questioned circus

management about why the dog's injury was not being treated. At the Great Royal Circus, Rinky, a 4-year-old female Pomeranian who is blind in her right eye, was forced to walk between the feet of a circus performer. Unable to completely open her blind eye, Rinky appeared fearful of being stepped on as she cautiously tried to make her way through the legs of the circus performer. According to the Jumbo Circus' (Unit 1) horse treatment record (dated 15 June 2012), a horse named Dipak was suffering from swelling on both his hind limbs, but the horse was deemed "healthy" in that same day's health register. Using an ill animal in performances appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Forcing animals who are suffering from health ailments and injuries to perform is extremely cruel and is an apparent gross violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty if any person "employs in any work or labour or for any purpose any animal which, by reason of its age or any disease, infirmity, wound, sore or other cause, is unfit to be so employed or, being the owner, permits any such unfit animal to be employed". One of the general conditions for registration as per the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, states that "the owner shall not make a performing animal perform if it is sick or injured or pregnant". The Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants further states that "employing in any work or labour or for any purpose, any elephant which by reason of its age or disease, infirmity, wound, sore or other cause, if unfit to be so employed, or being owner permitting any such elephant to be employed" is considered cruelty to elephants and is prohibited.

8. Transport of Unfit and Pregnant Animals

As previously noted, *none* of the 16 inspected circuses furnished the inspection team with veterinary health certificates or fitness-to-travel certificates which declared any animal unfit for travel. However, physical assessment of the animals by the veterinary inspectors documented circuses housing and transporting animals who were sick or unfit for transportation.

Numerous ailing animals were forced to perform and were transported from one camp to the next. These included equines with abnormally healed fractures of their feet, conjunctivitis, swollen eyelids, swollen feet, untrimmed hooves, osteoarthritis

and dermatitis; dogs with cataracts and bloody wounds; elephants with chipped nails, bloody tethering wounds and foot rot; blind elephants; camels with bursitis, self-inflicted bite wounds, dermatitis, alopecia and capped elbows, stifles and knees; and birds with clipped wings.

Animals in advanced stages of pregnancy were also declared fit for travel and transported. The Rambo Circus' female dog Moti (also called Guddi) delivered seven puppies on 12 November 2012, yet she was declared "fit" on the fitness-to-travel certificate issued by Dr Yatin B Pujari (with MSVC Regd No 6507) on 3 November 2012, when she was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Transporting a dog who is in an advanced stage of pregnancy appears to violate the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, which states that "[n]o dog or cat in an advanced stage of pregnancy shall be transported".

The Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, mandate that a "valid health certificate by a qualified veterinary surgeon to the effect that the dogs and cats are in a fit condition to travel by a rail, road, inland waterway, sea or air and are not showing any sign of infectious or contagious disease including rabies, shall accompany each consignment." (The rules contain similar language for the transport of equines, sheep and goats.) The Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001, rules further state that "[a]nimals to be transported shall be healthy and in good condition and such animals shall be examined by a veterinary doctor for freedom from infectious diseases and their fitness to undertake the journey; provided that the nature and duration of the proposed journey shall be taken into account while deciding upon the degree of fitness" and that "an animal which is unfit for transport shall not

be transported and the animals who are new born, diseased, blind, emaciated, lame, fatigued or having given birth during the preceding seventy two hours or likely to give birth during transport shall not be transported."

9. Use of Elderly Animals

The inspections revealed that old, ageing animals are used for exhibition and performances. Elderly animals who are used solely for exhibition are constantly chained or caged. Ageing animals who are used for performances in addition to exhibition are also subject to pain and stress from the physical demands of tricks they are forced to perform.

Elderly elephants used by the circuses include 54-year-old Bhakra of the Great Bombay Circus, 57-year-old Chuya of the Gemini Circus and 49-year-old Baby of the Great Bombay Circus.

Ageing dogs are forced to perform tricks. The average lifespan of dogs is between 12 years and 15 years. During the inspection, the team found many ageing dogs, including 11-year-old Rubi of The Great Royal Circus, 13-year-old Bobby of the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), 12-year-old Sweety of the Moonlight Circus and 11-year-old Nootha and 12-year-old Rani of the Kohinoor Circus.

The life span of a cockatoo is, on average, between 50 and 70 years. Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) forces a 62-year-old cockatoo named Laxmi to perform. In comparison, the average life expectancy of a macaw is between 30 and 65 years. The Great Royal Circus has a 45-year-old macaw named Prem, and the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) uses a 60-year-old macaw named Vishnu in performances.

Inspectors noted that several ageing animals with the circuses inspected had died of old age. The cause of the demise of Jumbo Circus' hippo Raja was "renal failure due to old age" (as per the post-mortem report issued by the Civil Veterinary Hospital, Patiala, Punjab). The AWBI directed Jumbo Circus (via communication dated 15 November 2011) to cease using the hippo, but Raja passed away just a month later, in December of 2011.

A horse named Rani used by The Great Royal Circus died at the approximate age of 22 on 5 August 2012 as a result of "old age", as per the horse's death certificate, which was issued by a veterinary officer from the Veterinary Dispensary in Vadodara. In the same circus, a horse named Shankar, around age 18 years, died on 26 June 2009 because of "old age", as per Shankar's death certificate issued by a veterinary assistant surgeon from the District Veterinary Hospital in Chhindwara. Shankar had been undergoing treatment since 22 June 2009. Another horse in The Great Royal Circus, named Dilip, who was around 25 years of age, died on 9 November 2008 because of senile debility (old age), as per the death certificate issued by the assistant commissioner of the AH District Veterinary Polyclinic in Chandrapur.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, states it is illegal if any person "employs in any work or labour or for any purpose any animal which, by reason of its age or any disease, infirmity, wound, sore or other cause, is unfit to be so employed or, being the owner, permits any such unfit animal to be employed."

10. Tethering, Confinement and Lack of Exercise

Inspections reveal that elephants, camels and horses spend 22 to 23 hours each day tethered by short ropes that restrict their movement to a few feet. Such restricted movement for animals who are meant to roam freely across vast territories causes severe distress and pain and is inherently cruel to the animals.

Dogs, cats, grey parrots, cockatoos, macaws, green parrots and emus are **caged for 21 to 23 hours in tiny, non-collapsible cages that allow little movement.** Animals are free only for the few minutes before their performance begins and are chained and tethered immediately after their performance. They are denied the opportunity to get even minimal physical exercise.



Photo 34: Two cats are crammed into a tiny cage at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2).



Photo 35: Birds live in tiny rusted cages at the Amar Circus.



Photo 36: Dogs, such as this one at The Great Prabhath Circus, are forced to live in cages in which they have little space to move.

Photo 37: Dogs are crammed into cages at the Rambo Circus.



Elephants were found tethered by nylon ropes and metal chains by one, two or three of their feet, severely restricting their movement. It was discovered that some of the elephants in the circuses inspected are shackled for more than 20 hours each day. In the wild, elephants spend 40 to 75 per cent of their time feeding and travel up to 50 kilometres every day. Elephants who are constantly tethered can become obese through inactivity and can develop rheumatoid disorders and lameness as a result. According to the Indian government's guidelines of captive-elephant management as outlined by Tamil Nadu's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, "The elephant should not be tethered with chain and hobbles on 2 or 3 legs simultaneously which will cause arthritis problem in the elephant". The practice of tethering elephants simultaneously by two or three feet blatantly violates these guidelines.

Photo 38: At most circuses, camels, such as this one at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), are tethered by the neck and feet.



Camels were tethered by the feet and neck with nylon ropes, and equines were tethered by the feet and neck by harsh nylon ropes that abraded their skin.

In some circuses, dogs were found chained by short metal chains in the shed. Some dogs were tethered with tight nooses around their necks, which resulted in loss of hair and skin thickening caused by inflammation.

Tethering animals for unreasonably long periods of time is inherently cruel. Constant tethering appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which says that it is considered cruelty to animals if any person "keeps or confines any animal in any cage or receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length or breath to permit the animal



Photo 39: Horses, such as this one with the Metro Circus, are tethered by short ropes.

a reasonable opportunity for movement” or “keeps for unreasonable time any animal chained or tethered upon an unreasonable short or unreasonably heavy chain or cord”. It also violates the Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, which state that “keeping for unreasonable time, an elephant chained or tethered upon an unreasonable short or unreasonably heavy chain or cord” is tantamount to cruelty to the elephant.

None of the circuses that housed dogs allowed them reasonable opportunity to exercise. The dogs were freed just prior to performing and caged immediately after the act. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, states that it is cruelty if a person “neglects to exercise or cause to be exercised reasonably any dog habitually chained up or kept in close confinement.”



Photo 40: Horses are cruelly tethered by three ropes at the Rajkamal Circus.



Photo 41: A horse with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) suffers from a sore caused by a tight noose around the neck.

The AWBI warned the Amar Circus against the practice of constantly caging dogs, and circus manager RM Pillai responded to the AWBI (in letter number 9-14/2002/PCA, dated 18 June 2012), claiming, “Dogs are free to move in an around the circus to the day time. We put the dogs in the cages only at night hours”. The inspection team that inspected the circus in December found that dogs were caged all through the day and night, barring when the dogs had to perform. Females were kept in isolation in small cages, seemingly in order to prevent breeding, instead of sterilising them.

None of the circuses with elephants adhered to the condition stipulated by the CZA that says elephants must be given daily walks and exercise for at least two hours. Point 5 of the rules states, “Daily walk/exercise for at least two hours in the early morning hours should be given to all the elephants”.

Animals used solely for exhibition – including elephants, camels, equines, dogs, cats and birds – are constantly tethered and are caged for days on end with no relief from the intense confinement. This cruelty is egregious. Elephants used solely for exhibition purposes in the Rambo Circus, Rajkamal Circus, Moonlight Circus, and units 1 and 2 of the Jumbo Circus were observed to be tethered for days on end.

11. Animals Chained With Spiked or Sharp-Edged Objects

Elephants with the Rambo Circus, Rajkamal Circus and Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) were tethered using hobbles with spikes, sharp edges and/or spiked tethers. The inspection team also saw elephants who were forced to perform in the ring with spiked hobbles and chains on their feet. The inspectors filmed an elephant with the Rambo Circus who was forced to perform in show after show with a spiked hobble on one foot. Another elephant with the Kohinoor Circus was forced to perform with a metal chain on her right foreleg.



Photo 42: An elephant is tethered by cruel spiked hobbles at the Rambo Circus.

Photo 43: An elephant with a spiked tether on one foot at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1).



The Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants state that “[n]o owner shall permit the use of nylon ropes or chains/ hobbles with spikes or sharp edges for tying the elephants”. They also state that “using heavy chains and hobbles with spikes or sharp edges or barbed wires for tying elephants” shall be considered an act of cruelty to elephants and is prohibited.

12. Animals Tethered by Multiple Legs

At all circuses with elephants, elephants were tethered by more than one foot. According to the conditions stipulated by the CZA, elephants “should be kept tied only in one leg with chain/ rope covered by leather tubes, the legs for tying may be changed alternately.” Per the CZA’s guidelines, only elephants who are excited, aggressive, irritated, creating a problem or in musth can be tied more securely. At the Rambo Circus, Amar Circus, Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), Great Bombay Circus, Rajkamal Circus, Moonlight Circus, Jamuna Circus, SAM Circus and Great Golden Circus, almost all the elephants were tied by two legs. At the Kohinoor

Circus, the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) and The Great Prabhath Circus, elephants were tied by three legs. This violates the Indian government’s guidelines of captive-elephant management as outlined by Tamil Nadu’s Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, which state, “The elephant should not be tethered with chain and hobbles on 2 or 3 legs simultaneously which will cause arthritis problem to the elephant”.

The two horses and one pony in the Metro Circus were tethered by extremely short chains and ropes around their necks. The ropes were so short that the three equines could not stand upright beyond the point of wither and were forced to stand with their necks bent, in extreme discomfort. The horses were tethered by rough nylon ropes that were tied to heavy metal chains, which were attached to iron rods lodged in the ground. The animals



Photo 44: When tethering elephants, some circuses, including the Rambo Circus (pictured here), chain two forelimbs as well as one hind limb.



Photo 45: An elephant with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) is tethered by three feet.

could barely move in any direction. They had no freedom from discomfort or the ability to express normal behaviour. Additionally, the two camels were tied very tightly to the ground by their necks with short ropes, and they were unable to lift their heads above the point of wither, causing extreme discomfort.

Horses in the Amar Circus were tethered with ropes tied to their hind legs and necks. One horse who was tethered by his or her neck and hind foot with a nylon rope was trying desperately to break free by jerking vigorously and kicking both hind feet. Two other horses that were tied next to each other were attacking one another and attempting to bite each other.

The two horses and a pony at the Kohinoor Circus were tethered by their feet and necks.



Photo 46: Horses tethered by their hind legs and necks at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) stretch to reach food.



Photo 47: Elephants are chained at the Rambo Circus.

All the animals at the Great Bombay Circus were confined and/or chained, except during performances. A horse tried freeing himself from the rope he was tethered with by jerking repeatedly, and a tethered camel was observed with a bleeding wound on his or her right foreleg below the knee.

All the horses and the pony in the Rambo Circus were tethered by short, tight nylon ropes, and the camel was tethered by a short rope in scorching heat.

The horses in the Rajkamal Circus were tethered by their feet and necks. The tethered horses had to stretch until their feet were off the ground in an attempt to reach food.

The horses in Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) were tied by their necks as well as their feet. One horse in the circus was tethered by metal wires and a rope around the neck. The noose around the necks of two horses was very tight and inflicted deep wounds around their necks. The camels were tethered by extremely short ropes that severely limited their movement.

One dog at The Great Royal Circus was tied using a coir rope, and one at the Amar Circus was tied with tight noose leading to a loss of hair and skin thickening on the neck. Some dogs were also found tethered in the Gemini Circus, Great Prabhath Circus, Rajkamal Circus, Jamuna Circus and SAM Circus.

The majority of the equines in the inspected circuses had wounds from being tethered and hobbled.

13. Inhumane Housing

The general living conditions in the circuses inspected were found to be extremely poor and inhumane. Dogs were forced to live in cages so small that they could hardly stand up, allowing almost no movement. At the Kohinoor Circus, Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) and Amar Circus, the dogs' cages had wooden flooring with gaping cracks. In the Moonlight Circus, dogs were found living in extreme discomfort as a result of being kept in tiny, filthy cages with nothing but iron mesh to sit on. All the dogs appeared to have sore, discoloured ankles, and many of the dogs had swollen paws and blisters on their feet from being forced to sit and lie directly on the iron mesh flooring of their cages. The team observed dogs in their cages continuously licking their swollen paws. Dogs in the Gemini Circus and the Moonlight Circus were also forced to live in cages.



Photo 48: Dogs are forced to live on iron mesh flooring at the Moonlight Circus.



Photo 49: Dogs are forced to live in cages that severely constrict their movement at The Great Prabhath Circus.

Some dogs were forced to live in cages that were too short for them to stand in. Dogs could barely stand upright on their feet, much less move around. At The Great Prabhath Circus, dogs were forced to crouch and live in cages that measured 0.6604 metre by 0.6096 metre by 0.6096 metre. The height of one of the cages housing a dog measured just 0.482 metre – less than half a metre in height.

At the Jamuna Circus, the inspection team found that food was being cooked using a gas stove and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders inside the dogs' and birds' shed – just a few metres away from where the dogs were tethered and the birds were caged. The use of a gas stove and LPG cylinder in the same shed where animals are housed poses serious safety hazards. At the Rajkamal Circus, the dogs' and birds' caretakers were found cooking biryani on a kerosene stove (with an open flame), which had been placed on the ground beside a cage that housed a macaw. Doing so appears to violate the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which state that the owner shall not expose any animal to either burning fire or to fire accidents.

A Labrador tethered by the Amar Circus and some dogs with the Great Bombay Circus had no shelter. Failure to provide shelter appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty if a person fails to provide an animal with sufficient food, drink or shelter.

In the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), three cats were crammed into two tiny cages and were forced to live in the cages for days on end as they were not used for performances. Keeping animals confined

for extended periods of time appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

In some circuses, pairs of birds were found crammed in cages smaller than 3 metres square, which is the size recommended by the CZA to house a pair of birds. **Also, none of the birds' cages in the 16 circuses inspected had appropriate furnishings (tree branches), enrichment artefacts or sand – a violation of the CZA's conditions stipulated for the housing of macaws and other birds.**

The camels at all the circuses were constantly tethered, leaving them with little space to move. In units 1 and 2 of the Jumbo Circus, all the camels were crammed together and tied by short ropes so that they could all fit under the same roof. The SAM Circus' camels were found living amidst rocks, trash and thick metal wires.



Photo 50: Birds are crammed into tiny cages at the Moonlight Circus.

Photo 51: Camels with the Metro Circus had no shelter, food or water.



Photo 52: Dogs with the Gemini Circus are forced to live near a garbage dump, right next to the busy Chennai Central Suburban Railway Station. Passing trains frequently sound their loud horns.



Photo 53: A Doberman living amidst empty beer bottles and trash in the Great Champion Circus.

Photo 54: Camels, like this one with Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), often develop capped elbows and joints because of the hard ground that they are forced to live on while with circuses (they should be on sandy ground).



Horses were forced to live tethered in sheds or paddocks. Most horses' sheds had uneven flooring that was not ideal for horses. In Arni, Tamil Nadu, equines in the Metro Circus were found chained and tethered by very short ropes with no shelter from the scorching heat. In most circuses, the feed was thrown onto the floor, and there were no feeding troughs. Also, none of the circuses made drinking water freely available to horses. At the Moonlight Circus, a horse was found tethered under the main tent that houses the ring.

Basic guidelines were not implemented in the housing of elephants. At the 14 circuses with elephants, none of the elephants' sheds had well-drained flooring to prevent contamination of feed with urine and faeces. This is an apparent violation, according to the Indian government's guidelines of captive-elephant management as outlined by Tamil Nadu's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, which state, "The floor of the shed should be either mud or sand and well drained towards

backside of the elephant to prevent contamination of urine and elephant dung with feed provided to the animal”.

At the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), elephant dung was dumped into an open pit located right next to the elephants’ shed, forcing them to live amidst the stench of their own dung.

During the inspection of the Jamuna Circus, the inspectors found huge rocks in the ground where the elephants were tethered. The same was observed in the elephants’ shed at the Moonlight Circus and The Great Prabhath Circus. This is not in accordance with the Indian government’s guidelines of captive-elephant management as outlined by Tamil Nadu’s Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, which state, “The floor of the shed should be either mud or sand.”.

14. Psychological Distress and Trauma

Just like humans, animals suffer from psychological distress and trauma, particularly when they are confined to tiny cages that restrict their movement or are continuously tethered for 20 to 24 hours each day. When not caged, they are beaten, poked and threatened with sticks or other weapons to force them to perform tricks that are not in accordance to their basic instincts. The feed is inadequate and of poor quality, and most animals in circuses have little access to drinking water. The heightened stress of repeated travel adds to the stress that animals experience in the circus. The extreme levels of stress, boredom and frustration that animals in circuses endure often leads to psychological disorders. Animals under this kind of stress often suffer mental trauma because they have no control over their environment and cannot

move around to exercise their body and mind. Severe confinement and abuse, which are inherent in circuses, cause the animals to develop repetitive, obsessive and abnormal behaviour that animal behaviourists call “stereotypical” or “displacement” behaviour – these behaviours are an indicator that the animal’s welfare has been compromised and that he or she is suffering as a result.

With the exception of The Great Royal Circus and the Gemini Circus, where elephants were not present during the inspections, severe stereotypical behaviour was observed in all the elephants in all the circuses that had elephants.

The inspection team observed elephants vigorously swaying their heads, shoulders and bodies and continuously bobbing their heads. These elephants live in artificial environments with little stimulation, enrichment or opportunity to hide from public view. Stereotypic behaviour (“zoochosis”) is a sign of psychological distress.

Elephants with The Great Prabhath Circus, Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), Rajkamal Circus, Moonlight Circus and Kohinoor Circus, including those who were not in heat or musth, were observed hurling fodder and rocks at spectators who were standing nearby or passing by the elephants’ sheds. This disturbing behaviour is a sign of severe physiological distress.

At the Great Bombay Circus, the Rambo Circus and the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), frustrated elephants who are constantly tethered were documented vigorously attempting to unshackle themselves from the chains. The helpless pachyderms were filmed attempting to undo the chains using their trunks and tusks, but to no avail.

The elephants would attempt to undo their chains vigorously for hours, tire out and try again. One elephant with the Rambo Circus was also found using his trunk to try to uproot one of the poles that supported the shelter of the elephants' shed.

Some equines with the Great Bombay Circus, Amar Circus and Rajkamal Circus were filmed swaying, bobbing their heads and licking the metal bars of their paddocks – all symptoms of zoochosis, a term used to indicate abnormal, obsessive, repetitive behaviour observed in animals in captivity. Inspections showed that the constricted animals, tethered and hobbled for more than 20 hours a day, were frustrated and exhibited obsessive, neurotic behaviour indicative of severe mental stress. Tethered horses with the Rajkamal Circus, Amar Circus and Gemini Circus and a pony with the Great Bombay Circus were documented trying to free



Photo 55: One of the frustrated elephants with the Rambo Circus desperately tries to break free from his or her shackles.



Photo 56: This camel with the Great Bombay Circus bit himself out of frustration.

themselves of ropes by jerking their feet aggressively and jumping around.

Camels with units 1 and 2 of the Jumbo Circus who were continuously tethered by short ropes for days on end were filmed swaying for hours.

Some animals were so frustrated that they bit themselves.

Sheru, a camel with the Great Bombay Circus who had bloody self-inflicted bite wounds, was given necessary medical attention only after inspectors advised circus employees to do so. Camels who bit themselves, presumably out of sheer frustration, were found at the Great Bombay Circus and the SAM Circus. A caged Dalmatian with a self-inflicted bite wound on her tail was found at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2).

Dogs forced to live in cages were also found to be in distress in some circuses. Abnormal behaviour was found in the majority of dogs, equines and elephants who were caged or tethered at the Great Bombay Circus. Dogs were filmed exhibiting stereotypical behaviour, such as constantly walking in circles in cages.

15. Drunken Animal Trainers and Caretakers

Another shocking finding was the presence of inebriated trainers and elephant mahouts. Several incidents involving drunken staff handling elephants and forcing them to perform were witnessed by inspectors.

During a Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) performance in Ahmedabad, Gujarat (where alcohol is prohibited), an inebriated mahout was

filmed handling an elephant. In the Rajkamal Circus, the main elephant master and his assistant were found to be drunk during the afternoon shows, and one of the horse caretakers was found to be drunk in the middle of the day. Circus management beat the drunken elephant master and the horse caretaker for being drunk on the job after the inspection team brought the matter to their attention. The elephant caretaker at the Great Golden Circus was also found to be drunk on the day of inspection.

Having drunken mahouts and trainers handle elephants is a disaster waiting to happen. In addition to putting the safety of the elephants at risk, inebriated circus staff put the lives of spectators and other circus staff in danger. Video footage from the inspections shows drunken mahouts accompanying elephants into the ring and forcing them to perform as well as staff confessing to drinking on the job. It's disturbing to consider the behaviour of drunken employees when inspectors are absent.

Photo 57: A drunk elephant trainer is manhandled by the circus' senior management personnel before being whisked away from the elephants' shed at the Rajkamal Circus.



16. Faulty Record-Keeping

The procedures for keeping records and registers, including species registers, feeding registers, health registers, vaccination registers and treatment registers, were astonishingly lax, and these documents were often erroneous.

During the surprise inspection of the Amar Circus, a senior management employee named Shukla attempted to falsify the horses' feeding records by forging Dr DB Raje's name on all the pages that contained Dr Raje's stamp. This was done in view of the inspection team, the circus owner and the circus canteen operator. The inspectors immediately seized the feeding register as proof of forgery. Once the circus owner, Chandrakant Gadge, realised that the circus was caught blatantly tampering with the horses' feeding register, he folded his hands and asked for forgiveness. The circus's feeding register, health register, vaccination register, species register and treatment register were also all incomplete.

The Jamuna Circus, the Metro Circus and the SAM Circus all failed to provide registers during the inspections.

Circuses that did furnish records had perfunctory entries that were not in accordance with actual daily practices and procedures. Circus management could not provide any evidence of the food that was listed in the feeding registers as being given to the elephants, birds, cats, dogs, equines and camels. **None of the circuses could furnish to the inspection team all the food that the daily feeding registers detailed as being given to the animals every day.**

Animals who were declared sick or undergoing treatment in health veterinary records were declared “fit to travel” in the fitness-to-travel certificates.

There were serious discrepancies between the health veterinary certificates and the entries made in the daily health registers. The Rambo Circus, whose dog Moti delivered seven puppies on 12 November 2012, made no mention of Moti’s pregnancy in the dogs’ health registers. The daily entries regarding Moti’s health made by Dr Yogesh Jadhav (MSVC Reg No 6730) in the daily health register between 1 November 2012 and 16 November 2012 did not mention that the dog was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and delivering a litter.

In the Great Bombay Circus, the entries made in the daily treatment register did not correspond with the daily animal check register. The health register showed that all of the circus’s 14 dogs were healthy on 2 August 2012, but the daily health check register for that day documented that a dog named Veeru was undergoing treatment for a fever. The health register entry for 27 August 2012 documented that all of the circus’s 20 dogs were in good condition, but the entries in the daily treatment register for that day indicate that Veeru was undergoing treatment for bronchitis.

According to a 15 June 2012 entry made in the horse treatment record of the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), a horse named Dipak had swelling on both his hind limbs, but in that same day’s health register, the horse was deemed “healthy”. Using an ill animal in performances appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty if any person

“employs in any work or labour or for any purpose any animal which, by reason of its age or any disease, infirmity, wound, sore or other cause, is unfit to be so employed or, being the owner, permits any such unfit animal to be employed”.

At the Great Bombay Circus, records show that the examining veterinarian examined 20 dogs regularly until 16 November 2011. But beginning on 17 November 2011, only 14 dogs were mentioned.

Maintenance of records and registers is perfunctory and contains innumerable errors.

17. Missing Elephants

Inspectors discovered that several elephants were unaccounted for. In 2005, one of the Jumbo Circus’ female elephants, named Chanchal (microchip number 00066318B5), was transported from Misra Farm in Jaipur, Rajasthan, to the farm house of Mr Mohan Santaram Kogoankar Karambel in Karwar district, Karnataka, for treatment for aggressive behaviour. A letter stating the same and confirming that the circus still owns the elephant was provided on circus letterhead and signed by the manager. However, the circus could not furnish any document issued by a doctor that said the elephant needed treatment for aggressive behaviour. It has been eight years, and the elephant is still allegedly undergoing treatment and has not returned to the Jumbo Circus.

In another case, Bahadur, a 28-year-old elephant with the Rajkamal Circus, could not be located during the inspection. The circus manager first claimed that Bahadur had been sent to Kollam in

Kerala for treatment of a leg infection, but he later admitted, in writing, that Bahadur had been donated to a man in Kollam, who is reportedly using the elephant during temple festivals.

The Gemini Circus had no elephants present on the day of the inspection. The circus manager claimed, in writing, that the elephants were in Kerala because they needed permission and fitness-to-travel certificates from Tamil Nadu's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). However, according to a report in *The Times of India* dated 14 February 2013, six of the circus's elephants were left stranded in Kerala after they were not given such certificates. Reportedly, the Gemini Circus left Alappuzha for Chennai on 16 December 2012 after performing at Aravukad, and the elephants were left in the care of a few men who failed to give the animals sufficient food and water. Locals took up the matter with the Kerala Forest Minister, and the Heritage Animal Task Force approached the state government demanding protection for these elephants.

The abandonment of these elephants by the Gemini Circus and the alleged failure to report their whereabouts to the AWBI, CZA and PCCF appears to be in violation of section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which describes what is considered to be cruel treatment of animals; section 42 of The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which deals with certificates of ownership; section 11 of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, which deals with maintenance of records and submission of inventory; and the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which explains general conditions for registration.

18. Use of Visually Impaired Animals

Partially and entirely blind elephants were forced to perform in some of the circuses inspected. Paruh, the sole elephant with the SAM Circus, was determined to be almost completely blind, and Bijuli, an elephant with the Moonlight Circus, was found to be blind in the right eye. Bijuli lost her left eye a few years ago.

Mahouts, trainers, circus performers and other circus staff were documented pulling Paruh by the ears into the performance ring, forcing her to perform and then pulling her ears to guide her back to the shed. Paruh, who is partially blind in one eye and almost completely blind in the other, is forced to perform three times daily, carrying two circus performers – one seated on her trunk and one on her back – as well as balancing one of the two acrobats while standing on a tiny circular podium.



Photo 58: Visually impaired Paruh is forced to perform show after show with the SAM Circus.



Photo 59: The SAM Circus' visually impaired Paruh is dragged by her ears during a performance.

The use of visually impaired elephants appears to directly violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is considered cruelty to animals if any person “employs in any work or labour or for any purpose any animal which, by reason of its age or any disease, infirmity, wound, sore or other cause, is unfit to be so employed or, being the owner, permits any such unfit animal to be employed”. Section 8(v) of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, mandates that “the owner shall ensure that any animal is not inflicted unnecessary pain or suffering before or during or after its training or exhibition” and section 8(vii) that states that “the owner shall not make a performing animal perform if it is sick or injured or pregnant”.

Apart from elephants, other animals were found to be suffering from visual ailments, such as cataracts, corneal opacity, conjunctivitis, swelling of the eyelids, and exophthalmos (abnormal protrusion of the eyeball). On 18 December 2011, the Jumbo Circus’ hippopotamus Raja died from “renal failure” as per the post-mortem report by the Civil Veterinary Hospital, Patiala, Punjab. On 24 October 2011, prior to the death of Raja, a team led by the SDM (Civil) Panipat, along with a representative of the AWBI, inspected the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1). The team had, inter alia, noted that the hippo was suffering from corneal opacity and that the animal’s vision was “very, very less”. The AWBI directed the Jumbo Circus (via communication dated 15 November 2011) to cease using the hippo.

The Amar Circus displayed another blind hippopotamus, named Amar, drawing sharp criticism from the CZA, MP Maneka Gandhi, animal welfare non-governmental organisation, and animal

advocates. In a *Times of India* report dated 9 March 2013, the CZA ordered the disabled hippo to be moved to a zoo. The hippo reportedly had corneal opacity in the right eye and suffered from impaired vision in the left eye. Reportedly, an eight-member CZA committee, acting on a complaint filed by animal activists, had inspected the Amar Circus at Kasturchand Park on 25 June 2012. In its report, the committee recommended sending the hippo to a recognised zoo immediately for lifetime care. Accordingly, the CZA asked the Maharajbagh Zoo to take possession of the hippo.

A horse with The Great Royal Circus was found to be suffering from severe conjunctivitis and swelling of the eyelids and eyelid tissue. A pelican suffering from exophthalmos (abnormal protrusion of eyeball) of right eye was found in the Gemini Circus, and dogs with cataracts were found in the Kohinoor Circus and The Great Royal Circus. A dog named Tommy in the Rajkamal Circus was found to be blind in the right eye because of cataracts and had only partial vision in his other eye.

19. Unreported Deaths and Missing Animals

Several animals listed in circus records simply “disappeared”, both from the circuses and the records. Some of the reasons provided include animals dying, animals being stolen and animals being given away. However, inspectors determined that many animal deaths had gone unreported. For instance, the AWBI was not informed of the death of the Great Golden Circus’ horse Toofan, and no post-mortem was conducted. The death of elephant Gulab, who died on 4 September 2005 at age 40, also was not reported to the AWBI, CZA or forest officials. Circus management could provide no proof or documentation regarding Gulab’s death. During

the two-day inspection, circus management verbally claimed that they had the documents, but they never produced them.

Three dogs have died in the Kohinoor Circus in the last year and a half, but the circus has no death certificates.

Notification to the AWBI regarding the death of a donkey and camel could not be produced by the Gemini Circus.

The Amar Circus' elephant Radha died on 16 September 2011 in Chhindwara. However, the circus only informed the CZA about the elephant's demise by mailing Mohan's death certificate to the agency on 1 August 2012 – more than 10 months after Radha's death.

On 12 July 2013, an elephant with the Jamuna Circus named Sadhna died from hepatitis.

A bull registered to the Amar Circus was unaccounted for. In the Gemini Circus, three camels are registered with AWBI, but the circus couldn't explain the whereabouts of one camel. The Jumbo Circus' turkey and two dogs, named Johny and Brahma, were being kept in Mananthavady in Kerala as per the circus' records.

At the Jamuna Circus, after inspectors reviewed the circus's records and questioned the whereabouts of an African grey parrot and a Labrador, the management claimed that the grey parrot flew away and that the Labrador fled, both in 2011. On examination of Kohinoor Circus' records, the team found that one cockatoo was missing. The circus's management claimed that the cockatoo "flew away while practising".

Giving away animals as gifts or donating them is also common practice among circuses. The Jumbo Circus gave Mr Raju of Uttar Pradesh two boxers (docked-tail) named Vishnu and Ram in 2012. As per the Gemini Circus' inventory report issued on 31 March 2012, the Gemini Circus gave four Persian cats to the Jumbo Circus in Mangalore, Karnataka, on 17 March 2012. Also, three dogs were given to a person in Shimoga, Karnataka. Additionally, the Gemini Circus gave away a donkey registered with the AWBI to a person in Kancheepuram, and a turkey was given away as well.

20. Inhumane Transport of Animals

Travelling from one town to another is a stressful experience for animals.

Footage was taken of dogs and birds being transported by the Kohinoor Circus. Most of the dogs were loaded onto a truck while they were still in their cages. They were stacked on top of all sorts of circus equipment and luggage. Some dogs were taken out of their cages and held by their collars or the scruffs of their necks while their empty cages were loaded onto the truck. The dogs were then carried by their collars or scruffs and handed over to the handlers who were arranging the equipment and cages in the truck. When one scared dog struggled to climb into a cage on the truck, the dog trainer Zakir Hussain hit the dog on his back. After the cages were loaded, more equipment, such as tent rods and stands, was carelessly thrown on top of and next to the occupied cages. Puppies yelped and birds screeched as metallic equipment was tossed in and around their cages. There was no food in the cages, and the dogs were not given any opportunity to exercise

ahead of the journey. When the inspection team asked for the circus's fitness-to-travel certificates, the circus management couldn't produce any. No veterinarian examined the birds and dogs on the day of the journey. Transporting animals without the necessary certificates to declare them fit for transport is a gross animal welfare violation.

This callous disregard for the animals' safety and welfare and outright abusive treatment appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty if a person "beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering or causes, or being the owner permits, any animal to be so treated".



Photo 60: In the Kohinoor Circus, a macaw's cage is packed with equipment during transport.



Photo 61: In the Kohinoor Circus, dogs are precariously placed in a cage at the rear of a truck before transport.

Elephants are denied water and food before and during their journey and are transported without shelter from the sun and without a veterinarian. They are hit and dragged by their ears in order to load them into trucks. **In March 2013, an elephant died during transport, reportedly as the result of negligence on the part of Nataraj Circus staff.** Reportedly, according to forest officials, the elephant died from dehydration while being transported in a vehicle from Murshidabad district to Nadia district in West Bengal in hot weather. Though all the circuses inspected possessed copies of their transport permission issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden under section 48A of The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, many of the circuses violated section 8(1) (ii) of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which mandate that "the owner shall not transport such animals by road continuously for more than 8 hours", as happened in the case of the elephant owned by the Nataraj Circus. *Business Standard* reported the death of the elephant on 27 March 2013.

In the Great Bombay Circus, just one mahout supervised the transport of elephants from Pitampura to the next camp, contravening the Guidelines for Care and Management of Elephants, which state that "each truck or wagon carrying elephant should have at least two attendant mahouts". Additionally, the elephants were given no drinking water. This is not in accordance with the Guidelines for Care and Management of Elephants, which state that "necessary arrangements shall be made for feeding and watering the elephant en route".

21. Birds' Wings Clipped

Wings (birds' primary or secondary feathers, and in some cases both) of performing macaws, cockatoos and parrots are crudely clipped to prevent them from flying – their most important natural behaviour. Wings of large birds like ducks, pelicans, geese and emus, who are primarily used for exhibition, were not clipped.

Among the 16 circuses inspected, 13 circuses had birds who were forced to perform. In total, 130 macaws, parrots and cockatoos were inspected. **The wings of 129 of the 130 smaller birds (including cockatoos, macaws and parrots) in the circuses were clipped.** At the Kohinoor Circus, one macaw's wings were intact.

The circuses' management had no qualms about informing the inspection team that the birds' feathers were cut to prevent them from flying. The birds' trainer at the Jamuna Circus claimed on camera that he'd clipped the birds' wings every fortnight or month with a blade.

It's dangerous for someone who has not been properly trained to clip a bird's flight feathers because it can be difficult to determine whether a feather is newly grown or a still-growing "blood" feather. When cut, these sensitive blood feathers can bleed profusely and may cause birds to panic, flap their wings and lose more blood. Breaking a blood feather is painful and distressing, and if the blood flow does not stop within 15 minutes, an emergency trip to a qualified veterinarian is necessary.

Frustrated by their inability to fly, clipped birds often develop psychological and behavioural problems, such as feather-plucking. Because clipping can cause irritation, birds will repeatedly pick at the feathers, which only causes more irritation and starts a harmful cycle.



Photo 62: Feathers of birds, such as this one with the Jamuna Circus, are clipped.



Photo 63: Birds' feathers are cut off, as this bird's feathers were at the Rajkamal Circus.



Photo 64: This cockatoo's wings were clipped at the Rajkamal Circus.

Clipping wings appears to be a serious violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty for a person to mutilate any animal.

22. Lack of Ownership Certificates

One of the most shocking findings of the investigation was that **none of the 16 inspected circuses had ownership certificates for all its animals.** The majority of the circuses did not possess ownership certificates for any animal in the circus, except the elephants. Without ownership certificates, there is way to keep track of individual animals. Hence, even as animals died in circuses in the last few years, the number of registered animals remained intact because the circuses replaced the dead animals with new ones. Without ownership certificates, the animals can't be adequately identified. Besides the ownership certificates for elephants, circuses like the Amar Circus, Jamuna Circus, Kohinoor Circus, SAM Circus and Great Champion Circus did not have ownership certificates for any of their animals.

23. Faulty Reports and Failure to Submit Reports

As per Rule 12 of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, "Every person who has been granted registration under these rules shall ensure that a monthly report of all the performing animals in the form to be specified by the prescribed authority in respect of their health, deaths and births duly certified by a veterinary doctor is submitted to the prescribed authority on or before the 7th of every succeeding month." The SAM Circus and Jamuna Circus failed to send monthly reports to the AWBI. This is

in spite of the fact that the AWBI mailed all circus managers a final reminder to do so (via letter number 8-3/P-2011/FC).

Most circuses did not list unregistered animals in their monthly reports and did not adhere to the required format.

Failure to furnish required reports is grounds for cancellation of registration of circuses, as per Rule 16 of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001.

24. Non-Performing Animals Used for Exhibition

Numerous emus, elephants, goats, sheep, ducks, equines and camels are housed in circuses purely for display. The animals are confined to cages or paddocks and are tethered for days on end. With almost no opportunity to exercise, the animals suffer from both physical and mental ailments, including obesity and arthritis. Emus are forced to live in small spaces. In most circuses with equines, only one horse performs in the ring three times per day. The remaining horses are kept tethered to draw in crowds. Elephants are tethered for the same purpose. The non-performing equines were constantly tethered or restricted to their



Photo 65: Tethered by a shackle less than 1 foot long, this elephant is kept constantly chained at the Rajkamal Circus.

paddock for days, as none of the non-performing equines were taken for walks or exercise. These horses were restricted to few metres of space.

The Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), Rambo Circus, Rajkamal Circus, Moonlight Circus, Great Prabhath Circus and Gemini Circus all use some elephants solely for display, keeping them tethered for days at a time. Denied even the paltry exercise that performing elephants receive when walking to the ring, these non-performing elephants were observed to be distressed as a result of their confinement and constant tethering, creating a risk of injury or death for circus staff and visitors.

Many circuses verbally claimed that the elephants used as “exhibits” (solely for exhibition) don’t require registration under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001. But section 26(a) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, states that “not being registered under this chapter, exhibits or trains any performing animal” is an offence. Section 21 of the act defines “exhibit” as “exhibit or any entertainment to which the public are admitted through sale of ticket”, as in a circus. Therefore, the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, apply to non-performing animals exhibited in circuses.

25. Lack of Vaccination Records

The majority of circuses did not maintain vaccination records for their animals. The vaccination of animals is indispensable for their health and upkeep, particularly when the circuses do not hire full-time veterinarians.

26. Insufficient or Non-Existent Shelter

Lack of shelter or insufficient shelter in animals’ sheds is a minimum requirement that some circuses deny their animals. Several circuses inspected were found to be forcing elephants to live in scorching heat, with little to no overhead shelter. During the inspections of the Jamuna Circus in Warangal and later in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh, it was discovered that elephants were living in open spaces with no shelter and no overhead protection from the blistering heat. In Channarayapatna, Karnataka, the overhead shelter of two elephants with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2) was insufficient and did not provide sufficient shade. At the Rambo Circus, the elephants’ shelter was torn and was fixed only after the inspection team questioned circus management about it.

Of the inspected circuses, camels in the Rambo Circus, SAM Circus and Metro Circus did not have an overhead shelter.



Photo 66: An elephant has dried fodder in her shed at the Jamuna Circus. Notice the lack of overhead shelter and protection from the scorching heat in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh.

Some equines in Jumbo Circus Unit 1, Moonlight Circus, SAM Circus, Kohinoor Circus and Metro Circus had no overhead shelter or protection from the blistering sun or rain. On the days of inspection, two dogs in a pen with the Great Bombay Circus, a Labrador with the Amar Circus, a Great Dane with the Rajkamal Circus and a Russian poodle with The Great Royal Circus were found tethered without protection from the weather.

Failing to provide an animal with shelter is an apparent violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is considered cruelty if the owner of an animal “fails to provide such animal with sufficient food, drink or shelter”. According to the Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, “failing to provide an elephant, with sufficient food, drinking water or shelter” is tantamount to cruelty to elephants. In addition, the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002, states, “Provided that before issuing the certificate of ownership in respect of any captive animal, the Chief Wild Life Warden shall ensure that the applicant has adequate facilities for housing, maintenance and upkeep of the animal”.

27. Poor-Quality Feed and Erroneous Feeding Registers

Declining revenue because of decreased ticket sales and the rising cost of fuel have led to a lower quality of food for animals used in circuses. The feed detailed in the feeding registers of the circuses inspected was nutritious and well balanced. During inspection, however, the inspectors found that the feed mentioned in the feeding registers was missing in all 16 circuses. After examining the entries in the feeding registers, the inspection team asked the

circuses to show them the various feed detailed in the feeding registers. *None* of the circuses could furnish all the feed mentioned in the feeding registers. Circuses claimed the feed had just been consumed or was being brought in from the local market. The feed that was being supplied to the animals was of a far lower quality than the feed detailed in the feeding registers. The circuses’ feeding registers were misleading and wholly inaccurate.

The Rambo Circus did not maintain feeding registers for its domesticated animals and claimed that it was not aware that it had to do so. The Metro Circus, Great Prabhath Circus and SAM Circus could not furnish the inspection team with feeding registers for all their animals.

The elephants in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) were given chopped branches of trees as fodder. The elephants were seen breaking the thick branches only to push them away when realising that they were inedible. The quality of feed given to all five elephants was poor. Failing to provide adequate food appears to be in violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which states that it is cruelty if an owner of an animal “fails to provide such animal with sufficient food, drink or shelter”. It also appears to be in violation of the Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, which mandates that elephants must be provided with sufficient food, drinking water and shelter. There was no feeding register for the cats with the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1).

28. Lack of Food and Water

Not providing animals with food or drinking water appears to violate The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

The following observations were made during the surprise inspections of the following circuses:

- Great Champion Circus: Dogs had no access to drinking water.
- Great Bombay Circus: Immediately after the performance concluded, the dogs raced back to the cage holding area, where their food and water were located. It appears that the dogs are deprived of food and water in order to coerce them to perform. Using food and or water deprivation to compel an animal to perform appears to violate the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, which state that the owner shall not deprive animals of food or water in order to compel them to learn or perform any trick. The camels and equines had no feed or drinking water at their disposal at the time of the surprise inspection.
- Jumbo Circus – Unit 1: When the inspection team arrived, the elephants were given inedible chopped tree branches as fodder. The quality of feed given to all five elephants was poor. Ducks were not provided with drinking water. The dogs had no food or drinking water. The horses and cats had no food.
- Kohinoor Circus: Horses and a pony had no edible food or drinking water. Dogs and birds were transported without food.
- Metro Circus: The pony, camels and horses had no food or water.

- Rajkamal Circus: Water was not supplied in any of the animals' shed. The elephants were provided with fodder unfit for consumption. The dogs and horses had no food or water. The birds' water was either absent or filthy and undrinkable. The fruit found in the birds' cages was rotten. The cages' floors had rotting food and bird droppings, which weren't cleared away for several days.
- Rambo Circus: Elephants, camels and horses had no water. The food given to horses was inedible.
- SAM Circus: The dogs had no water. The pony and camels had no food or water.
- The Great Prabhath Circus: Dogs had very little drinking water. Some of the dogs' food containers were filled with mud, and others had mud-contaminated milk, making it unfit for consumption. Camels had no drinking water or feed.
- The Great Royal Circus: Horses, parrots, cockatoos and macaws had no drinking water. Horses had no food.



Photo 67: There was no water or food in cages at the Rajkamal Circus.



Photo 68: At the Rajkamal Circus, old rotting fruit is not replaced by fresh feed for birds.

Photo 69: Camels at the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1) without any food.



Photo 70: No food or water is available in the miniscule dog cages at the Great Golden Circus.



29. Failure to Provide Foot and Farriery Care

Poor foot care and improper farriery care of equines was found in all inspected circuses. Many equines had overgrown and cracked hooves, inflamed and swollen tendons and ligaments and osteoarthritis. Most of the horses examined had an abnormal hoof shape, either on the forelegs or hind legs (the heel to toe ratio wasn't 1:2). In many horses, the hoof horn quality was poor, and

the hoof was broken or damaged at the toe or there were cracks on the hoof wall. Many horses had diseased frogs, indicated by wet or dry black-and-white discharge with a foul smell. In some horses, the frog was even missing. Of circuses with horses that were inspected, only the Moonlight Circus shod its animals. However, the shoes were not proportionate to the size and shape of the hooves and were ill-fitted.

There is a well-known phrase, "no hoof, no horse", which means that hooves are a critical part of a horse's body and that neglected hooves can be dangerous and cause discomfort, severe pain, disfigurement and lameness.

The abnormality in hoof shape is a result of improper trimming of the hooves and poor farriery, and this can subsequently lead to lameness since the abnormal hoof shape puts additional stress on the joints, tendons and ligaments. A hoof horn of poor quality is highly prone to being damaged since the hoof wall, which comes in contact with the ground, bears the maximum weight of the animal. The cracks on the hoof wall are caused by poor farriery (pulling of nails without straightening them or rasping the hoof wall) or inadequate foot care (cleaning and applying moisturizer such as petroleum jelly). Cracks or damage on the hoof wall can subsequently lead to lameness. A diseased frog is an indication of microbial infection, poor foot care and a lack of cleanliness and hygiene of the stable. The frog has a major role acting as a shock absorber and a breaking device in horses. In the absence of a healthy frog, horses are prone to acute lameness, conditions such as laminitis (inflammation of sensitive laminae inside the hoof) and injuries on the legs and body as a result of slipping and falling.

High-quality farriery means “fitting the shoe to the foot”, not “fitting the foot to the shoe”, and can only be best achieved by hot-shoeing. In circuses, cold-shoeing is practised, and the possibility of shaping and sizing a shoe made of construction steel is nearly impossible, as the shoe may easily break if the farrier tries to mold it. As a result, the shoes observed in horses in circuses are not fitted well in terms of shape and size of the sole, subsequently exposing sensitive parts of the sole to hard pavement, resulting in bruises and wounds.

The inspectors discovered that horses are illegally shod by inadequately trained and unlicensed people. Even though the Licensing of Farriers Rules, 1965, details the specific instruments required to be a farrier, it appears that these rules are not followed. Also, in Rajkamal Circus, a 15-year-old boy was found cleaning a horse’s hoof with a rock. The minor was filling in for the horses’ caretaker, who was on leave. Apart from substituting for the horses’ caretaker, the 15-year-old also performed acrobatics on the horse in the circus’ show.



Photo 71: The cracked hoof of a horse in the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2).



Photo 72: The unclipped hooves of a horse in the Amar Circus.

30. Illegally Housing of Tusks

During the inspection of the Rajkamal Circus, the inspection team found that one of the elephants’ tusks was missing. On probing, the team learnt that the circus management was housing the broken tusk of the elephant illegally without informing wildlife officials in writing, which is a grave offence. According to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, “Any person who obtains, by any means, the possession of Government property, shall, within forty-eight hours of obtaining such possession, report it to the nearest police station or authorised officer and shall, if so required, hand over such property to the officer in charge of such police station or such authorised officer, as the case may be.” Section 39 says that any “animal article, trophy or uncured trophy or meat derived from any wild animal referred to in Cl.(a) in respect of which any offence against this Act or any rule or order made there under has been committed” is government property. Additionally, according to Section 39(3):

No person shall, without the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer.

- (a) acquire or keep in his possession, custody, or control, or
- (b) transfer to any person, whether by way of gift, sale or otherwise, or
- (c) destroy or damage such Government property.

The manager of the Rajkamal Circus, A Sreejesh, told the inspection team that the AWBI, CZA and forest officials had not been informed about the broken tusk. In a letter addressed to the

AWBI, he stated, “Tusk of the Surya elephant was cut, and we have not informed to forest, AWBI, CZA”.

Also, on the topic of cutting tusks, the Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants state:

(a) The owner of the tusker shall apply for permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the officer authorized by him in his behalf, for cutting or shaping the tusk through a letter sent by registered post, including the location where it will be done and the name of the competent person who would perform the operation at least one month in advance;

(b) The Chief Wildlife Warden shall issue the permission within three weeks to carry out the operation in the presence of an officer not below the rank of Forest Range Officer or Forest Veterinary Officer or Assistant Forest Veterinary Officer as instructed by the Chief Wildlife Warden;

...

(e) The Chief Wildlife Warden, based on a written request with the details shall issue permit to the owner for keeping the cut tusks in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

None of the above-mentioned laws or guidelines was followed, and the Chief Wildlife Warden was not informed. The veterinary surgeon from the Veterinary Poly Clinic in Perinthalmanna who examined Surya on 23 March 2012 wrote, “I have this day examined the elephant named ‘Surya’ owned by the Rajkamal Circus. It has

Photo 73: This broken tusk of elephant Surya was found at the Rajkamal Circus.



been found that the left tushes was detached from the sinus and it seems to be due to some trauma. The detached tushes is having 10” length”.

31. Human-Only Performances

Among the 16 circuses that were inspected, the Great Champion Circus was the sole circus that was running three shows every day, with no performances by animals. During undercover observations ahead of the formal inspection, the investigators found no performances by animals in the circus. The circus only exhibited daredevil tricks performed by adult humans. The human acts drew immense applause from the crowds, show after show. The circus displayed a banner at the entrance informing ticket buyers that no animal performances were being shown.

The Great Champion Circus is a shining example that circuses can draw crowds without performances by animals. Also, the circus had an impressive spectator turnout in comparison to several inspected circuses that force animals to perform acts.

The circus had four non-performing dogs (three Dobermans and a German shepherd) who were free-roaming and not kept in cages. The circus proprietor claimed that the four dogs were his personal dogs. However, as they are housed with the circus, the animals, although they don't perform, can be used for exhibition purposes, and the relevant laws pertaining to the use of animals in circuses would apply to them.

C. EXAMPLES OF CRUELTY FOUND AT THE CIRCUSES IN PERCENTAGES TO SHOW PREVALENCE

Elephants

- Percentage of elephants tethered by two or three legs: 97.36

Camels

- Percentage of camels with capped knees, elbows, stifle joints or hocks: more than 90

Equines

- Percentage of equines suffering from overgrown, uncut hooves or serious hoof ailments because of a lack of proper farriery: above 90

Dogs

- Percentage of performing dogs not given the required regular exercise: 100

Birds

- Percentage of smaller, performing birds such as cockatoos, macaws and parrots whose feathers were clipped to prevent them from flying: 99.23
- Percentage of bird cages that were not collapsible: 100
- Percentage of inspected birds' cages that didn't have appropriate furnishing (tree branches), enrichment artefacts and sand: 100

Circuses

- Percentage of inspected circuses that forced animals to perform stunts that were not registered with the AWBI: 93.75
- Percentage of circuses with elephants registered that could not produce movement registers for their elephants: 100

D. CONCLUSION

Cruelty to animals is inherent in Indian circuses and is internationally recognised as inherent in the circus industry, with numerous countries banning the use of all animals in circuses.

Animals held in captivity are typically separated from their mothers as babies and are sentenced to a lifetime of confinement, boredom, loneliness and abuse. Even if the animals are given adequate food and water, circuses can never come close to providing for their vast and complex natural needs and ending their frustration over not being able to roam, explore, exercise, select partners, socialise in herds or packs, forage for food, care for young or engage in other natural behaviour.

The rampant flouting of animal protection laws by circuses only adds to the animals' suffering. Recent news reports also state that public interest in circuses is dying rapidly, likely because of the increased awareness of cruelty to animals in circuses. It is assumed that decreased funds would subsequently have a direct impact on the care, management and welfare of animals. An immediate end to the use of all animals in circuses is needed immediately.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All animals used by circuses in India should be deregistered immediately.
2. No new animals should be registered to circuses.
3. Performance and exhibition of all animals who are old, visually impaired, with serious injuries or diseased should be stopped immediately, and they should be rescued and rehabilitated immediately.
4. Elephants must be added to the list of animals prohibited from performance under Section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
5. Since circuses are classified under zoo collections per The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the CZA is asked to confirm a ban on the use of elephants in circuses by enforcing its circular dated 7 November 2009, which bans the keeping of elephants in zoos because of the lack of adequate space in zoos, the chaining

of elephants by zoos for long hours, the threat to visitors and the financial liability of zoo management.

6. Project Elephant of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the CZA should find sanctuaries for immediate rehabilitation of elephants and other wild animals.
7. Once the AWBI deregisters animals in circuses, the CZA should remove circuses from the definition of "zoo collections" under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009.
8. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, through a notification, should ban the use of animals in circuses.

The use of bulls, bears, monkeys, tigers, lions and panthers for performances is already banned in India, as is the use of other forced participants (children), but the abuse of other species of animals and unwilling participants is inherent in the circus industry, and thus the use of all animals in circuses must be ended immediately. Numerous countries have banned the use of wild animals such as elephants in circuses, including Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Paraguay, Peru, Israel, Singapore and Slovenia. Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece have banned the use of all animals in circuses.

Now it's India's turn to end the use of animals in circuses. Circuses can modernise their acts and use only willing human participants in performances instead of animals, such as is the case with the phenomenally successful and internationally acclaimed Cirque du Soleil. The Rambo Circus has held shows without animals at Prithvi Theatre in Mumbai, and the Great Champion Circus was observed to be enjoying success without the use of animals.

The PETA logo is displayed in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. It is positioned within a light blue rectangular area in the top-left corner of a dark blue background.

PETA India

PO Box 28260

Juhu, Mumbai 400 049

India

+91 22-40727382

+91 22-26367383 (fax)

Info@petaindia.org